

Dear international students,

I wish you all welcome to this graduation ceremony at Christmas 2014!

For you, our students, the past 3 or 4 - or even 5 years have been time for learning and development. Studies mean a significant transition period in life.

This first year of operations has also been a major period of change for Lapland University of Applied Sciences. During the past year, we have launched a completely new university of applied sciences in Finland. It is an exceptional event throughout the country. Thanks are due to our students as well as to our capable staff for the success of this work.

In addition to student exchanges, foreign degree students mean a great deal to universities of applied sciences. Today, too, a large number of foreign degree students are graduating from Lapland University of Applied Sciences.

We hope, of course, that as many of you as possible remain here to enrich Finnish society and contribute to developing Finnish working life. Although we had hoped otherwise, a substantial number of you are returning home and will help develop the economy of your own countries with what you have learned at Lapland University of Applied Sciences.

Nevertheless, I hope that you will keep in touch with your old school. In this way, you can act as an international bridge between our respective countries and cultures.

At this point, I wish to thank all our students, teachers and staff for successful work. We have done great teamwork during this first year of Lapland University Applied Sciences.

I wish each and every graduating student the best of luck and success in your future life and in new profession.

Congratulations!