Marianne Lampi, Finland International Business, first year

## Studying at Kajaani University of Applied Sciences

When my high school was arranging a visit to Kajaani, the first thing I was thinking was; "I'm not going to study in Kajaani, so there's no point joining the trip". But what happened? The chance came out of the blue, the decision was made within a few days, and now here I am. At the first glance, Kajaani seemed safe and beautiful. There is nature: parks, hills, a river. Sometimes you can even see the stars. All the places are close to each other, and even the campus area turned out to be comfortably small.

Even so, the first few days in the new school were mostly confused attempts to learn all the new things and not to get lost in the campus area. During those



first days, I met more new people than ever before in such a short period of time. There were trips to nearby places, activities arranged by tutor students and a bootcamp for getting to know each other better. The classes were full of chatting and laughing together. It didn't take long to start feeling homelike.

Now I've been studying in Kajaani for four months. There have been different events arranged by the student union, parties with the other students, late evenings of watching movies or cooking with friends. There have been hard times with assignments, persistent studying for exams and some goodbyes for the leaving exchange students. The classes are still full of chatting, laughing and learning something new every day.

Along with the subjects taught in school, I've learnt a great deal about other cultures through the friends I've made during my time here. My eyes are more open to the world now. These four months have been time of unforgettable memories and growing up. And it still goes on.