



aalto-yliopiston ylioppilaskunta
aalto-universitetets studentkår
aalto university student union

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Representative Council
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Policy of Aalto University Student Union

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1. Introduction

This document tells you what the Students' Union thinks. Unlike a strategy or an action plan, a policy paper does not generate operational action, but guides it. It can also be about issues on which AYY is not actively doing anything. The policy paper is divided into three parts: society, the Aalto community and education policy. Society deals with everything related to external stakeholders, such as city decisionmaking and objectives requiring legislative changes. The Aalto Community deals with the policy objectives that directly affect Aalto University and the student community. Education policy is divided into local and national education policy.

Each chapter begins with a general introduction to the topic, which also serves as a summary of the chapter in question. The text is followed by a list of policy objectives, listed in bullet points. The policy paper is intended specifically as a support for the student union's lobbying activities. It applies to all activities of the Students' Union. The Students' Union is a community of values. AYY is a courageous pioneer, a builder of community, a defender of equity and a promoter of well-being. These values form the basis of the Student Union's opinions.

21 2. Society

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23 This chapter compiles the social goals, aspirations, and opinions of Aalto University
24 **Student Union. Many decisions that profoundly impact students' lives are**
25 social, such as livelihood and student health care.

26

27 Student politics are also generational politics, given that the majority of our student
28 union members are young adults. Issues of great concern for our generation
29 include, in particular, global warming and biodiversity loss, but also the mental
30 **health crisis and a society where people face pressure to perform. In today's**
31 globally unpredictable world, we should not rigidly develop society by
32 deferring problems into the future.

33

34 Aalto University Student Union aims to actively participate in building a more
35 humane and healthier society. Our vision is an ecologically, socially and
36 economically sustainable Finnish society. The challenges facing our generation
37 are not unavoidable or inevitable but the result of dysfunctional social and
38 cultural structures. The ill-being of young people and the environmental crisis
39 can be solved with concrete actions.

40

41 Education, science, arts and the sense of community must be at the heart of the
42 academic community.

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44 We believe that studying should always be profitable. However, current financial
45 aid for students is complex, inadequate in terms of amount and duration, and
46 poorly compatible with other forms of social support. The best form of support
47 for students would be basic income: a flexible, liberating social security system
48 that considers different situations in life. We aim to reduce bureaucracy and
49 actively participate in creating a simple and humane social security system.

50 2.1. Livelihood

51 2.1.1. Student financial aid

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- 53 • Student financial aid is social security.
- 54 • Overall level of financial aid for students must be sufficient and allow full-
55 time studies without taking out a loan. The level and duration of support
56 must be adequate.
- 57 • Financial aid for students must be flexible, taking into account different
58 studies and situations in life during student years.

- 59 • Purpose of the state-guaranteed student loan is to serve as an additional
- 60 source of income, but not as a part of the support required for living.
- 61 • Student loan must be subject to a government-guaranteed interest rate
- 62 ceiling.
- 63 • Repayment of student loan instalments must be fair and flexible.
- 64 • Student social security must allow working during studies.
- 65 • Financial aid for students must not be based on assumed future income.
- 66 • Student financial aid must be coherent, ensuring that higher education
- 67 students under the age of 20 receive the same level of support as other
- 68 higher education students.
- 69 • Provider supplement to the study grant must take into account the number
- 70 of children in the family.
- 71 • Maximum period of student financial aid must be restored to 54 months for
- 72 degrees with 300 credits.
- 73 • Grounds for granting additional months of discretionary support should be
- 74 made less strict; a reasoned explanation of the delay in studies and a plan
- 75 for completing studies must be a sufficient ground for granting the
- 76 additional support.
- 77 • Limit for receiving student financial aid after discontinuation must be
- 78 lowered from 20 credits to 10 credits.
- 79 • Degree-specificity of student financial aid must be discontinued for
- 80 **students who have been granted the right to pursue both a bachelor's and**
- 81 **master's degree at one time.**
- 82 • Compatibility of student financial aid and the sickness allowance must be
- 83 improved.
- 84 • Each student financial aid month reimbursed by a student must be
- 85 compensated, including those recovered by Kela.
- 86 • Financial aid for students must be developed into a simpler, more flexible
- 87 and less bureaucratic direction.
- 88 • Kela services must be equally accessible in Finnish, Swedish and English.
- 89 • Finland must create urgent social security for students from the EU
- 90 countries and beyond.
- 91 • **In the longer term, the student's social security is granted to all degree**
- 92 **students studying in Finland, including international students from the EU**
- 93 **and EEA countries and beyond.**
- 94 • The level of student meal subsidy should be increased as the cost of living
- 95 rises, in order to maintain the quality of meals.
- 96 • The student meal subsidy should be expanded to cover two meals per day.
- 97 • The student meal subsidy should equally apply to take away food.

98 2.1.2. Housing subsidies

- 99
- 100 • Students must remain covered by the general housing allowance.

- 101 • The limit of calculated maximum rental costs affecting the general housing
102 allowance must correspond to the actual housing costs of the municipality.
103 • General housing allowance must be developed to better meet the needs of
104 students.
105 • The problems caused by the household-based nature of the general
106 housing allowance for students must be addressed.
107 • General housing allowance should allow cost-effective shared housing.

108 2.1.3. Basic income

- 109
- 110 • Finnish social security must be renewed into a monthly, gratuitous and
111 universal basic income paid to citizens, which covers the expenses
112 necessary for living.
 - 113 • Transition to basic income aims at a simpler, more flexible and adequate
114 social security.
 - 115 • Basic income can be implemented in many ways. AYY supports discussion
116 on different schemes and possible experiments.
 - 117 • Transition to gratuitous basic income must be promoted, for example, by
118 conducting a broader experiment involving students.
 - 119 • Basic income can be supplemented with other forms of support for
120 students.

121 2.2. Student health care & FSHS

- 122
- 123 • Student health care must continue to be provided by the Finnish Student
124 Health Service specialising in the unique group of students.
 - 125 • FSHS services must be accessible in accordance with treatment time
126 guarantee.
 - 127 • Assessment of the need for treatment is not regarded as meeting the
128 treatment time guarantee.
 - 129 • FSHS must develop preventive forms of treatment.
 - 130 • More investments are needed for e-services and the assessment of the
131 need for treatment.
 - 132 • International exchange and degree students must be guaranteed the same
133 level of health care services as Finnish students.
 - 134 • Exchange students must be covered by the same FSHS services as before.
 - 135 • All people living in Finland must be offered free contraception.
 - 136 • **Kela's rehabilitative psychotherapy must be free of charge for students.**

- 137 • **Access to Kela's rehabilitative psychotherapy must be simplified and made**
138 **easier.**
- 139 • Shortage of psychotherapists must be tackled by making education free of
140 charge and by making it easier for international experts to practice their
141 profession in Finland.
- 142 • Students must be covered by a therapy guarantee.
- 143 • At the level of society, mental health services must particularly focus on
144 prevention and the accessibility of services.
- 145 • International students must also be covered by mental health services, and
146 their special needs must be taken into account in service provision.
- 147 • FSHS funding should primarily be strengthened by increasing the share of
148 **the state, rather than by raising students' fees.**
- 149 • **AYY's voice must be heard in the decision-making** of FSHS, both at the local
150 and national level.
- 151 • FSHS must have a service unit on Otaniemi campus and in Mikkeli.
- 152 • All FSHS services must be reasonably accessible both in terms of time and
153 **location relative to the student's place of study.**
- 154 • Specialized healthcare services must be reincluded in FSHS services.
- 155 • Transition from FSHS services to other health and mental health services
156 must be smooth for students. Access to treatment must adhere to the
157 treatment time guarantee, and the treatment must be affordable.
- 158 • Students with the European Health Insurance Card remain within the scope
159 of FSHS services.
- 160 • International degree or exchange students are entitled to use FSHS
161 services.
- 162 • Health insurance policies offered to those coming from outside the EU and
163 EEA countries must be affordable.
- 164 • Student health care paths between FSHS and public health care must be
165 smooth and unbroken.
- 166 • The FSHS fee must be optional for students during the exchange period
167 abroad.
- 168 • The FSHS fee must be invoiced from students.
- 169 • Public health care must be preventive, affordable and timely.

170 2.3. Well-being

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- 172 • **In addition to treating symptoms, students' mental health crisis must**
173 address underlying causes. Social structures, such as livelihood insecurity
174 and inadequacy, must not be underestimated as part of the problem.
- 175 • Society must actively foster an environment where young people can
176 develop at their own pace.
- 177 • **Students' performance stress must be reduced both at the university and**
178 within society.
- 179 • The importance of peer support and the sense of community for overall
180 well-being is recognized, and their implementation is improved.
- 181 • Graduating within a specific timeframe must not cause unreasonable
182 pressure.
- 183 • Taking shorter and longer absences is facilitated without impacting studies.
- 184 • Recommendations for higher education sports outlined by the Finnish
185 Student Sports Federation must be followed at Aalto University.
- 186 • Campus must have a wide range of accessible and affordable sports
187 facilities, both indoors and outdoors.
- 188 • Campus and teaching must encourage students to engage in daily exercise.
- 189 • Renovation of Otahalli must begin during the 2020s.
- 190 • Primary purpose of support services provided for students by the university
191 must be preventive and maintain the ability to study.
- 192 • **University's well-being work must be developed and integrated into**
193 strategic activities, with special attention paid to minority perspectives.
194 Information on the well-being of students must be collected on a regular
195 basis.
- 196 • Third-sector and easily accessible therapy options must be developed as
197 part of preventive measures.
- 198 • Adequate resources must be allocated to study psychologist services to
199 ensure swift and easy access to a study psychologist.
- 200 • Transition between university study psychologists and FSHS mental health
201 services must be effortless.
- 202 • Study psychologist services must be prescribed by law.

203 2.4. Sustainable development

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- 205 • All decision-making processes must consider the environmental aspect.

- 206 • The university, metropolitan area and society at large, must establish both
207 quantitative and qualitative goals for implementing sustainable
208 **development. The UN's sustainable development goals must be integrated**
209 as a cross-cutting theme for all activities.
- 210 • **AYY supports development cooperation activities that enhance people's**
211 opportunities to improve their living conditions and foster societal fairness.
- 212 • **Finland must establish goals to reach the UN's recommended 0.7% of GDP**
213 for development cooperation funding.
- 214 • Major operators such as nations, transnational organisations, and
215 companies bear the greatest responsibility to act responsibly.
216 Compensation must be provided for the use and pollution of natural
217 resources.
- 218 • The EU-wide system of harmful taxation should be developed.
- 219 • **Finland's nature and its diversity must be valued and protected.**
- 220 • AYY encourages its members to live ecologically and in a socially
221 sustainable and responsible way.
- 222 • Finland must adhere to its 2035 carbon neutrality target, taking sufficient
223 action to attain this goal.
- 224 • The Climate Change Act must be legally binding, and Finland must ensure
225 its effective enforcement.
- 226 • Emissions-free energy production and its research must be consistently
227 **supported to achieve Finland's climate objectives.**
- 228 • Urban planning and development must prioritize emission-free and low-
229 emission modes of transport, particularly walking, cycling, and public
230 transport.
- 231 • New construction and renovation projects aim at sustainable and energy-
232 efficient solutions. Building production and zoning policies should prioritize
233 the environmental friendliness of the entire life cycle of buildings, starting
234 with building materials.
- 235 • Housing production in the metropolitan area should consider urban nature
236 and biodiversity.
- 237 • Circular and sharing economy, sustainable recycling and minimising food
238 waste must be promoted in the activities of cities, residents and businesses.
- 239 • Ecologically sustainable and plant-based food is prioritised in public meals.
- 240 • AYY expects its partners to take social and ecological responsibility.

2.5. Metropolitan area

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- Metropolitan area must be an internationally appealing place to study, work and live while evolving into a center of growing expertise. The development of the metropolitan area must be sustainable and foster equality.
- Metropolitan area must engage in progressive urban policy that attracts young people.
- Multilingualism and multiculturalism in the metropolitan area must be seen as strengths. Integration of international talent is promoted through accessible and equal services.
- Student perspective must be recognized and included in urban **development. Students' opinions must be heard in municipal decision-making.**
- When designing public services, the specific needs of students, including international students, must be taken into account.
- Public services must be easily accessible, taking into account physical, social, cognitive, and linguistic diversity.
- Cities must support students with families with flexible and affordable services.
- Student organisations in the metropolitan area collaborate to create a more student-friendly metropolitan area.
- Local nature is protected in the metropolitan area and cities are developed with natural diversity in mind.
- Cities are designed to support an ecologically sustainable lifestyle.
- Cities must promote active citizenship and contribute to enhancing local democracy.
- Uniqueness of the Otaniemi district must be valued and protected.
- Students are consulted on all aspects of regional development in Otaniemi.
- Cities are designed to be accessible to all.

2.6. Arts policy

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Art is valuable in itself. The intrinsic value and the unique social status of arts are prerequisites for the freedom and development of arts. The value of arts or

275 culture cannot be measured only by economic indicators. Arts and culture are
276 regarded as valuable for the development and well-being of society.

277

278 Aalto University Student Union is the largest student union in Finland in terms of the
279 number of arts students. The Student Union supports the aspirations of its
280 members in the fields of arts and culture. The Student Union actively
281 participates in arts and culture policy, utilizing its expertise for the benefit of
282 its members. The Student Union also plays a key role in national and
283 international networks of arts students.

284

285 Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture serves as an active social
286 debater and a forerunner in the field of arts and design.

287

- 288 • Visibility and understanding of diversity within arts and design must be
289 increased both in the academic community and society as a whole.
- 290 • Arts, culture and education are valued and this is also reflected in decision-
291 making. Evaluation systems for culture should be based on expertise within
292 the arts field.
- 293 • Economic importance of investments in the arts and cultural sector is
294 understood and supported without expected short-term revenue.
- 295 • As experiencers, students, and creators, we must invest in making arts and
296 culture economically, regionally, physically and psychologically accessible.
- 297 • Creative professionals and students have the copyright to their own work
298 and the right to decide on the use of their work.
- 299 • **In addition to the construction sector, the 'percent for culture' principle**
300 **must also be implemented in other fields, including social welfare and**
301 **healthcare. One percent for culture support must also be extended to**
302 **fields beyond visual arts. In addition to the public sector, the private and**
303 **third sector extensively use the 'percent for culture' approach in their**
304 **projects. Arts professionals must be involved in the decision-making in**
305 **projects governed by the 'percent for culture' principle.**
- 306 • Share of arts and culture in the total expenditure of the state budget must
307 be increased to at least 1 per cent.
- 308 • Adequate funding for arts and culture must be secured. Funding must be
309 public, private and funded by the third sector.
- 310 • The private funding of arts should be promoted and its continuity ensured.
- 311 • Aalto University School of Arts, Design and Architecture should continue to
312 receive special funding for artistic research as before.
- 313 • Professionals working in the arts and culture sector are highly valued in
314 society.
- 315 • Well-being of professionals in the field is supported by structural changes,
316 utilizing both public support and actions in the sector.

317 2.7. Other matters

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- 319
- The gender-based conscription must be changed to an equal model.

320 3. Aalto community

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322 Otaniemi campus is a central location for the entire Aalto community, including
323 university operations, facilities, urban services, and a large amount of student
324 housing. Otaniemi campus is designed for students and reflects its students.
325 Mikkeli campus is an important part of the Aalto community and is developed
326 in collaboration with local student organizations to make it even more student
327 friendly. The autonomous Aalto University needs by its side a financially and
328 operationally independent Aalto University Student Union that represents all
329 students. The Aalto community is an inclusive and international community
330 where everyone should feel welcome and safe.

331 3.1. Student housing

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333 • Efficient construction of student housing must be enabled in the central
334 areas of the campus and student housing is the primary form of housing in
335 Otaniemi.

336 • The amount of student housing on campus must be increased taking into
337 account the needs of future students.

338 • The volume and construction of student housing in the metropolitan area
339 must meet the increasing number of students. Student housing must be
340 focused near campuses.

341 • In addition to student housing, other affordable housing in the
342 metropolitan area must be supported.

343 • When building student housing, the number of required parking spaces
344 must be

345 • estimated on a site-by-site basis.

346 • Parking spaces must not be seen as a necessary housing service in student
347 housing located on campus if public transport connections are considered
348 sufficient.

349 • In the planning of student housing, minimum parking space standard must
350 be taken

351 • into account.

352 • The planning of student housing must allow the construction of studios and
353 small apartments only.

354 • In the construction of student housing, attention must be given to the
355 transformability, versatility and comfort of housing.

356 • In the construction of student housing, new types of housing solutions are
357 tried out broad-mindedly, without compromising on the comfort of living.

358 • Student housing must include an adequate number of accessible
359 apartments.

- 360 • Student housing is developed in various ways to increase the comfort of
361 living by influencing the ARA and interest subsidy legislation and the
362 development of land use planning.
- 363 • Student housing must remain within the scope of ARA legislation.
- 364 • Ecological and sustainable alternatives are favored in housing solutions.
- 365 • Affordable temporary housing solutions must be available to students at
366 the start of the academic year, for example.
- 367 • In addition to a state guaranteed ASP loan, owner-occupied housing for
368 young adults must be facilitated by affordable housing production and by
369 reducing the burden of student loans.
- 370 • International students must have equal access to student housing.
- 371 • Everyone has the right to safe and sensible student housing.
- 372 • When planning complementary building, student housing must be promoted
373 in the vicinity of campus areas.

374 3.2. Public transport and mobility

- 375
- 376 • Public transport must be functional, flexible and affordable.
- 377 • The starting points for the development of transport are emission-free
378 mobility and transport safety and equality.
- 379 • Public transport must be accessible in all forms.
- 380 • Pedestrian and bicycle ways are developed to enable easier, safer and
381 smoother mobility in the metropolitan area.
- 382 • Public transport must be developed in a more extensive and functional
383 direction.
- 384 • The metro and light rail line should run around the clock, and its
385 automatization should be promoted. In addition, other 24-hour forms of
386 public transport should also be supported.
- 387 • Public transport is priced as an attractive and preferred mode of
388 transport, along with walking, cycling and other pedestrian traffic.
- 389 • Student discount on public transport must be at least 50% of normal prices.
- 390 • In the long term, public transport in the HSL area should be developed to
391 be more affordable for everyone.
- 392 • Public transport tickets must be accessible and possible to use without a
393 smartphone.
- 394 • Long-distance traffic should invest in rail transport. Train ticket prices
395 should be reasonable and cheaper than domestic air fares.
- 396 • City bikes must remain a part of affordable public transport.
- 397 • Winter maintenance of pedestrian and bicycle ways should be prioritized.
- 398 • Ecology, sustainable development and support for biodiversity are taken
399 into account in all transport development.

- 400 • The core area of the campus is an area for public transport, cyclists and
401 pedestrians. Parking spaces on the campus are reduced in relation to the
402 floor area, and parking spaces are focused on the edges of the campus.
- 403 • Campus roads and routes are developed extensively, taking into account
404 the needs of walking and cycling. Mobility within the campus encourages
405 incidental exercise.
- 406 • Mobility on the campus should be effortless and smooth also for people
407 with disabilities.
- 408 • Temporary parking spaces on the campus are primarily available to all
409 members of the Aalto community.
- 410 • Student discount on HSL single tickets must be reintroduced.
- 411 • Students must be listened to in the development of the light rail line.
- 412 • Light rail line 15 must run around the clock at least between Otaniemi and
413 Leppävaara.

414 3.3. Campus

- 415
- 416 • The Otaniemi campus is designed for students and reflects the students.
417 Wide-ranging student activities in all forms are taken into account and
418 enabled on campus.
- 419 • The Aalto community encourages creative and student-oriented activities
420 on campus. The study fields of Aalto are a visible part of the campus and
421 highlight the special characteristics of the Otaniemi campus culture.
- 422 • The campus is safe and comfortable around the clock.
- 423 • University facilities are continuously developed to better meet the needs
424 and preferences of users. The needs of students from various backgrounds
425 and situations in life are taken into account.
- 426 • The campus area is developed in close cooperation with the Aalto
427 community. Students are consulted on both major and minor development
428 plans.
- 429 • The campus must have silent rooms catering to various needs for relaxation
430 and tranquility.
- 431 • Outdoor areas on campus are designed to be comfortable and encourage
432 people to spend time and move around the campus.
- 433 • Outdoor areas on campus are designed to foster social encounters,
434 support leisure activities, and facilitate event organizing on the campus.
- 435 • Usability and mobility in winter, as well as winter maintenance, are taken
436 into account in outdoor areas.
- 437 • Student-friendly, affordable and accessible services that meet the needs of
438 campus users are prioritized on campus.
- 439 • A wide range of sports and leisure services are available on campus and
440 provide diverse recreational opportunities.

- 441 • The campus must have versatile and functional health and sports services
442 provided by FSHS, UniSport and the City of Espoo, in particular.
- 443 • Otaniemi shore areas must be specifically developed for recreational and
444 leisure use.
- 445 • Student dining on campus is convenient and diverse. The opening hours of
446 student restaurants are long enough, not only at lunchtime, but also at
447 dinnertime and on weekends.
- 448 • Student meal selection is ethically and ecologically sustainable and favors
449 plant-based solutions.
- 450 • Campus development is guided by ecological sustainability and biodiversity,
451 as well as user-oriented planning and equity.
- 452 • Aalto must adhere to the 2030 carbon neutrality target, and sufficient
453 action must be taken to achieve the target. The guidelines of Aalto for
454 sustainable development must be developed on a regular basis.
- 455 • Unique local nature of the campus must be protected.
- 456 • Biodiversity on campus must be developed by converting lawn areas into
457 meadows, for example.
- 458 • Recycling on campus is encouraged and should be made as easy as
459 possible.
- 460 • Bathrooms and changing rooms on campus must accommodate all genders
461 and include gender-neutral bathrooms. All genders must have equal access
462 to bathrooms.
- 463 • All students must have the opportunity to live on campus during their
464 studies.
- 465 • The campus has facilities rented on a one-off basis that enable diverse
466 student culture.

467 3.4. Orientation ja tutoring

- 468
- 469 • The goals of the orientation of new students are equity among all new
470 students and the best student life in the world since the first academic
471 year, regardless of degree level.
- 472 • **There is a process for the integration of incoming Master's, doctoral and**
473 **international students, which makes students feel part of the community.**
- 474 • As a result of successful orientation, new students feel that they are part of
475 the academic community and full members of the Aalto community. They
476 also know where to find information on matters related to studies and
477 coping with everyday life.
- 478 • All new students at Aalto have a competent and responsible tutor,
479 regardless of their age, mother tongue, degree level and other issues.
- 480 • Where applicable, all Aalto tutors receive joint training, which serves as a
481 basic course for group guidance.

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- Both Aalto University and the Student Union are visible in the orientation and reception of the Aalto schools.
 - Aalto University is responsible for organizing the orientation and plans the schedules and content with other parties.
 - Aalto University offers additional support to students starting their studies after orientation.

488 3.5. Alumni activities / Aalto alumni activities

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490 The spirit of Aalto is eternal. Alumni activities should aim at connecting alumni and
491 students. The spirit of Aalto is a shared identity that unites students and
492 graduates from different fields throughout their lives. Associations within AYY
493 must have the opportunity to organize their own high-quality alumni activities.

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- Alumni organizations operating in the Aalto community are able to utilize the alumni register maintained by the university to reach their own alumni.
 - **Aalto University's alumni activities should connect alumni from different backgrounds as well as possible.**
 - High-quality and diverse alumni activities are ideal for developing a culture of giving back, which includes mentoring or support in various projects, for example.
 - The university supports the alumni organizations of the Aalto community with facilities, training and financial support.
 - Recent graduates must be informed of alumni activities and know how to get involved.

506 3.6. Volunteers and associations

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- 508
- **Participation in student activities must be possible regardless of a person's background or language skills.**

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- Aalto community volunteers feel well. Volunteers work in a community where they take care of themselves and others. They are also provided with training to take care of their own well-being.

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- 512
- Volunteering is regarded as valuable for learning, networking, and cultivating skills for working life.

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- Participation in student activities must be meaningful also without the use of intoxicants.

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- Subject associations in various fields have free facilities at university. **The facilities are located as close as possible to students' study facilities.**

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- **Students must have accessible and effortless entry to the facilities. The**

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- **facilities must be available to students 24/7 and their size must correspond**

521 to the number of users. When undergoing changes, associations are
522 offered facilities that are at least equivalent to their current ones.

523 3.7. Equity

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525 Equity among all Aalto students is one of AYY's core values. AYY embraces the
526 differences of individuals and promotes equity regardless of people's
527 nationality, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, physical and mental abilities, age,
528 religious or political stance or any other matter pertaining to the person. AYY
529 is an anti-racist and intersectionally feminist organization. The aim of
530 advancing equity is to ensure that in the future, everyone has an equal
531 opportunity to express themselves fully as they are and to enjoy the best and
532 safest student life in the world as offered by AYY and Aalto University.

- 533
- 534 • A clear set of practices must be established for intervening in harassment
535 occurring in the Aalto community, whether the harassment occurs between
536 students and staff or two or more students in their leisure time. Harassment
537 contact persons are appointed preferably from people of different
538 backgrounds. Information about what to do in cases of harassment must
539 be easily accessible and communicated to students.
 - 540 • Racism, sexism, ableism, ageism, bullying, harassment, discrimination or any
541 inappropriate behaviour is not condoned in the Aalto community. The
542 community is offered trainings to tackle harassment and promote safer
543 spaces.
 - 544 • **AYY supports Aalto community's organizations with harassment contact**
545 **person trainings and help for creating safer space principles and other**
546 **guidance against harassment.**
 - 547 • Aalto University has harassment contact persons.
 - 548 • **Aalto's EDI (Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity) committee oversees and**
549 **evaluates the implementation of harassment prevention actions and safer**
550 **space principles by regular questionnaires and other evaluation methods**
551 **to Aalto students and staff. EDI committees are formed from diverse set of**
552 **people.**
 - 553 • Safer space guidelines should be implemented everywhere in the Aalto
554 community, including but not limited to events, classrooms and other official
555 and unofficial gatherings.
 - 556 • AYY advocates for the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and promotes the
557 activities and campaigns of LGBTQIA+ organizations.
 - 558 • **AYY supports and actively works to improve minorities' rights within Aalto**
559 **university and nationally.**
 - 560 • Aalto and other organisations should continue to provide resources related
561 to EDI topics to the entire community.

562 3.8. Internationality

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564 AYY believes in the power of international cooperation and promotes the
565 **universities' and Finland's active role in international networks.** The free
566 movement of people, thoughts and businesses is a prerequisite for world-class
567 educational and research cooperation. Finland, for its part, is an open and
568 attractive destination for international talents and invests in the quality of
569 their integration. Aalto University is the forerunner of internationality and
570 student mobility in Finland.

571

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- Finnish, EU and non-EU students must be equal in the Aalto community.

573

- Aalto University students and staff must be trained about multiculturalism, anti-racism and language negotiation.

574

575

- Banking services must be available trouble-free, and each international student can open a bank account without additional fees and receive a debit card and online banking rights attached to their account within a reasonable time.

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- Strong identification must be easily accessible to international students.

580

- International students must be offered a chance to purchase reasonably priced health insurance with a broad range of coverage. The availability and functionality of the health insurance required by the immigration legislation must be improved.

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- The residence permit process must be expedited and simplified, and each student with a Finnish higher education degree must be offered an opportunity for permanent residency.

585

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587 4. Education policy

588

589 The Student Union supports and influences Aalto University and national education
590 policy keeping in mind the core duties of universities: teaching and research,
591 which mutually reinforce each other. The societal impact of scientific and
592 artistic activities arises from broad-based education rather than from the
593 fastest possible graduation. All university activities must be smooth, clear and
594 flexible for students without compromising the characteristic multidisciplinary
595 **interaction of Aalto. In addition, students' participation in the development of**
596 teaching is highly regarded.

597 4.1. Decision-making at Aalto University

598

- 599 • Decisions are made as close as possible to the people affected by the
600 decision.
- 601 • **Aalto University's decision-making** bodies must have student representation
602 in addition to staff representatives to ensure that the student perspective
603 is taken into account. Student representatives have deputy members and
604 their access to information is secured. Students are also involved in
605 preparation work outside the bodies.
- 606 • The University Board must have student representation.
- 607 • The Academic Affairs Committee must adopt equal tripartite
608 representation.
- 609 • The Student Union appoints student representatives in administration to
610 bodies established by the Universities Act and other bodies set up by the
611 university.
- 612 • Nomination working groups of the University Board and management must
613 have an official student representative.
- 614 • When making decisions for the university as a whole, their impact on all
615 fields of study is taken into account. The content of decisions should not
616 depend on the fields of the members in the body.
- 617 • Recruiting and hiring staff at Aalto is transparent and equal and students
618 are also heard on this matter.
- 619 • The representatives of decision-making bodies are elected in a transparent
620 and equal manner and the representation of minorities is taken into
621 account.
- 622 • The university pays financial compensation to student representatives in
623 administration.
- 624 • The university must offer student representatives orientation on the
625 operations of the past term.

- 626 • Attendance at the meetings of university bodies must be an acceptable
627 reason for absence from teaching.

628 4.2. Teaching

629

- 630 • A bachelor's degree gives students the competence for completing a
631 master's degree in their field.
- 632 • A master's degree gives students the competence for working as an expert
633 in their field.
- 634 • **Master's degree studies highlight opportunities to participate in research**
635 **teams and develop capabilities for further studies in the field.**
- 636 • Teaching that develops study skills and ability is included both in the
637 beginning of studies and in courses throughout the degree.
- 638 • The latest research data is used in courses and course material is up to
639 date. Course materials are appropriate, of high quality, clear and
640 responsible.
- 641 • AYY supports cooperation in teaching with parties outside Aalto, such as
642 companies. The collaboration must meet the learning objectives defined by
643 the university. The quality of education must not suffer because of
644 cooperation. In cooperation related to courses, a company cannot require
645 a student to have an unreasonably long non-compete term or claim
646 **copyright on the student's work.**
- 647 • All university teachers undergo pedagogical studies throughout their
648 careers.
- 649 • Pedagogical training and orientation are provided to course assistants.
650 Assistants are also trained in assessment and providing feedback. The
651 salary of assistants is proportional to the difficulty level and amount of
652 work.
- 653 • **Teaching promotes students' growth into influential members of society and**
654 **guides them to take responsibility for oneself and other people. Ethicality,**
655 **sustainable development and societal impact are taken into account in the**
656 **competence objectives of each degree program.**
- 657 • **The university must establish goals for the development of students'**
658 **international competence and define measures to promote the**
659 **development of these capabilities. The development of international**
660 **competence must be taken into account in curricula and learning objectives**
661 **and be supported with financial resources.**

662 4.3. Feedback

663

- 664 • Feedback is vital in development work. Students must be encouraged to
665 provide course feedback and the university must arrange feedback
666 sessions.
- 667 • The received course feedback is reviewed. The summary of the feedback
668 and the development measures based on feedback are presented to
669 students next time when the course is arranged, and they are publicly
670 available in the course brochure, for example.
- 671 • Students must receive regular feedback in addition to course grades.
- 672 • Dialogic feedback discussion takes place already during the course
673 between the organizers of teaching and students.
- 674 • Students reflect on their own performance and learn to give and receive
675 peer feedback that supports learning. Peer feedback must not be the
676 primary form of feedback, and the assessment of course assignments must
677 not be primarily based on peer review.
- 678 • Exam and assignment answers are easily available to students afterwards,
679 even if they are unable to attend an assignment or assessment review
680 session. All fields have electronic exam archives.

681 4.4. Course arrangements

- 682
- 683 • Criteria for the assessment of study attainments are transparent and clear
684 at the start of a course. Different assessment methods suitable for the
685 purpose are used at Aalto. Schedules for the assignments to be assessed
686 are available three weeks before the start of the course.
- 687 • Students are always informed about alternative course arrangements.
- 688 • Teaching situations where attendance does not bring significant added
689 value (such as mass lectures) must be videotaped to be used at least
690 during the course.
- 691 • Interaction is the starting point for teaching that requires attendance.
692 Remote teaching must serve learning goals.
- 693 • All software used in the courses must be available to students free of
694 charge. Where possible, programs licensed as free software are used in
695 teaching.
- 696 • The university provides students with professional and diverse, modern
697 tools.
- 698 • Students know their own rights and are able to seek help in problem
699 situations.
- 700 • Students mainly have all copyrights to their coursework.
- 701 • The assignment of copyright related to courses and contests is well
702 communicated and there are clear written conditions for it.

703 4.5. Workload and flexibility of studies

704

705 • Studies must be planned in a way that students can complete 30 credits
706 per academic term and 60 credits per academic year at a normal study
707 pace. The accumulation of credits must not be hindered by overlapping
708 compulsory courses, miscalculated workload of assignments, difficulties in
709 receiving study guidance or inflexibility with due dates in difficult situations
710 in life.

711 • The workload required for one credit is uniform and independent on the
712 field or teacher.

713 • In general, it is possible to pass courses with compensatory assignments.

714 • Teaching that requires attendance must not lead to a situation where a
715 student has to study while ill. Absences due to illness and other weighty
716 reasons must not unreasonably hinder the completion of courses, and
717 compensatory assignments must be offered flexibly.

718 • Online courses and automatically checked electronic exams must be
719 available year-round.

720 • Free summer studies to be included in the degree must be available for
721 students in each degree program.

722 • Teaching times, facilities, assignment deadlines, course assessment criteria,
723 learning objectives and the methods of completion are published on
724 MyCourses or a similar platform before the course starts.

725 • Preliminary assignments must be avoided. Any preliminary assignments must
726 be available during the enrolment period.

727 • Course workload corresponds to the number of credits awarded for the
728 course. Too laborious course contents are either reduced or the number of
729 credits is increased.

730 • It must be possible to renew exams.

731 • If a student discontinues a course or other study module, it must not affect
732 **the student's grade the next time they participate in the course.**

733 • In pursuit of the study pace of 60 credits per academic year, AYY primarily
734 supports investments in study planning, arrangements and support services.

735 • The individual needs of a student are recognized. Information about
736 individual study arrangements must be easily accessible and communicated
737 to students. All teaching staff must treat all students equally regarding
738 individual study arrangements.

739 4.6. Mobility in studies

740

741 • Dialogue between Aalto fields must be promoted in order to make it easier
742 to take courses from other schools.

- 743 • Students must have the opportunity to take courses from other higher
744 education institutions throughout Finland. This requires smooth mobility and
745 cooperation between higher education institutions.
- 746 • Credit transfer of exchange studies must be simplified. Cooperation with
747 exchange universities enables a sufficiently diverse and high-quality
748 selection of study modules. Studies completed abroad must not be required
749 to be fully compliant with the course contents of the home country.
- 750 • Courses must be open to all students who meet the prerequisites,
751 **regardless of the student's home university or degree program. If**
752 participants need to be limited for resource reasons, priority can be given
753 to major and minor students in the field.
- 754 • The university encourages academic staff to combine their expertise and to
755 collaborate across school boundaries.
- 756 • The university offers courses and study modules open to all members of the
757 Aalto community, the completion of which does not require previous
758 knowledge of the field.
- 759 • Students are encouraged to combine different study modules based on
760 their own interests.
- 761 • **Master's studies have as much freedom of choice as possible.**
- 762 • **Changing one's major and degree program within the university is easy.**
- 763 • Students must be guaranteed an actual opportunity to choose meaningful
764 minor courses. The adequate resourcing of minor subjects is a prerequisite
765 for genuine multidisciplinary.
- 766 • International mobility must be as straightforward as possible for both
767 incoming and outgoing students.
- 768 • Degree programs in English are designed and marketed in various ways for
769 both local and international students from within and outside the EU.

770 4.7. Languages

- 771
- 772 • AYY expects the university and all its schools to follow their own language
773 policies and enable study paths in Finnish and Swedish.
- 774 • Guidance and counselling services are available in Finnish, Swedish, and
775 English.
- 776 • **It is possible to participate in the university's development and decision-**
777 **making processes in Finnish, Swedish, or English.**
- 778 • When teaching is conducted in Finnish or Swedish, Swedish-speaking
779 students have the option to take exams or complete study assignments in
780 Swedish. Aalto University determines how the education of a sufficient
781 number of persons proficient in Swedish, required by section 12 of the
782 Universities Act, is taken into account in university operations.

- 783 • Teaching, guidance, and counselling offered in all languages must maintain
784 consistent quality standards.
- 785 • **Teachers' language proficiency is considered in curriculum work.** The
786 university invests in multilingual approaches and offers language training
787 for teachers.
- 788 • The university must take necessary language skills into account when
789 recruiting teachers.
- 790 • University-level, field-specific language offerings must be diverse.
- 791 • Field-specific terminology is developed at the university and in
792 collaboration with other operators (universities, the Helsinki Term Bank for
793 the Arts and Sciences, etc.) recognizing the importance of terms in study
794 paths in Finnish and Swedish.
- 795 • The conditions for teaching domestic and foreign languages must be
796 ensured.
- 797 • The course offerings in foreign languages must reach a level that enables
798 using the language as a working language.

799 4.8. Structure of higher education system

- 800
- 801 • The Student Union supports separate universities and universities of
802 applied sciences, which have clearly different duties. The Student Union
803 supports voluntary cooperation between higher education institutions.
- 804 • University degrees and university of applied sciences degrees continue to
805 have a different profile.
- 806 • **High-quality degree studies must be available in the applicants' home**
807 **regions in proportion to the number of young people.** The Helsinki-Uusimaa
808 region, in particular, needs more of fully funded, available student places.
- 809 • The participation of Finnish students in European university networks must
810 be secured by bringing together the student representatives of different
811 networks and by actively discussing the policies concerning them with SYL
812 and the student unions.

813 4.9. Funding of education

- 814
- 815 • Public core funding covers most of the costs of universities. In addition,
816 collected, competitive research funding and corporate funding must not
817 compensate for core funding.
- 818 • Funding encourages the production of high-quality degrees and does not
819 only reward for quantity or the time required to take the degree.

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- Each completed credit is financially productive, regardless of whether the person is a degree student of a higher education institution or someone else.
 - Higher education and the pursuit of higher education must be free of charge for all students, so that everyone has access to higher education, regardless of their background.
 - AYY opposes expensive pathway programs aimed at international students.
 - Tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students are unequal and must be discontinued. University funding must not be based on student fees.
 - Current, unequal tuition fees for non-EU/EEA students must not affect student admission or the acceptance of study attainments, and those obliged to pay tuition fees must not be treated differently from others.
 - Possible field-specific tuition fees within Aalto must not be many times higher than in other fields. Joint higher education programs must not have different fee categories, and they must not be priced mainly according to the most expensive option.
 - The maximum payment limit tied to the normative duration of studies must be introduced for tuition fees.
 - Grants for those who are liable for tuition fees are mainly awarded to cover the entire fee. Grants are awarded on the basis of clear and equal, predefined criteria.

841 4.10. Degrees

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- Universities will continue to grant students the right to complete both a **bachelor's and master's degree at once.**
 - Eternal right to study must be restored. Limiting the completion time of the degree leads to stress and the interruption of studies. Those admitted to study for both a lower and higher degree must be granted a study right which is at least two years longer than the normative duration of studies.
 - Students must have the flexibility to have extra time to complete their degree, and non-attendance terms must not shorten the right to study.
 - Applying for and admission to a degree program, as well as completing a degree must be possible and free of charge for students, regardless of previous studies. The second higher education degree must not be subject to fees.
 - AYY does not support the right of the Open University to grant degrees. The university grants students degrees after they have been admitted to study through the open university path, for example. It must not be possible to complete degrees at the Open University.

- 859 • AYY opposes commissioned education leading to a degree but has a
860 positive stand on offering parts of the degree as commissioned education.
861 Commissioned education must be implemented responsibly.

862 4.11. Student admissions

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- 864 • It must be possible to apply for university studies with comprehensive
865 school qualification from both upper secondary school and vocational
866 education and training. In addition, there are ways to be admitted to
867 university without general eligibility to apply to higher education.
- 868 • There must be various, free of charge admission routes to the university.
 - 869 • The extent of the open university route must not exceed 60 credits, and
870 the share of the open university path in admission remains reasonable.
 - 871 • Study success in upper secondary education must not solely determine
872 access to higher education.
 - 873 • The entrance examination must remain an application pathway along with
874 certificate-based admission, and the applicant has the opportunity to
875 prepare for more than one entrance examination.
 - 876 • Students are informed of all the study programs for which they have been
877 admitted before the deadline for accepting the place of study.
 - 878 • Quotas for first-time applicants are discontinued.
 - 879 • Admission criteria are transparent and equal.
 - 880 • Applying for university education with an upper secondary education
881 degree other than a Finnish matriculation examination is smooth and fair.
 - 882 • Criteria for the transfer application procedure are clear and credit
883 transfer related to the transfer application does not require additional
884 work.
 - 885 • **Master's admissions must ensure a realistic opportunity for career chance**
886 **when the student has the prerequisites to succeed in studies in the field.**
887 **The criteria for Master's admissions must be transparent.**

888 4.12. Learning facilities

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- 890 • When building or renovating the premises, there must be facilities suitable
891 for both quiet work and group work. In addition, it is important to have
892 facilities for rest and quieting down on campus. Accessibility of facilities is
893 taken into account.
- 894 • Students can book campus facilities as diversely as possible through an up-
895 to-date booking system. The system is functional and serves a variety of
896 purposes.
 - 897 • Students have a sufficient number of 24-hour facilities available.

- 898 • Workstations are available in study spaces with software required by
899 different fields.
- 900 • It must be possible to store personal coursework material in the vicinity of
901 study facilities.
- 902 • **Students' learning spaces support independent studies, the sense of**
903 **community and artistic activities.** The use of learning spaces for teaching or
904 entrance examinations must be discussed with facility users well in advance.
- 905 • Group workspaces are diverse and there are enough workspaces. The
906 facilities must have functional soundproofing.
- 907 • Teaching facilities must have opportunities for working in a standing
908 position by acquiring standing desks and designing lecture halls in such a
909 **way that it is possible to stretch one's legs during the lecture.**
- 910 • When choosing furniture for teaching facilities, work ergonomics and
911 acoustics must be the priority.
- 912 • Teaching facilities must allow the use of various teaching methods.
- 913 • The availability, working hours and guidance of workshops and
914 laboratories are sufficient and working is safe. Workshop masters support
915 teaching, research and artistic work.
- 916 • **The quality of the university's indoor environment, particularly air quality**
917 **and thermal conditions, is good, measured and adjustable.**
- 918 • Services of Aalto Studios are diverse and support studies and artistic
919 activities in various fields.
- 920 • Student support services are centrally located and easily accessible to
921 students.
- 922 • There must be 24/7 access to learning facilities.

923 4.13. Working life

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- 925 • In addition to studies, the valuable role of working, entrepreneurship and
926 organizational and voluntary activities in terms of learning is recognized as
927 credits for degrees.
- 928 • Accrediting previously acquired skills for a degree is smooth. Principles of
929 credit transfer must be based on transparency. Upon request, students
930 must be told which courses or what kind of competence have been
931 accepted as part of the degree.
- 932 • Special attention must be paid to the employment opportunities of
933 **international students. International students' degrees must include the**
934 **networking and working life skills needed in Finnish working life.**
- 935 • **Working is an important part of students' development as professionals in**
936 **their field, and that is why the pace of studies must enable it.**
- 937 • Aalto University must offer alumni flexible education opportunities that
938 complement their competence.

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- Students must have the opportunity to complete an internship that is included in their studies.
 - Students receive credits for internships completed at the university.
 - University career services are extensive and support students from different fields.
 - Students must be guaranteed the language skills and vocabulary required in their field.
 - Appreciation for education is reflected in salaries.
 - The appreciation of the arts and culture sector is reflected in the terms and conditions of employment, as well as fees and wages.
 - In the arts sector, it must be possible to find employment, including freelance work. Publicly funded organizations must provide employment and avoid necessity entrepreneurship.

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4.14. Technology and analytics

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- Course materials are available electronically and free of charge without compromising the quality of the materials. There is free and easy access to article databases and other sources.
 - Teaching material is diverse, and the opportunities brought about by new technology are utilized broad-mindedly and purposefully. The staff receive training and assistance in the use of technology.
 - Students are aware of the use of the data collected about them and can regulate it.
 - Learning analytics is a tool that is used with good reason. Analytics are interpreted on a case-by-case basis and no automated decisions are made based on analytics.
 - The development of artificial intelligence is monitored and seen as an opportunity to develop teaching and learning. In principle, new applications are not seen as suspicious or encouraging fraud.
 - Increasing the workload of students by increasing the number of exams or other assignments is not an acceptable way to avoid using artificial intelligence or other tools.
 - All electronic services of the university have a one-time login option, and a login session is valid for a reasonable period of time.