



**This course is cross-listed:**  
**0187-396 (for International Studies)**  
**0210-396 (for Management)**

**FINNISH INNOVATION IN POLITICS  
AND BUSINESS**

**Spring 2019 Semester**

*[Study Abroad component runs May 18-May 27;  
preparatory meetings will take place during spring  
semester]*

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

**In this 1-credit study abroad course, students will explore politics and business in Finland via lectures and meetings at the University of Tampere, visits to local firms, political offices, and to Finnish and Nordic cultural centers. To understand Finnish business, politics and society, a comparative historical, cultural, demographic approach will be used.**

This special topics course, through a visit to Finland, will examine how this country of roughly 5 million people has vaulted to the top of any number of international rankings (see appendix). In December 2017 on the occasion of its centennial, characteristically humble Finland allowed itself a moment of pride and compiled a list of all the ways in which this country outperforms in international rankings, given its size (*The Guardian*, 12 February 2018; see also the appendix). In politics, for example, Finland's political system is recognized in international indices as the most stable, safest and best governed in the world. In business, Finland is recognized for the world's soundest banking system, with some of the best property rights protections and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best corporate ethics in the world. This chart-topping performance stands alongside Finland's performance in better known indices on gender equality, environment and sustainability, and educational performance.

During this faculty-led trip, we will visit Tampere, Helsinki, and a side trip to the beautiful Hanseatic league city of Tallinn in neighboring Estonia. We will begin in Tampere with seminars at the University of Tampere School of Management (which includes their programs in Politics and Business, among others) where we will interact with faculty and students. There will be local visits to the Lenin Museum, the Vapriikin Museokeskus (a museum complex in an old factory with exhibits ranging from Finnish History to Finnish hockey and natural history), and innovative local firms such as Happy-or-not which was

recently profiled in the New Yorker (see online at <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/02/05/customer-satisfaction-at-the-push-of-a-button>).

Tampere is Finland's second largest city, and Finland is one of the highest ranked countries for study abroad in Europe, and the University of Tampere has the top ranking in Finland among international students. (<http://www.goodnewsfinland.com/international-students-remain-satisfied-finland/>). We will also spend several days in Helsinki, the capital of Finland, where we will visit government offices and the Finnish Institute of International Affairs as well as other Finnish firms. The final weekend before returning home we will travel across the Baltic sea to Tallinn, Estonia to explore cutting-edge e-governance (not just e-commerce) which has also been profiled in the New Yorker. Throughout this study abroad course, students will experience the exquisite natural beauty of Finland's great outdoors as well as the world-famous Finnish sauna next to one of the more than 10,000 lakes.

### **Course Objectives:**

It is increasingly important for students to gain an appreciation of different cultures and approaches to business and politics in a rapidly changing world. According to IIE, study abroad improves employability by building 11 of 15 critical workplace skills, including intercultural skills, curiosity, flexibility/adaptability, confidence and self-awareness, among others. The study abroad design of this course provides the student with the opportunity to engage in the culture of the country as well as see the intricacies of its relations in the neighboring region, with the EU, and with the international community. This field experience provides a perspective that cannot be duplicated with classroom instruction or through media presentations.

This course has two basic objectives. The first is to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the issues, practices and culture of Finnish business and politics. The second objective is to enhance cross-cultural understanding through exposure to Finnish culture, society, business and politics. To accomplish these two objectives, we rely on a variety of activities. The trip will feature opportunities for students to interact with local students and government/business leaders from local and/or multinational entities, as well as cultural visits and activities. Learning will be interactive, and each class session will require students' full participation. Through structured writing assignments, students will explore scholarly arguments about innovation, reflect on interaction with another culture's business and political practices, and reflect on their own understanding.

## Required Readings:

*Relevant articles, cases, and webpages will be distributed to students. Samples of required readings include:*

- Jakob Edler and Jan Fagerberg, "Innovation Policy: What, Why and How" *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, Volume 33, Issue 1, 1 January 2017, pp. 2-23.
- Max Jacobson. *Finland: Myth and Reality*, Otava
- Christine Ingebritsen, *Scandinavia in World Politics*, Rowman Littlefield (esp. Ch. 5, "The Globalists: Finland and Iceland")
- Peter Katzenstein, "Small States in World Markets: Industrial Policy in Europe" in Ingebritsen, Neumann, Gstohl, and Beyer (eds) *Small State in International Relations*
- David Owen, "Customer Service at the Touch of a Button" *The New Yorker*, 5 February 2018
- Ville Kaitila and Markku Kotilainen, "Not Just Nokia: Finland" in Edqvist and Hommen, (eds) *Small Country Innovation Systems: Globalization, Change and Policy in Asia and Europe*
- Nathan Heller, "Estonia, The Digital Republic" *The New Yorker*, December 18 & 25, 2017

## Recommended Background Sources:

Basic Information about Finland can be found in the CIA World Factbook:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/fi.html>

State of the Nordic Region Report 2018:

<http://norden.diva-portal.org/smash/record.jsf?pid=diva2%3A1180241&dswid=1222>

Finnish News In English: YLE state news agency <https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/>

And Helsinki Times <http://www.helsinkitimes.fi/>

## Assessment

The final grade in this course will be based on individual analysis, observation, and reflection as well as actively participating in the lectures, meetings and activities during the study tour. The assignments and their weights as follows:

Item	Percentage (%)
Class preparation, presence/comportment <b>and</b> participation in every trip session	25
Daily journal entries--observations [7 X 200 words each]	35
Reflection Essays: reflection pieces that integrate assigned readings with a site visit [4 X 600 words each]	40

### Course Assignments

Class preparation, presence and participation: We will have mandatory pre-departure meetings to orient students for the study tour. During the travel, we will have daily interactive, informed discussions require students to read short excerpts in preparation and to actively engage in discussion. Students will be expected to read and prepare to lead the discussions. Students are also expected to prepare thoroughly for site visits and meetings and to actively engage with our hosts in these exchanges. Everyone is expected to contribute. Students will be evaluated both on “what” they say” and “how much” they say.

Reflection Essays: Articles and cases relevant to this course will be distributed to students via moodle. Students are expected to write longer essays that involve contemplation of assigned readings with the experiential elements of the study tour. For instance, after a lecture or site meeting, a student may draw on theories or concepts from the assigned readings and analyze the connections to the lecture or site visit. Four such essays are to be completed during the study tour.

Daily Journal Observations: Students are expected to complete a daily journal entry of personal observations of their experience and understanding of Finnish culture. These can be exploratory. The objective is to encourage students to be thoughtful about their experience.

Below are some ways students may participate meaningfully:

- Draw connections between the course material and their own work and life experiences;
- Share their ideas and experiences on the trip with the professors, officials and their peers

The objective is to encourage a thoughtful, reflective exchange of ideas as we learn together, and to build communication and critical thinking skills.

### **Academic Integrity:**

“Adelphi University demands the highest standards of academic integrity. Proper conduct during examinations, the proper attribution of sources in preparation of written work, and complete honesty in all academic endeavors is required. Submission of false data, falsification of grades or records, misconduct during examinations, and plagiarism are among the violations of academic integrity. Students who do not meet these standards are subject to dismissal from the University”

(<http://academics.adelphi.edu/academicintegrity/academichonesty.php>)

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<http://academics.adelphi.edu/academicintegrity/academichonesty.php> for guidance regarding academic integrity (including student instructions for Turnitin.com).

### **Course Outline**

**Note: This course outline is tentative and is subject to change by the instructor.**

<b>Pre-departure week</b>	Orientation and overview	
<b>Day 1</b>	Travel day	
<b>Day 2-9</b>	Site visits to places of historic, political, business, and/or cultural interest	<b>Daily journal entry each day</b>
<b>Day 10</b>	Travel day	

Appendix:

## Finland among the best in the world



Finland is a small country on a global scale. The population of Finland makes up just 0.07 per cent of the world's population and its area as much of the total world area. But even a small country can jump to the top of the world, and this is what Finland has done: in international country comparisons of positive things Finland is often among the top countries next to other Nordic countries.

In honour of Finland's centenary celebrations, we collected a list of these comparisons in which Finland is one of the best in the world. The comparisons speak for themselves: Finland is a good country.

### Society

Finland is the most stable country in the world.

*The Fund for Peace, [Fragile States Index 2017](#)*

Finland is the freest country in the world together with Sweden and Norway.

*Freedom House, [Freedom in the World 2017](#)*

Finland is the safest country in the world.

*World Economic Forum, [The Travel & Tourism Competitiveness Report 2017](#)*

Finland has the best governance in the world.

*Legatum Institute, [The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017: Finland](#)*

Finland has the least organised crime in the world.

*World Economic Forum, [The Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018: Organized crime](#)*

Finland's judicial system is the most independent in the world.

*World Economic Forum, [The Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018: Judicial independence](#)*

Next to Danes, Finns vote in the freest and most reliable elections.

*Pippa Norris ja Max Grömping, [The Year in Elections, 2017 Mid-Year Update](#) (The Electoral Integrity Project, University of Sydney & Harvard University)*

Finland's police and internal security as a whole are the second best in the world.

*The International Police Science Association, [World Internal Security and Police Index](#)*

Finland has the third least corruption in the world.

*Transparency International, [Corruption Perceptions Index 2016](#)*

Finland is the third wealthiest country in the world.

*Legatum Institute, [The Legatum Prosperity Index 2017: Finland](#)*

Finnish banks are the soundest in the world.

*World Economic Forum, [The Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018: Soundness of banks](#)*

Finland has the most personal freedom and choice in the world.

*The Social Progress Imperative, [2017 Social Progress Index: Finland](#)*

Protection of property rights in Finland is the second best in the world.

World Economic Forum (WEF), [\*The Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018: Property Rights\*](#)

Availability of official information in Finland is the best in the EU.

Center for data innovation, [\*The State of data innovation in the EU: Freedom of information\*](#)

Finland has the third best press freedom in the world.

Reporters Without Borders, [\*2017 World Press Freedom Index: Ranking\*](#)

Finland is the second best country in social progress in the world.

The Social Progress Imperative, [\*2017 Social Progress Index: Finland\*](#)

After Denmark and Sweden, Finland is the most socially just EU country.

D. Schraad-Tischler & C. Schiller: [\*Social Justice in the EU – Index Report 2017\*](#) (Bertelsmann Stiftung 2017)

Among the world's richest countries, Finland is the third most dedicated to policies that benefit people living in poorer nations.

Centre for Global Development, [\*The Commitment to Development Index \(CDI\)\*](#)

Finland is the best country in the world in a comparison of human wellbeing.

Sustainable Society Index, [\*Main results 2016\*](#)

Finland is the third best country in adhering to the rule of law in the world.

The World Justice Project, [\*Rule of Law Index 2016\*](#)

Next to Denmark, Finland is the best country in protecting fundamental human rights in the world.

The World Justice Project, [\*Rule of Law Index 2016\*](#)

## Satisfaction and trust

Finland is the fifth happiest country in the world.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network, [\*World Happiness Report 2017\*](#)

Finns are the second most satisfied with their life among Europeans.

Eurostat, [\*Percentage of the population rating their satisfaction as high, medium or low\*](#)

Finns are the most satisfied with their accommodation in the EU.

Eurostat, [\*Percentage of the population rating their satisfaction as high, medium or low\*](#)

Among EU citizens, Finns are the second most common to have someone to rely on in case of need.

Eurostat, [\*Persons having someone to rely on in case of need.\*](#)

Finns' trust in the police is the highest and in the political system and in the legal system the second highest in Europe.

Eurostat, [\*Average rating of trust\*](#)

Finns' trust in other people is the second highest in Europe.

Eurostat, [\*Average rating of trust\*](#)

In Finland, consumers' confidence in the economy is strongest in Europe.

European Commission, [\*Business and consumer surveys\*](#)

Finns suffer from excessive job strain the fourth least in OECD countries.

lähde, [\*How's Life? 2017: Measuring Well-being. Incidence of job strain\*](#)

## Equality

Finland is the third most gender equal country in the world.

World Economic Forum, [\*Global Gender Gap Index 2017\*](#)

Participation of genders in working life in Finland is the second most equal in the EU.

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), [\*Gender Equality Index 2017: Work / Participation\*](#)

Finnish women's gender equality in working life is the fourth best in the world.  
*The Economist*, [The Glass-Ceiling Index 2017](#)

In Finland, power is divided between genders the third most equally in the EU.  
*European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)*, [Gender Equality Index 2017: Power](#)

Finland has the third most female MPs in European countries.  
*Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)*, [Women in Politics 2017](#)

Finland has the fourth lowest poverty rate in OECD countries.  
*OECD*, [Society at a Glance 2016: Poverty](#)

Finland has the fifth lowest income differences in OECD countries.  
*OECD*, [Society at a Glance 2016: Income inequality](#)

## Environment

Finland leads a comparison describing the development and state of the environment in the world.  
*Yale University*, [Environmental performance index](#)

The air in Finland is the third cleanest in the world.  
*Finnish Meteorological Institute*, [WHO: Air in Finland third cleanest in the world](#)

Finland is the water richest country in the world.  
*Keele University*, [The Water Poverty Index: an International Comparison](#)

Finland's water consumption in relation to renewable water resources is the fifth lowest in the world.  
*C. Kroll*, [Sustainable Development Goals: Are the rich countries ready?](#) (Bertelmann Stiftung 2015)

The risk to be exposed to natural disasters is lowest in the world in Finland together with Bahrain, São Tomé and Príncipe and Singapore.  
*Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the European Commission*, [INFORM Global Risk Index Results 2018](#)

Finland has the most forests in Europe.  
*FAO*, [Global Forest Resources Assessment](#)

## Education and human capital

Finland has the second most human capital in the world.  
*World Economic Forum*, [The Human Capital Report: Human Capital Index 2017](#)

Finland's primary education is the best in the world.  
*World Economic Forum (WEF)*, [The Global Competitiveness Report 2016-2017: Primary Education](#)

Finland's quality of higher education is the third best in the world.  
*World Economic Forum (WEF)*, [The Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018: Higher education and training / Quality of education](#)

Finland ranks as the top OECD country in education.  
*OECD*, [Better Life Index: Education](#)

Education in Finland answers to future needs the third best in the world.  
*Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) & Yidan Prize*, [Worldwide Educating for the Future Index](#)

Finland is placed third in a comparison of lifelong learning in EU countries.  
*European Commission*, [European Innovation Scoreboard 2017: Lifelong learning](#)

Finnish adults are the third best in literacy and numeracy of OECD countries.  
*OECD*, [How's Life? 2017: Measuring Well-being, Education and skills, adult skills](#)

Finland is the most literate country in the world.  
*J. W. Miller and M. C. McKenna*, [World's Most Literate Nations: Rank Breakdown](#)

Finns are the second biggest library users in Europe.  
*The European Bureau of Library, [Public Libraries – Statistics](#)*

## Information society and competitiveness

Finland is the second best in the world in using information and communication technologies to boost competitiveness and well-being.  
*World Economic Forum (WEF), [Global Information Technology Report 2016: Networked Readiness Index](#)*

Finland is the fourth most innovative country in the world.  
*World Economic Forum (WEF), [The Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018: Innovation](#)*

The supply of public online services in Finland is the second best in Europe.  
*European Commission, [The Digital Economy and Society Index \(DESI\) 2017](#)*

Finland has the highest participation in training provided by the employer in Europe.  
*Eurofound, [European Working Conditions Survey 2015](#)*

Finland has the strongest digital knowledge capital in Europe.  
*European Commission, [The Digital Economy and Society Index \(DESI\) 2017](#)*

Finland has the fourth best digital competitiveness in the world.  
*IMD, [IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking 2017](#)*

Finland has the second most wireless mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 persons in OECD countries.  
*OECD, [Wireless mobile broadband subscriptions](#)*

Finns use most mobile data per subscription.  
*OECD, [Digital Economy Outlook 2017](#)*

Finland has the second most mobile broadband subscriptions per inhabitant in the world.  
*OECD, [Digital Economy Outlook 2017](#)*

Finnish enterprises are most likely to have their own website of OECD countries.  
*OECD, [Digital Economy Outlook 2017](#)*

Finland is the third best country for business in Europe.  
*European Chamber, [Best European countries for business 2017](#)*

Finland has the third best economic environment for business growth.  
*Grant Thornton, [Global Dynamism Index 2015](#)*

Corporate ethics in Finland is the second best in the world.  
*World Economic Forum (WEF), [The Global Competitiveness Report 2017–2018: Corporate Ethics](#)*

Finland is the second best country in the field of clean technology. (40 countries in the comparison.)  
*WWF & Cleantech Group, [The Global Cleantech Innovation Index 2017](#)*

Finland's sustainable competitiveness is the fourth best in the world.  
*SolAbility, [The Global Sustainable Competitiveness Index 2017](#)*

## Children's well-being and school attendance

Finland has the second lowest inequality among children in the world.  
*UNICEF, [Fairness for Children: A league table of inequality in child well-being in rich countries](#)*

Finland is the second best country to be a girl in the world.  
*Save the Children, [Every last girl: Girl's opportunity index](#)*

Finnish children have the third most secure childhood in the world.  
*Save the Children, [Stolen Childhood: End of Childhood, Report 2017](#)*

Young people (aged 11 to 15) in Finland are the fourth satisfied with their life among young people in welfare countries.

UNICEF, [\*Child Well-being in Rich Countries: A comparative overview\*](#)

Finns aged 15 are the third most satisfied with their lives among same-age young people in OECD countries.

OECD, [\*PISA 2015 Results, Students' Well-Being\*](#)

Finnish fourth graders' knowledge of science is the second best in OECD countries.

M. O. Mullis, I. V. S. Mullis, P. Foy and M. Hooper, [\*TIMSS 2015 International Results in Science\*](#)

Finns aged 15 are among OECD countries the second best in literacy and the third best in science.

Ministry of Education and Culture, [\*PISA 2015: Finnish youth still at the top despite the drop\*](#)

## Health

Finland is among the world's top 20 countries in life expectancy at birth. Differences at the top are small.

WHO, [\*Life expectancy\*](#)

Finland has the least underweight (under 2,500 g) children born of OECD countries.

OECD, [\*Low birth weight\*](#)

Mothers' and children's well-being in Finland is the second best in the world.

Save the Children, [\*State of the World's Mothers 2015, 16th annual report\*](#)

Finland has the world's third lowest infant mortality rate (deaths at the age of under one year).

UN, [\*SDG Indicators, Infant mortality rate\*](#)

Maternal mortality is the lowest in the world in Finland.

WHO, [\*World Health Statistics 2017: Monitoring health for the SDGs\*](#)

The second lowest number of children weighing under 2.5 kg are born in Finland in OECD countries.

OECD, [\*Health at a Glance 2015. Infant health: Low birth weight\*](#)

Finland has the second lowest total mortality from cancer in OECD countries.

OECD, [\*Health at a Glance 2016. Mortality from cancer\*](#)

Finnish adults are the third least likely to smoke of OECD countries.

OECD, [\*Health at a Glance 2016: Adults smoking daily\*](#)

## Capital city

Helsinki is the third best city to live in. (65 cities in the comparison).

Metropolis, [\*The Best Cities to Live in \(2016\)\*](#)

People living in Helsinki have the highest satisfaction with the place where they live, alongside with people living in Stockholm.

European Commission, [\*Quality of Life in European Cities 2015\*](#)

Helsinki is the second most appealing city in the world for startups.

Nestpick, [\*Startup Cities Index\*](#)

Helsinki is third best in the ability to compete for talented workforce.

INSEAD, [\*Global Cities Talent Competitiveness Index 2017 Rankings: Top Ten\*](#)

Helsinki is the third best city in terms of technology, innovation and entrepreneurship. (40 cities in the comparison).

J. Gibson, M. Robinson & S. Cain, [\*CITIE – City Initiatives for Technology, Innovation and Entrepreneurship\*](#) (Nesta, Accenture & Catapult 2015)

Among European cities, Helsinki is the fourth best in supporting digital enterprises and entrepreneurs.

Nesta, [\*European Digital City Index\*](#)

Of European big cities, Helsinki is the easiest and most pleasant to get around in. (20 cities in the comparison).

Politico, [\*Urban Mobility Index\*](#)

People living in Helsinki are the second most satisfied with cultural facilities among inhabitants of EU capital cities.  
*Eurostat, [Satisfaction with cultural facilities in EU capital cities](#)*

Helsinki is the most honest city in the world.  
*Readers Digest, [Most Honest Cities](#)*

The Helsinki-Vantaa airport is the best in the world.  
*Lonely Planet, [Helsinki takes the world's best airport award for 2016](#)*

## And in these we are also at the top of the world

Finland has the third most space per person in Europe.  
*Eurostat, [Population density, persons per km<sup>2</sup>](#)*

Food in Finland is the cleanest in Europe.  
*European Food Safety Authority, [The 2015 European Union report on pesticide residues in food](#)*

Finns drink most coffee per person in the world.  
*International Coffee Organization, [Coffee Trade Statistics](#)*

Finns drink the most milk per person in the world.  
*Dairy Nutrition Council, [Maidon kulutus maailmalla 2015](#) (Milk consumption in the world in 2015)*

Finland has the most Summer Olympics medals per capita.  
*Medals per Capita, [Total Medals per Capita: All Time \(Summer\)](#)*

Finnish adults' English skills are the fifth best in a comparison of 72 countries.  
*Education First (EF), [The world's largest ranking of countries by English skills](#)*

The Finnish passport has the third most influence in the world. With one you can travel to 175 countries without a visa.  
*Henley & Partners, [Visa Restriction Index](#)*

Finland is the third best travel destination in the world in 2017.  
*Lonely Planet, [Best in Travel 2017: Top Countries](#)*

Finland has the second most islands in the world.  
*WorldAtlas, [Which Country Has the Most Islands?](#)*