



Our Shared UAS! – Representative Council Elections 2026

Community creates higher education that develops skilled professionals. Student unions should focus on issues related to students' communities and everyday lives.

We want to build effective student unions that improve students' daily lives and well-being while encouraging them to become active members of their communities. Increasing the visibility of student unions among students will strengthen their influence and build trust in them.

Community

Student unions must focus on what matters

Everyone must have an accessible way to influence matters affecting students' everyday lives. Representative councils must genuinely represent students' interests instead of merely rubber-stamping decisions.

Our Shared UAS

The polarisation and movement towards extremes affecting our society have also entered student politics. We provide a counterforce to polarisation. A strong sense of community must be a shared objective throughout the higher education institution.

Making student unions more visible

Student unions do important work to advocate for students and strengthen the sense of community, but many students still find their activities too distant. Opportunities to influence, representative councils and decision-making must be brought closer to students' everyday lives.



At the same time, students must have better opportunities to grow into active changemakers, and cooperation between higher education institutions and student communities must be strengthened. A strong student movement is built through participation, transparency and cooperation.

High-quality education

Course feedback must make a difference

Course feedback must have a genuine impact on the development of teaching. Higher education institutions must establish a model in which those responsible for courses review the feedback received and use it to improve teaching. Giving feedback should be a natural part of completing a course, and students must be informed about how their feedback has been taken into account.

Course content and teaching practices must be developed in dialogue with students. Teaching must also keep pace with the times: teachers must have an up-to-date understanding of working life, changing competence needs and developments in their respective fields.

Learning support and student welfare must be improved

Student support services must be easy to access and available when they are needed. Campuses need enough study psychologists, campus chaplains and other low-threshold support services that students can turn to when they need to discuss their studies, coping or other life circumstances.

Learning support must also be strengthened. Students must receive timely help with issues such as study skills, learning difficulties and study progress, without unnecessary queues or being passed from one service to another.

Students must be supported in progressing with their studies

Students whose studies have been delayed must be contacted. They must not be allowed to fall through the cracks.



Transfer students must receive adequate support and guidance to ensure a smooth educational pathway. Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer are essential for eliminating unnecessary duplication in a student's study pathway.

The right to complete a degree in a national language

English must not displace Finland's national languages, Finnish and Swedish, in teaching. Students must be guaranteed the right to receive education in their national language. Requiring students to write their thesis in a foreign language particularly weakens the position of Finnish and accelerates its decline as an academic language.

Study facilities must respond to students' changing needs

Study facilities must enable students to participate in remote lectures on campus between in-person classes and provide opportunities for group work. Campuses must have enough suitable study spaces.

A diverse campus

Teaching must correspond to the mode of study

The ways in which studies are delivered must meet the needs of different students. Diverse teaching methods also require appropriate facilities and reliable technological solutions. Higher education institutions must provide enough quiet workspaces, group-work facilities and spaces suitable for remote participation, as well as high-quality technical infrastructure.

Flexibility should provide students with more opportunities. It must not mean transferring sole responsibility for arranging functional study conditions to the individual student.

Internationality and international students are an important part of the higher education community

A multicultural student community promotes the international outlook of higher education graduates and opens up career opportunities beyond Finland. International students must be offered Finnish-language instruction and continuous community-based support as part of their integration into Finnish society.



Studying abroad on an exchange must be possible for students from all backgrounds. Credits completed during an exchange must be flexibly incorporated into the student's degree.

Towards a child-friendly higher education institution

Nearly one in five higher education students has a family, and the proportion is even higher at universities of applied sciences than at universities. Higher education institutions can become more child-friendly through practical measures.

Campuses must provide facilities suitable for childcare, breastfeeding and visiting campus with children. Teaching practices must also offer flexibility when required by a student's family circumstances. Students should not have to choose between parenthood and their studies; the higher education community must make both possible.

Student well-being

Investing in community

Students must be guaranteed accessible and reasonably priced facilities for hobbies, meetings and organisational activities. Higher education institutions and student unions must ensure that different student organisations have genuine opportunities to operate and organise activities for students.

Student organisations are a central part of a vibrant higher education community. They provide students with communities, recreational activities, peer support, opportunities to influence and chances to develop skills needed in working life.

Alongside subject and degree programme associations, facilities and support are needed for cultural, sports, international and other recreational and advocacy organisations. Diverse organisational activities reduce loneliness and strengthen students' connection to their higher education community.



Student sports services must be accessible

Physical activity is an important part of overall well-being. Students' finances are often tight, leaving little room in their monthly budgets. Fees for sports services must therefore not become a barrier to exercise.

The reasonable pricing and regional accessibility of sports services must also be ensured outside Finland's largest higher education cities.

Student meals should use as many Finnish and locally produced ingredients as possible

Locally produced Finnish food is both environmentally friendly and ethical.

FSHS waiting lists must be reduced

Students must receive the healthcare services they need from the Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS) at the right time, regardless of where they live. Long waiting times and poor regional availability must not prevent students from accessing care.

The resources of the FSHS must be strengthened so that students throughout Finland can access the services they need within a reasonable time.

The range of available services must also reflect students' actual healthcare needs. In particular, access to gynaecological services must be improved. Students must receive appropriate examinations, advice and treatment when needed, without unreasonable delays or being unnecessarily passed from one service to another.

Effective student healthcare is essential for students' ability to study, their well-being and preventive healthcare.

A home for every student

Every student must have the opportunity to live in a safe and affordable home. Cities must have enough student housing, and rents must remain clearly below those on the private rental market.

Cooperation between cities, higher education institutions and student housing foundations must be strengthened to ensure that enough new housing is built and students' changing



housing needs are taken into account. Affordable housing is essential to students' financial security and their ability to concentrate on their studies.

The future of student unions

Student unions must receive public funding

Student unions' ability to advocate for students must be secured. It is not right that advocacy for students at universities of applied sciences suffers because resources must be devoted to recruiting members.

Student union activities must be secured through public funding. University student unions and student unions at universities of applied sciences must have an equal opportunity to advocate for students' interests.