

FSD2318 ULKOMAALAISTEN KORKEAKOULUOPIKELIJOIDEN TEEMAHAASTATTELUT 2002
FSD2318 INTERVIEWS OF FOREIGN STUDENTS IN FINLAND'S HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS 2002

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? in what kind of situations do you clearly feel that you are not finnish, all these cultural and social?

j. first months i felt that [city] was not so different from paris or other european countries, except one thing: on friday, saturday and sundays a lot of people were in drunk. Only really few different things i noticed. I'm not saying that in other european countries nobody drinks but i mean the number of people, it's a lot of people. And the behavior of these people, because in france most of the time they are kind of aggressive, but in [city] in finland there is not so troubles about it. so this is the first thing i discovered. Because i was only with foreign students in the beginning and after when i stated to date my girlfriend i started to get inside the finnish society and got the other point of view and little by little i started to look around the streets and everything and just by walking in the street it was very easy to see a lot of differences. Just by looking at the people you can see different things, just looking at the people in the train i can see that i'm not finnish. Okey, the first thing is that i'm not looking like a typical finnish guy... just the fact that i'm kind of tint or blach hair and you can see that im'n not finnish... little things how people are behaing, people are respecting most of the time this red light and waiting for green light to cross the street. Okey there is one thing that i'm always thinking that.. the finnish woman has the different status than the french woman... they are more independent and finnish woman is more equal with the guy... i have seen little things that make me feel 'wau'! .it was in the train and there was a woman and the guy was just behind her and there were just two seat s they could not sit in the same bench, and the woman said to the guy 'okey, you sit here' and the guy just nodded and sit there. And then she asked him 'give me the newspaper' and the guy just give her, just no in a way like please, nothing, and i was just imagining that oh god, I would not like... on the contrary the guys never open the door for women and other thing, quite many people are quite rude in a way that they dump you and don't say sorry. This kind of little things, there are a lot of details... they don't say so nicely hello and sometimes they just keep it quite badly.... But in paris it's the same but in my home town they are more friendly. So maybe this alien thing i put to the size of the city. I don't put it in the finnish thing... but there are also things... respect of the older rules, like if you are queuing for the movie tickets, nobody is cheaking... so these kind of things make you think 'oh, i'm not in france, i'm in finland'.

? was it very shocking to you?

j. no, i appreciate it... okey, some of the respect is sometimes too much, like sometimes in the morning i have seen guys and girls waiting for the green light and there is no one in the street so just go on...but it's difficult also in the way that you are a foreigner and you have to think what ind of image you show to the other ones. I know that if i cross the street when it's red light and there are children...

? what about when you started to date your girllfriend, was it difficult (cultural differences)...

j. the first one was kind of difficult. She is really strong person and really independent... and really career oriented. Afetr three months she changed her job and she put everything in her job, and i was just finishing my degree so i took it odd in a way that... okey, i'm not putting the work first in way that i'm not going to sacrifice my relations... i'm not talking about my relationship with a woman but i'm talking with my friends also. I cannot sacrifice everything. I can work hard for few months, but i cannot work so much harder in a way... i'm going to lose my balance and give everything... i need to do activities, i need to see people. Otherwise i'm dying... (with my girlfriend) first i didn't care so much, in the first month i was feeling weel, it's normal, she is new, she has to work a lot, i understand it, but after six months i started to feel hey... she was spending more than ten hours in the work. After she wanted to go out with her colleagies because

she thought that she had to nice and i understand it, but when you spend more time with colleagues than with me, there start to be problems. And we didn't have the same point of view all the time because it was a new experience for her also. I mean it was the first really serious relation, we were thinking to move together and really do something together so, and we made a lot of mistakes, me too, in a way that i put a lot of pressure to her.