

## Mari Partanen, Bachelor of Hospitality Management Kajaani University of Applied Sciences' graduate

**Mari Partanen** started her studies at Kajaani University of Applied Sciences in autumn 2010. "I thought that studying in English would be more challenging and interesting than studying in Finnish. English had always been one of my favourite subjects so why not enhance the skill even more?" She finished her Bachelor's degree within three (3) years, a half a year early. Mari says that she didn't really plan graduating early, but it was more of a sum of lucky coincidences. "In terms of practical training and thesis, it required more independent planning. I started my practical training earlier than it was officially planned. In addition to that, I came up with the thesis topic for the same company and therefore it was easy to combine both practical training and writing the thesis."

During her studies, Mari also participated in student exchange in Austria. "The studies offered by the partner university matched my curriculum in Finland well which enabled me to progress with my studies smoothly." When planning the studies abroad, it is important to pay attention to the courses that the partner university offers. The courses to be completed abroad will be planned together with the School's International Coordinator to make sure that they match the studies at home.

The practical training is an essential part of studies in a university of applied sciences. Mari found a practical training place that matched her own interests in activity tourism. This small holiday lodge, Saija Oy, is located conveniently in Mari's home village in north-east Finland. The company offers services for tourists and its key market area is Middle-Europe. After a successful practical training Mari was offered a job at Saija Oy upon her graduation. "Working abroad in the future is a possible scenario, but first I'll gather more experience from working in Finland."

