

INTERNATIONAL FUKSI GUIDE

2024-2025



Aalto University's Guild of Electrical Engineering

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This guide has been created and updated by several active guild members over the years.

This version was edited by Markus Aaltio and Apollo Ailus.

Pictures:

SIK photo gallery
Johannes Viirimäki
Ki Chun Tong
Henri Aito
Naomi Kaura

Special thanks to all the people who have helped to make the previous versions of the guide!



Welcoming words

Moro!

We would like to first take time to congratulate you on your admission and welcome you to Aalto University! We are the international fuksi captains for the Guild of Electrical Engineering (more commonly known as SIK), and we are here to be your guides at Aalto, in Otaniemi, and in student life and culture. Together with Aalto's International Committee and your international ISOs, we will be organizing all sorts of events, activities, and get-togethers throughout the year!

This guide will give you a sneak peek into the life and culture of Aalto University, one of the most distinct and renowned student cultures in the world. You'll also find plenty of useful information that can help you settle in and have a great time from the moment you arrive!

We highly recommend reading through this guide or at least checking the points that are interesting or useful to you. We can't begin to describe how excited and happy we are for you! We hope that you have a good time and make plenty of lasting memories and friendships during your time at Aalto.



A bit about ourselves:

Apollo: Sup y'all! I'm starting my fifth year at Aalto and the second year of my master's, studying Aalto's famous Acoustics and Audio Technology major. I'm a Yankee who's been a big fan of Aalto's student culture since I got here. I've had a hand in various roles across SIK, AYY, and at the AS guild, including preparing, hosting, and yapping into microphones at big student parties. You can catch me at these events either as an organizer or a fellow participant, or on campus grinding the day away. Whenever you find me, looking forward to seeing you!

Markus: Howdy folks! I'm starting my fourth year at Aalto University, aiming to get my bachelor's thesis wrapped up this upcoming year. During my years in Aalto, I've done my fair share of event organizing in various roles of SIK and the plenty of other organizations around the campus area. I'm a big musichead and I love going to gigs and playing in bands. Maybe you'll even see me hop on a stage or two somewhere in Otaniemi!

Both of us are members of the guild's Fuksi Committee (Fuksitoimikunta in Finnish, and more commonly known as FTMK), which is responsible for all new students (fuksis) in our guild.

We highly recommend coming to international events since many of them are specifically organized for you, and we also recommend attending other events organized by our guild!

Once again, welcome to Aalto and Finland. We hope you have a great time here, make some new friends and memories, and gain a whole lot of new experiences. We're incredibly excited to finally meet you here at our Otaniemi campus in August!

Apollo Ailus
International Captain
Telegram: @SIKCaptain

Markus Aaltio
International Captain
Telegram: @KvCaptain

SIK Chairperson's Greetings

Hello fuksi!

Warm congratulations on your admission! You've made a fantastic choice of study place as it offers diverse opportunities and exciting challenges that will continue to need skilled professionals in the future. When facing tough assignments or situations, both during your studies or life in general, it's good to have some one by your side. Student guilds and subject associations are here to support you, offering a wide range of activities where you can get to know other first-year students.

The Aalto University's Guild of Electrical Engineering (SIK) is one of the many subject associations that bring together students that are studying the same field at Aalto. The guild's mission is to create a counterbalance to academic life through events, advocate for student educational interests, and build and maintain relationships with companies in the field.

Guild activities range widely from company excursions, sittings, and sports trials to hikes, study sauna nights, and movie evenings. Everything is run by student volunteers, which means the events also adapt to the ideas and wishes of the current organizers and members of the guild.

To keep things running smoothly, the guild's activities are divided into 13 committees this year. You'll get to know these committees and what they do in the following pages of this guide and even more so during your first-year. Some committee chairs also serve on the guild board, which I'm chairing this year. The board manages the guild's finances, approves new members, and helps maintain

and develop guild operations. We'll also be organizing a few events over the year, and you'll definitely meet us during the pre-orientation or orientation week.

I wholeheartedly encourage you to dive into your upcoming first year here with an open mind and a bold spirit, as it's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that can lead you to friendships for life. With that, I wish you a wonderful summer! See you at the pre-orientation or during orientation week!

Electrically yours,

Emma Uusküla
Chair of the SIK board 2025



Fuksicaptains' greetings

Hello, and welcome to Aalto University!

We are Henri and Teemu, the fuksi captains of the Guild of Electrical Engineering. We are responsible for integrating first-year students, also known as fuksis, into student life and teekkarius. Throughout the year we organize various events, often in collaboration with other guilds. Essentially, we do the same job as your international captains, Apollo and Markus. If you have any questions or just want to chat, you can recognize us by the colorful sleeves on our overalls.

We hope you have a blast in Finland!



International ISO Coordinator's Greetings

Tervetuloa!

Welcome to Otaniemi! I'm Igor, the international ISO coordinator of the guild, I am responsible for recruiting our ISOs (student tutors), helping them out and organizing events for them, as well as helping out the captains to organize events for you! I am currently starting my seventh year in Aalto and this whole time it's been a blast! I've been active in the student community for many years, and I hope to see you becoming an active student too!

You and your fellow students have been divided into small groups with their own tutors, whom you will spend most of the orientation week with. Your ISOs will introduce you to the campus, teekkari culture and life in Finland in general and will be guiding you through your first steps of becoming a teekkari! I take it that they have already contacted you and offered their helping hand and unlimited wisdom for the many questions you probably have. You can ask them for an advice on literally anything as they are your guide into this new chapter of your life.

The first autumn at Aalto is always very exciting and special! The student community is very active here and teekkari culture goes back over a century. There are also many student clubs and associations for almost any interest you may have. Studying here gives you a great opportunity to meet new people, make new friends and lifelong memories and the best way to spend your fuksi year is to have an open mind, be active and fearlessly try out anything of interest!

Have a wonderful fuksi year and see you soon!

Igor Oinonen
International ISO coordinator
Telegram: @don_sheff



International Director's Greetings

Greetings, new fuksi!

Heartfelt congratulations on your admission to Aalto University, you have made a choice of your lifetime applying here! I wish to warmly welcome you to our Aalto community and the unique community of technology students, Teekkaris!

My name is Niklas Riihelä, and I am the International Director of the Aalto University Student Union, known as AYY. I am the current chair of the International Committee, KvTMK for short, which consists of the International Captains, International Officers, or Master's Captains of the Teekkari guilds and associations, as also stated above.

Our goal with the aforementioned International Captains of the Teekkari associations and your ISOs / BIGs or tutors is to make your first year or semester here in Aalto unforgettable and as accessible as possible!

The Teekkari culture is very unique and something that you can experience ONLY in Finland. The community, the International Committee and your own International Captains will provide you with events and unique experiences in which you can explore the Teekkari culture, get to know Otaniemi and the rest of Finland and meet other fellow students. The activities are a great chance to enhance your stay in Aalto and to have the time of your life!

The Teekkari culture has an extensively long history and Teekkaris have had a presence throughout Finland over many years, especially in Otaniemi and Helsinki. Teekkaris have been based in Otaniemi since 1966. The most prized distinction of a Teekkari is their tasseled cap (Teekkarilakki), which goes back to 1893. The tassel-capped community aims to evoke cheer and joy not only in itself but also for those around it. Outside of Otaniemi, Teekkaris are known, among other things for their pranks (jäynä), tempaus, and singing culture. The Teekkari culture promotes a sense of community and tolerance - Teekkaris accept everyone exactly as they are.

For what matters to you is the long-standing tradition of fuksi education and upbringing. My, and your International Captains' task, is to welcome you to the Aalto community and guide you through your first year or semester in Aalto.

As a fuksi, you will be able to collect fuksi points from various events and activities. These points will introduce you to the Teekkari culture, the Aalto community, Finland, other students of Aalto, as well as to all the fun memories! Collecting enough of these points may grant you the possibility to earn you your very own Teekkari cap.

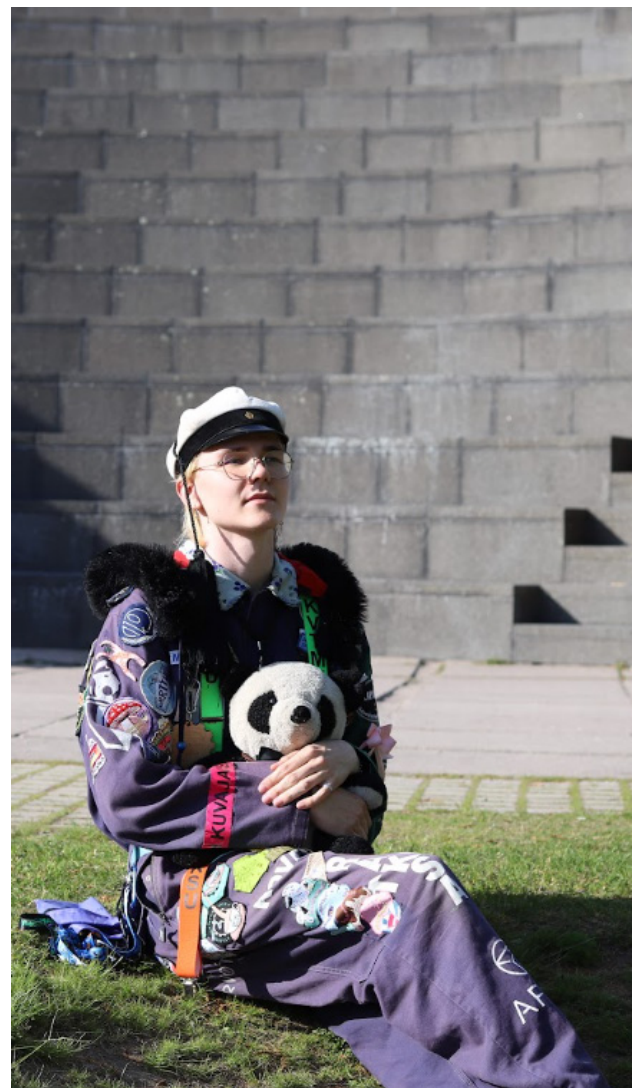
The fuksi year will culminate in the largest, most joyful, and revered event for us Teekkaris: Wappu, provided that you, the fuksis, have proven yourself worthy. If you are an exchange student leaving after the autumn term, I strongly suggest visiting Otaniemi again for the potential Wappu.

In addition to technology student fuksis, there are also arts and business students studying in Otaniemi. The united and multidisciplinary university, as well as the Aalto community, will provide you with a rich and abundant selection of student activities to complement your studies. And I can personally promise that everyone is sure to find some activity that interests them with a like-minded group!

My most important advice for you is to participate with an open mind and heart. Get to know your International Captains, tutors, and other fellow students. Besides studying, experiencing new things together and building friendships are some of the best opportunities our university can provide you during your time here as a student. Your guild or association, the International Committee, and countless other people and organizations create the framework for the activities, but you decide how you want to shape your time as a student.

A once-in-a-lifetime experience awaits you and I recommend that you make the most of it! I am in the privileged position of accompanying you and your fellow students on your journey to becoming Teekkaris. See you at orientation week!

Best regards,
The International Director
Niklas Riihelä



About your studies

Orientation week

Your studies at Aalto will begin with an orientation week, which will start on the 25th of August and end on the 30th. During the orientation week you will learn more about your study programme and Aalto University as a whole. It also offers opportunities to get to know your fellow students, guild members, programme staff, health and wellness resources, and associations to join. You will be assigned a fuksi group to help you spend time with your classmates right from the start.

Student guide

In the Aalto Student Guide you can find information on your programme, instructions on studying at Aalto University, and other matters. You can find the guide here:

<https://www.aalto.fi/en/student-guide>



Teaching periods

The academic year is split into five teaching periods, each being six weeks plus an examination week for midterms, finals, retakes, presentations, or finalizing coursework.

Courses starting in the first period begin on Monday, 2nd of September. Additional evaluation periods will be organized outside the teaching periods, such as summer courses.

Completing courses

Course teaching methods vary and may include lectures, assignments, group exercises, or projects. The first lecture of a course typically covers all the practical matters needed to pass the course (registration, examination, assignment, study material, course completion), and the following lectures cover the course content.

Homework assignments and exams are the most common grading criteria, and many courses cannot be passed by only doing homework or only taking an exam – both need to be completed. Most courses also contain exercise sessions (laskarit in Finnish) where teaching assistants help students with assignments and/or cover practice problems. Exam weeks almost never contain lectures, but may have exercise sessions.



Course registration

You need to register for each course you want to take, which is done online using the website Sisu. During orientation week, your ISOs will help you create a study plan (HOPS) in Sisu and how to register for the courses you will have in the first teaching period. Each course is worth a specific number of credits (most often 5 credits), which will be granted to you when you have passed the course. By definition, 1 credit is equivalent to 27 hours of student work, though this is a rough estimate and different courses may demand different workloads in practice.



Support for your studies

You can always turn to ELEC Learning Services (LES) if you are unsure about where to start, or whom to ask about something. Your programme's planning officer and your major's responsible professor can also help you with matters related to your major and curriculum. Learning Services can assist you with matters involving:

- questions related to studies
- approval of your personal study plan
- getting transcripts of records or certificates of student status
- registration for the academic year
- tuition-fee payments
- student exchange
- transfer of credits

ELEC Learning Services can be reached at stud-ies-elec@aalto.fi, and Aalto's more general student services are available at studentservices@aalto.fi.



The orientation week and Varaslähtö

16.8.2025 Varaslähtö

Varaslähtö (or Headstart), is organized before the start of the actual orientation week and it's a great event to get to know your fellow fuksis and ISOs beforehand. More information on Varaslähtö is available later in this guide!



25.8.2025 Haalarigaala and Varauksen Purku

At the start of the orientation week, Haalarigaala (Overalls Gala) and its afterparty Varauksen Purku are organized. Our guild's sponsors will hold stands and presentations, and following this you will learn about Aalto's famous student overalls, then get to try on and receive your very own pure white SIK overalls! You'll then get the chance to party well into the night with your classmates and guildmates.



26.8.2025 SIKnik

SIKnik is a relaxing event organized by the guild board near the TUAS building (Maarintie 8), where you can hang out and grill in the sunlight. It's a good event to get to know your fellow guild members and relax after the previous night.





27.8.2025 Course enrollment and Ota-suunnistus

During the morning you'll be guided in course enrollment, and in the evening you can attend Ota-suunnistus (Ota Orienteering), a hugely recommended event where you grab your friends and tour the campus, meeting different clubs and associations at Aalto. Most clubs hold a quick activity for your group and will give you info on how to join if you're interested, and many of them will sell overall patches that you can sew on your brand-spanking-new overalls. The event is followed by a huge afterparty with live music in Aalto's main student event venue: Servin mökki, a.k.a. Smökki!



28.8.2025 Aalto Welcome Fair and SIK AS FUN

Thursday you will get familiar with support and wellbeing services at Aalto as well as student benefits and the important HSL public transport system. Later in the afternoon you will be able to get to know other students from ELEC and spend a relaxing day playing games outside!



9.8.2025 Tug-of-War & Kaukkarit

A very exciting day indeed! Fuksis from SIK will have a traditional tug-of-war in Alvari Square against the fuksis from the mechanical engineering guild KIK. After winning against the mechanical engineering fuksis, it's time for the board of KIK to feel the bittersweet taste of defeat, as our board competes in a tug-of-war against them (and wins). The chairperson of the losing guild (KIK) gets to be thrown into the Ossinlampi pond, after which it's time to head to Kaukkarit, the massive end-of-orientation week party at Smökki, again with live music!

Event timetable for the fall

2.9. Aalto Day One & Aalto Party

A party marking the beginning of the school year 2025-2026! The event is open for all and has presentations of the research and know-how on the Aalto campus. Many guilds and clubs will have tents to visit in Alvari Square, and an afterparty in the massive Dipoli building with artist performances will be held in the evening! Our friends at the AS guild will hold a pre-party for this event for international students at ELEC.

4.9. ELEC Welcome Sauna

The Welcome Sauna is the first official international event organized for exchange and master's students jointly with AS! In the event you have a good chance to hangout with people you've met earlier in the orientation week and also get to know your fellow students at both SIK and AS (plus a few from Inkubio as well). There's free food (!!!), a big sauna, and an outdoor hot tub, so remember to bring a towel and swim trunks/swimsuit for that iconic Finnish sauna experience!

18.9. ELEC International Fuksitsit

Your first sitsis! During this event you'll be introduced to sitsit, which are one of the most important forms of events in Finnish university student culture.



30.9. Lakinlaskijaiset

One of the main events of the fall for the whole Otaniemi, which is the last day when a teekkari can wear their Teekkari cap. Fuksis are welcome, even though they do not have their Teekkari cap yet.

11.10. International Sitsis

Your second sitsis! Organized by the International Committee (KvTMK) for all exchange and master's students in Aalto University.

2.11. International Grand Sitsis

A huge sitsis for all the international students in Aalto organized by the International Committee. One of the largest sitsis organized during the fall! You will get to experience a huge event and meet other exchange and master's students in Aalto.

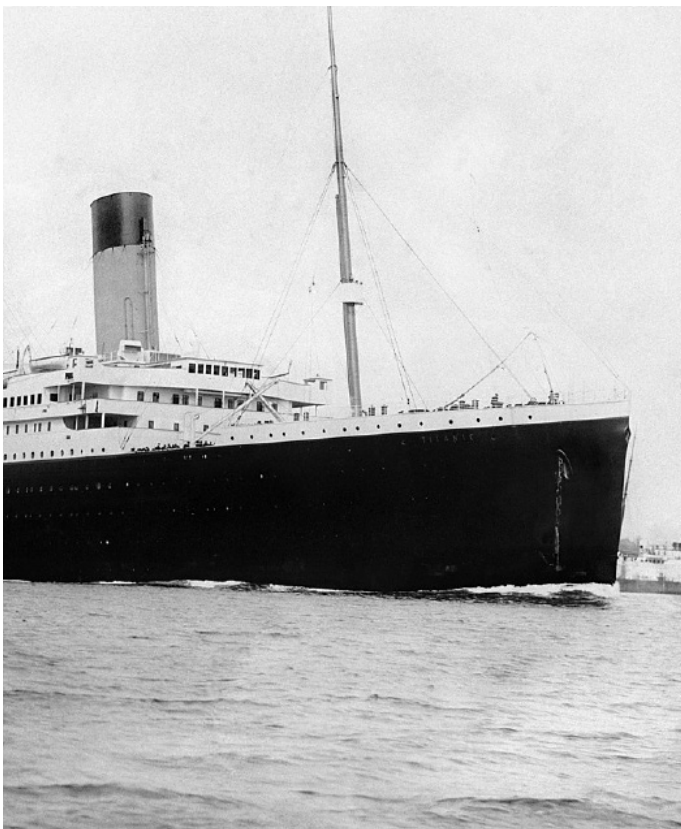


21.11. ELEC International Food Night

A relaxed potluck-style event where participants bring food from their cultures for others to enjoy. Make some food from your culture and stuff yourself with other cultures' foods.

23.-25.11. Otacruise

A must-attend event if you can! Aalto students go on a cruise to and from Stockholm, and the cruise ship is packed with restaurants, bars, decks, a casino, live music and dance performances, and activities especially for fuksis!



28.11. Wappusimulator

As some of you will only be here for the fall, you won't get to experience the holiday Wappu in the spring and the associated hype season. But never fear! KvTMK will organize a Wappu Simulator event so exchange students from every guild get to experience various Wappu traditions all in one day.

4.12. ELEC Farewell Sauna

The end-of-semester counterpart to the welcome sauna, where you get to hang out with departing exchange students one last time before they head back home. Again, free food and (possibly) free drinks, plus sauna and maybe some snow to play around in!



Have we piqued your curiosity on what kinds of people you will be studying with in the coming fall?

Do you have an empty weekend with no plans or extra time in your calendar? Any questions that need answering? Just want to meet your guildmates, ISOs, and captains ASAP? If you answered yes to any of these, then come to Varaslähtö (Headstart) on 16.8.2025!

The purpose of Varaslähtö is for you to have a chance to meet the guild in advance of the orientation week. Varaslähtö will include a party, games, sauna and much more! more!

Bring your sauna equipment (towel, swimming gear) and lots of positive attitude! We will meet first at Alvari Square for an outdoor guild-wide get-together, and afterwards we will head to the event venue at Otakaari 20 for an afterparty with plenty of free food and immaculate vibes to enjoy!



Guild of Electrical Engineering

What is SIK? What does it do? Where can I find the guildroom?

The Guild of Electrical Engineering (Aalto-yliopiston Sähköinsinöörilä ry or SIK) is historically one of the largest guilds in Otaniemi, whose members are almost all students at the Aalto University School of Electrical Engineering (ELEC). Bachelor's students at SIK are majoring in Electrical Energy Engineering, Electronics and Electrical Physics, or Computer Engineering. Master's students major in various subfields including electrical energy, integrated circuits, nanotechnology, embedded systems, photonics, antennas, acoustics, and space technology.

There are 17 guilds or special status associations based on what their members are studying in Otaniemi. The guild which will probably become most familiar to you alongside SIK is the Guild of Automation and Systems Technology, AS (Automaatio- ja systeemitekniikan kiltä ry), because we hold most international events together with them. Starting this year, the Guild of Bioinformation Technology (Inkubio) also has a small number of master's and exchange students under ELEC, with the rest being at the School of Science, SCI.

SIK contains many volunteer committees that carry out specific tasks. The committee most responsible for organizing your events is the Fuksi Committee (Fuksitoimikunta or FTMK). The committee consists of the bachelor fuksi captains Henri and Teemu; the international fuksi captains Markus and Apollo; the ISO coordinator Axel; and the international ISO coordinator Igor. You can contact us with any and all of your questions regarding the guild and fuksi matters.



There are many benefits to participating in guild activities, and some of the main plus-sides are:

1. A counterweight to studying

The guild organizes tons of activities in different forms, such as table parties, sauna evenings, sports, company excursions, food and drink tastings, cultural events, and many others. There are also events specifically for international students and other guild members interested in international activities, which are chiefly organized by Markus, Apollo, and Igor. You can find information in English about all these events in the SIK Announcements telegram channel as well as the calendar on the guild website (<https://sahkoinsinoorikilta.fi/kilta/toiminta>).

2. Community

The idea of community is huge at Aalto and SIK. It's hard not to make friends and acquaintances by participating in the guild's activities, so get active! The guild brings together all Aalto students of electrical engineering and adjacent subfields, and people from all over the world. Our activities offer fantastic opportunities to befriend Finnish students and learn about their traditions and cultures by joining them in participating. Forget language barriers, people just wanna have a good time with others! Above all else, the guild is always there for you and has your back.

3. Studying

The ELEC school is home to many majors and fields of study. One of the guild's important missions is to support its members' studies and take care of the students' issues in the department as well as the entire university. As such, we have student representatives who participate in meetings with school staff. The guild also helps you spend time with your classmates, whom we recommend not only studying with but indulging in student culture with too!



Guildroom (Kiltis)

Members of the guild usually go to the guildroom (called “kiltis”) to relax, study, have a coffee, play video games or table soccer, or buy overall patches. The guild room has a projector which can be used to watch movies or play games on Switch or PlayStation (99% of the time it’s Mario Kart). The guildroom has big couches, several monitors for multi-screen work, and copies of the guild’s own magazine Sössö (mostly in Finnish, but the Google Lens translate feature can help!). More importantly, you can make unlimited coffee or tea, which is free for all guild members! You can also buy soft drinks or snacks using cash or Mobilepay.

Aside from these, you can also buy the guild’s songbook Juotos (an essential item to have at sitsit), as well as overalls if you haven’t already gotten them. You should contact Markus or Apollo on Telegram if you want to buy the songbook, overalls, or the SIK overall patch.

The guildroom is at the far end of the first floor of the TUAS building. Check the end of the guide for a map.

How do I become a guild member?

You can become a member either as you register your attendance in the university or by filling this form <https://api.sahkoinsinoorikilta.fi/members/application/>.

The membership cost is 8€/school year (autumn 2025 + spring 2026). By becoming a member of the guild you can participate in guild activities and enjoy the guild room. No free coffee unless you’re a member!



ELEC 🙌 COLLABORATION

Our own School!

In the **School of Electrical Engineering**, more commonly known as **ELEC**, we've got three amazingly great guilds: The Guild of Electrical Engineering (SIK), The Guild of Automation and Systems Technology (AS) and the Guild of Bioinformation Technology (Inkubio). We do a ton together at ELEC and you will run into these and other new friends from outside of our guild for sure during next Fall!



Name: Guild of Electrical Engineering

Majors:
ESM, EPEE, EDS, AAT, and more

New Fuksis: ~150

Guild founded in: 1921

Overalls: Pure white

Chant: Jappadaida, jappadaida, hei, hyvä SIK!



Name: The Guild of Automation and Systems Technology

Majors:
AEE, CCIS, Spacemaster, CoDaS, and more

New Fuksis: ~130

Guild founded in: 1998

Overalls: Violet, with a black right sleeve with a white ocket, arduino-blue pocket on the leg

Chant: Aivan Sama!



Name: Inkubio

Major:
Health Technology Engineering

New Fuksis: ~50

Guild founded in: 2007

Overalls: Red-ish brown

Chant: Ruskee Puskee



Events

Sitsit

What are sitsit?

Sitsit (a plural word, also “sitsis”; singular form is “sitsi” and some say “sitz”) are a type of academic table party, most commonly held by STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) students. The main purpose of these seated parties is to enjoy a three course meal accompanied by a lot of singing, toasting, and drinking. Sitsit originate from Sweden and have a variety of long-lasting and evolving traditions. They're an important part of Teekkari culture and are organized by every guild, and are a phenomenal way to meet new people and immerse yourself in Aalto's student culture.

Dress code and themes

Sitsit almost always have a theme and dress code, with some being more formal and others much more casual. A common dress code is cocktail attire, i.e. a suit or a cocktail dress. More casual sitsit may call for overalls or a more specific dress code, which is always included in the event announcement. You can see many examples in the SIK photo gallery (<https://sik.kuvat.fi/>).

Song leaders

The party is led by three or four songleaders (lukkarit in Finnish), the masters of ceremonies. A songleader's job is to provide entertaining speeches and lead the participants in singing songs, as well as serving as a “visible person” who can answer any questions or concerns. In most of the smaller sitsit there is only singing, but in the bigger ones there might also be performances. There is a saying that if the lukkari does their job well, the warm dishes are cold by the time you eat them, and cold dishes warm. There is truth behind the saying, so never come to a sitsit starving.

The proper etiquette is to stop eating when a songleader hits the song and starts giving a speech. Usually people start a speech by shouting “hei moi” and introducing themselves to the party, saying who they are and what they're doing. Participants sometimes throw in questions (“are you single?”, “what's your spirit animal?”, or things related to the speech). This speech (called an aasinsilta - “donkey bridge”) eventually leads them to the specific song they want to sing, usually ending with a pun that sounds like a song title. Songs are often started by saying: ‘And the song goes something like this..’



Singing

Everyone sings the chosen song together, minus any “solo” portions that are sung only by the songleader. The songs that are sung are usually traditional “teekkari songs” or “sitsi songs”. Many are based on popular songs or traditional Finnish songs with new lyrics.

All guilds have their own songbook, and the student union also has one that contains the most common teekkari and academic songs. Songbooks are great to bring, but not mandatory since a paper booklet with all songs for the evening is provided; besides, the songbooks are often passed around the tables to be signed by others after the main course or dessert.

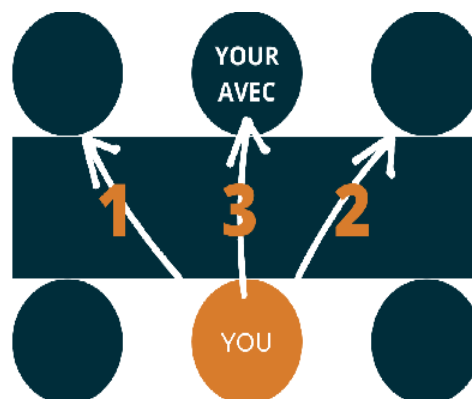
Singing is a traditional way of having fun and a good way to raise the atmosphere. Among teekkaris there is a saying: “Teekkari laulaa mielummin kuin hyvin” that roughly translates to: “A teekkari sings rather than well”. Basically, nobody cares about the technical quality of anyone's singing, we just have a good time with it.



Toasting

After the song comes the toasting which also has an order. You first toast the person to your diagonal left, then your diagonal right, then across from you (see picture).

A common rule is that you cannot drink a specific drink until you have sung about it; for example, you can't start drinking beer until a song about beer has been sung. Not all drinks have their own song, but common sitsi drinks like beer, wine, long drink (lonkero), vodka, and Jaloviina have songs, among others. If a song is about a certain drink, people usually toast with that drink.



Drinks (and non-alcoholic)

Plenty of refreshments are available during the event, including but not limited to wine and shot pours plus a starting cocktail. It is common to bring your own drinks since almost every event venue allows you to.

If you don't feel like drinking alcohol, you can sign-up for the sitsit as non-alcoholic, in which case you will receive non-alcoholic wine, shots, and a non-alcoholic starting cocktail. Non-alcoholic drinks can also be purchased at the event. There is always water at the tables as well, and you should notify the organizers if water runs out (you should be drinking plenty of water no matter if you're alcohol-free or not).



Not enough singing?

If you feel that there isn't enough singing going on, you can always remind the songleaders that something is missing by shouting "Muuten hyvä talo mutta ..." meaning "This is otherwise a good house, but..." If you yourself want to propose a specific song and are willing to introduce it and lead everyone in singing it, you can go up to the lukkaris when they aren't giving a speech and ask. If they agree, they will give a speech that leads to your name, and you give your own speech from there.



Performances and Afterparty

Sitsit usually have a few performances or programs beyond just singing songs. Examples include band or choir performances, dance shows, games or competitions between students or tables, and even more out-there things like magic shows. A given evening usually has at least two performances, and they're definitely something to look forward to in the night!

After the sitsit have concluded, some sitsit will ask for the participants to wait outside for a bit as the organizers clean up and prepare an afterparty. This usually only happens at Smökki or other larger venues. It lasts for a few hours and will often feature DJing and a performance near midnight by the Ota-niemi marching band Retuperän WBK. If no official afterparty is organized, participants are welcome to look for afterparties elsewhere on campus or host their own.



Meet Finns

There will be various sitsit during the year, most of them with Finnish as the main language, but also international ones – the international sitsit are arranged by Markus, Apollo, and Igor along with the AS international captains Aapo and Nam. We highly recommend trying the non-international ones, too, since sitting with Finnish students is an awesome way to make friends with them and enjoy Finnish student culture at its fullest. Plus, there will be likely songs and speeches in English too. Apollo specifically says that going to lots of Finnish sitsit and meeting Finns there was how he made a large number of his friends, and he recommends it to you too!

Jäynä

A Jäynä is a playful prank that is meant to be enjoyed by both the people who have arranged the prank and the people who are fooled. Jäynäs must be done with a good sense of humour and are not to be harmful or cause any material damage to their targets. There are many famous jäynäs arranged by teekkaris over the years. A competition for the best jäynä is arranged every year. So watch out for jäynäs, you may get fooled!

BIG Parties

To balance out the diligent studying of teekkaris, there have to be parties, which teekkaris are famous for. There are different kinds of parties arranged by both guilds and larger associations such as Teekkarijaosto (the Teekkari Section of AYY). The most important parties are annual balls, Gravitaatio, Lakinlaskijaiset and Wappu (see dictionary).

Every guild has its own annual ball every year, commemorating its current age. For instance, SIK will have its 106th annual ball in February. These usually include a cocktail party with gifts given to the celebrating guild; sitsit with formal dinner, speeches, performances, and awards; and traditional dances such as waltzing. Annual balls are very formal parties; women wear long evening gowns and men wear white tie attire (you can look these up if you're not familiar, they're very fancy).

After the formal part of the party comes the afterparty well into the night, and then the sillis ("herring brunch" or "hangover brunch" in English) the next morning until late afternoon. Annual balls are large-scale events that are worth visiting, though even just going to the sillis party the next morning is an awesome experience.



Company Excursions

The purpose of excursions is to offer students a chance to get to know companies in their field as well as to get them acquainted with the business world. Most of these involve presentations from employees and a tour of the company building, as well as food provided by the company. During longer trips, such as the guild's kotimaanpitkä (bus trip around Finland visiting companies), having fun and cherishing teekkari traditions is also important. Good manners and a jovial attitude are expected during excursions; inappropriate behaviour and disregard of excursion rules may lead to a ban on attending excursions. The recommended dress code for excursions is smart casual though not strictly enforced.

Culture and sports

The guild also offers culture and sports activities. We have organised movie nights, sushi evenings, visits to the theatre, etc., and we have recreational teams in futsal, floorball, basketball and volleyball that play games against other guilds' teams. The guild is willing to look into almost anything its members think of suggesting, also contributing financially. Our cultural and sport activities are mainly based on people's suggestions, so if you want to go somewhere, please tell us! We'll make the best effort to arrange what you have in mind.

In Finland, saunas are an integral part of life. It is said that the sauna not only cleans the body, but also the spirit. The word "sauna" originally describes a well ventilated room with a sauna stove ("kiuas") and benches. The oldest form of the sauna is the smoke sauna, where the smoke of a fire was used to heat the room. Nowadays most saunas are heated electrically for practical reasons, however quite a few people still prefer a traditional sauna with a wood-heated stove.

Appros (Pub Crawls)

An "appro" is a pub crawl and one of the most adventurous types of events you can go to. Grab your friends and tour the various bars and clubs on the list, and visit enough of them to earn an overall patch; some appros will award a silver or gold patch depending on how many bars you grab a drink from! The main appros of the fall are Alvarin Appro and Dipolin Appro (both in Otaniemi), and the large-scale Polin Appro across Helsinki which ends at the Apollo Live Club (no relation to the captain Apollo)!



Sauna

Sauna is the place where your mind can rest, and you can have heartwarming conversations. Or it might be the one where you will learn old Finnish songs and sing your heart out.

Sauna Etiquette:

At Aalto, most people go to the sauna in swimsuits or swim trunks, but traditionally people go to the sauna naked. You'll mainly see this in larger public saunas or in other parts of Finland. It's also very rare to have separate men's and women's saunas here; all of Aalto's bookable saunas are mixed saunas. It's very common to bring "sauna beers" or other drinks into the sauna; that being said, remember to drink water too as you'll be sweating a lot.

Normally, you first take a shower and then go to the sauna, water is thrown on the stones to produce steam (called "löyly") and increase the humidity in the sauna. After a while you go outside to cool down. If there is water around, you can also go swimming. Brave people also sometimes go swimming in an icehole ("avanto" in Finnish) during winter. You can repeat the hot-cold cycle as often as you want, but in wintertime don't change too fast between the hot sauna and the cold water. Make sure not to go to the water or into an icehole alone; always bring a friend just to be safe. After the session, wash up, enjoy something to drink and perhaps get some food. We always serve our famous nacho platter at the welcome and farewell saunas, so make sure to get your fair share before it's all gone!



Being a Teekkari

What does it mean? How can I be one?

In Finland, a student studying a STEM field at a polytechnic institute is called a teekkari. It's important to note that STEM students at other universities, such as the University of Helsinki, are not considered teekkaris, since that university is not a polytechnic institute and contains many non-STEM majors like medical, legal, education, and various social studies. Aalto University formed in 2010 as a merger of three schools, one of which was the Helsinki Institute of Technology – a polytechnic institute, which is also where the STEM majors at Aalto came from. Thus, we are teekkaris.

The whole concept of being a teekkari comes from a combination of studies, guilds and similar associations, and the long history and traditions behind it. Teekkaris feel that they belong to a long continuum dating back to over 150 years ago. A strong sense of community with other teekkaris across fields, and participation in all kinds of activities that teekkaris arrange, are also big parts of the culture.

There are many ways to be a teekkari and it can be accomplished through various means. Eventually everybody forms their own personal experience of what it's like to be a teekkari. Especially in your first year, we highly recommend that you explore the culture and see what things you can learn about the history behind it, i.e. things like “why is this tradition here and where does it come from.”

There are some distinct aspects of teekkari culture that set it apart from any others. Some of the most important parts of being a teekkari are presented here.

The Teekkari Cap (Teekkarilakki)

The Teekkari Cap is the cap that teekkaris wear on certain occasions, and it's widely known among Finnish people. It is a hexagon-shaped cap with a white velvet top. The borders of the cap are made of black velvet and the front visor is made of black plastic. In the front there is a small golden-coloured emblem (usually a miniature logo of the student union) that varies depending on the university you study at. A very important piece of the cap is the black tassel that is attached to the top, hanging over the right shoulder; this is the easiest way to distinguish it from any other caps, such as the high school graduation cap (ylioppilaslakki).

There is a tradition that you can only wear the cap freely during the summer months. It is placed on the head when the clock strikes midnight on the first of May, and must be taken off when the clock strikes midnight on the first of October. During the rest of the year it is only worn on special occasions where permission is explicitly granted by the Teekkari Section of AYY.

Fuksis can receive their caps on the last day of April and can start wearing them on the first of May, Wappu, when they officially become full-blown teekkaris. Exchange students who will stay in Finland only for the fall can receive a certificate for the cap, but must still come back to Finland to receive their caps on Wappu. The Teekkari Cap should be worn with pride and should be a sign of a jolly fellow.

Teekkaris do not automatically get the cap, though: you need to earn it. In order to get their caps on Wappu, one has to collect “fuksi points” that can be earned by participating in different activities and accomplishing different kinds of tasks. As you'll learn, these can include attending specific events, completing volunteer work, selling Wappu magazines, doing a Jäynä, or other activities that are traditionally done by teekkaris. All in all, the fuksi point process gives students a chance to be part of 150-year-old traditions and contribute to it as well, and it's a great way to meet other fuksis from various schools also working on the points.



Overalls (Haalarit)

Maybe the most recognisable part of a student in Finland.

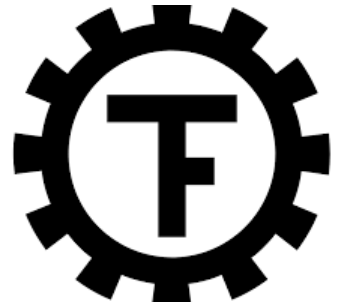
Another good distinctive mark of a teekkari are the overalls. They can be worn in parties, get-togethers and other events. There are many different coloured overalls, and the color usually symbolizes what you study, as every guild has its own color. SIK has its own pure white coloured overalls. The overalls are a practical outfit for many parties, and can shield you from any dirt or liquids that may otherwise get on you.

The overalls are usually decorated with different kinds of canvas patches that are typically bought from parties, events, guilds, or associations that make them. The patches are sewn onto the overalls, not ironed or glued. There are also other optional and sometimes even exotic ways to decorate your overalls, such as custom hoods, collars, or accessories that hang off of them (haalarihärpäkkeet). You can spot different decoration tricks from other teekkari's overalls, or come up with them yourself. It's a unique opportunity to show off who you are and display that at various events. You can buy the SIK overalls at the guild room or at the overall gala on the first day of orientation week.



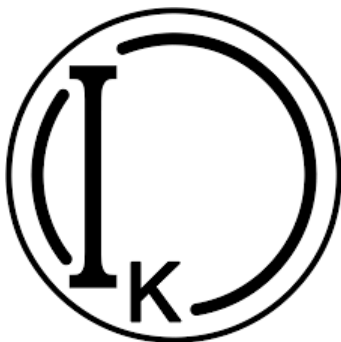
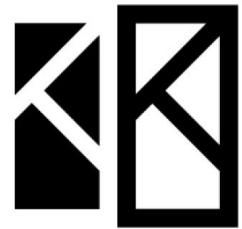
Guilds and student associations

Teknologföreningen, TF, is the Swedish-speaking and the only student nation at Aalto. Everyone is welcome to TF despite study programme or language. The only requirement is to be interested in learning or speaking Swedish. Teknologföreningen's spaces and its own student restaurant are located in Urdsgjallar, the big concrete building next to Dipoli. TF-members are recognized from their dark red, also known as technology red, overalls.



Maanmittarikilta, The Guild of Surveying Engineers is the association for students in the degree program of Built Environment. MK, established in 1901, is the oldest guild that still receives new students every year. You can spot the members of the guild by their matte black overalls with a fuchsia colored sleeve. The MK guildroom, Monttu (it means a gob or a pit), is located at the K1 building.

The Guild of Architecture was founded in 1908 and is Otaniemi's second oldest guild still receiving fuksis. It is home to students of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Architecture, so the members are a mix of students with technical and artistic backgrounds. The Guild of Architecture's overalls are off-white ("painter white") and made of very easily soiled cotton. The Landscape Architects can be identified by the tree on the back of the left leg. Interior Architects design their own fabric to decorate their overalls with. The logo on the back of the overalls is different each year, as it is designed by the fuksis themselves.



The Guild of Civil Engineers, more commonly known as "Raksa", is a subject association that was founded in 1913 and accepts undergraduates studying civil engineering and computational engineering. The association, which was originally named "Engineers' Club" aka IK, is Otaniemi's third oldest guild that still accepts fuksis. Raksa members are easily identified by their builders blue overalls with a green sleeve and pocket and their legendary chant of "RAK-SA JAKSAA" ("Raksa perseveres!")

The Guild of Mechanical Engineers was founded in 1915, and even with 107 years of history, it is the youngest guild in the School of Engineering. However, it is one of the biggest guilds with over thousand members. Members of KIK can be recognized by their cheerful pink overalls, their pink caterpillar tractor mascot and their jubilant chants of "Yy, kaa, KO, NE!" ("one, two, THREE, FOUR/MACHINE")



The Guild of Electrical Engineers was founded in 1921. The energetic electrical engineers can be identified by their pure white overalls with the new cog logo on the back of the overalls. You can also spot the old lightbulb logo from older students' overalls. Their overalls are also decorated by a depiction of a telegram on their right thigh pockets. These overalls can be seen on SIK fuksis from day one, as they are the first guild to receive their overalls in Otaniemi. SIK's chant is "Jappadaida, jappadaida, Hei, hyvä SIK!"

The Guild of Physics (aka Fyysikkokilta, FK) is a subject association founded in 1947. It gathers under one roof all Engineering Physics and Mathematics students as well as Quantum Technology students in Aalto. Each Engineering Physics and Mathematics student specializes in either physics, or mathematics and systems sciences. The guild's overalls are natural white. In order to get the right shade, fuksis dye their overalls with tea. The left sleeve for Quantum Technology students is beige.



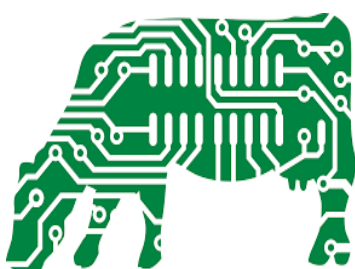
The Guild of Industrial Engineers (Prodeko) was founded in 1966, although it says 1866 in their overalls due to a legendary mistake. Although the guild only has a small intake, their members are all the more active! Industrial Engineers can be recognised by their white overalls, which are decorated with rainbows. New fuksis design the overalls from the ground up and put them on for the first time in November at the Sikajuhlat, to which you are also warmly welcome!

Tietokilta, or Computer Science Guild, is a student association founded in 1986. Computer Science Guild is one of the largest in Otaniemi. Many of younger guilds in Otaniemi today have started as a part of this guild, such as AS, Athene and Data Guild. Members of the guild can be found wearing shiny black overalls with the guild's unofficial white @-logo in the back. The chant of the guild can be heard from far away as a two-part call-and-response: "tieto- KILTA!"



The Guild of Automation and Systems Technology AS is a subject association founded in 1998. It brings together students majoring in Automation and Robotics, Information Technology as well as Digital Systems and Design. The industrious members can be recognised by violet overalls. The left sleeve is black with a white pocket and that reminds of shared history with TiK and SIK.

Athene, the Guild of Information Networks, was founded by Information Networks students in 1999, and in recent years has included Engineering Psychology and EIT Digital Master's students. Athene's overalls are forest green or "Athene green"; the left sleeve, collars, and back pockets are black as a tribute to the Computer Science Guild, which Athene separated from in 2003. The guild's official logo, the "eye of Athene," is featured on the back of the overalls.



The Guild of Bioinformation Technology (Inkubio) was founded in 2007 and is thus Otaniemi's second youngest guild. As the result of a historic spelling mistake, Inkubio's overalls are a reddish brown, and they are decorated with white "cow" patches, which guild members sew on themselves, to commemorate the time when they were part of the Guild of Electrical Engineers. On their backs, they proudly carry their logo, Maikki, a circuit board in the shape of a cow.

The Association of Process Engineering Students welcomes Chemical Engineering students in both the Finnish and English bachelor programme. Founded in 2012, PT is one of the youngest student associations in Otaniemi. PT's overalls are a bright blue and have three stripes, yellow, blue, and red, on each limb as a reminder of the three guilds that PT descends from. The association's logo can be found on the back: it depicts a Bourdon tube pressure gauge measuring pressure, one of the most important variables in any process.



In addition to PT there are three guilds influencing in the School of Chemical Engineering; Chemistry Guild, Forest Products Guild and The Guild of Materials and Metallurgy Students. These guilds are still active even though they don't take in fuksis anymore. The guilds' overalls (red, yellow and blue respectively) have become a rare sight in Otaniemi, but some members of PT sew a sleeve from one of these guilds to their own overalls.



Data Guild is the guild for students of the degree programme in Data Science. Founded in 2019, it is the youngest guild in Otaniemi. The members of Data Guild have two different overalls. The older ones are shiny black with a silver sleeve and the current ones are shiny silver with a black sleeve to commemorate the time of Data Science students as part of the Computer Science Guild.

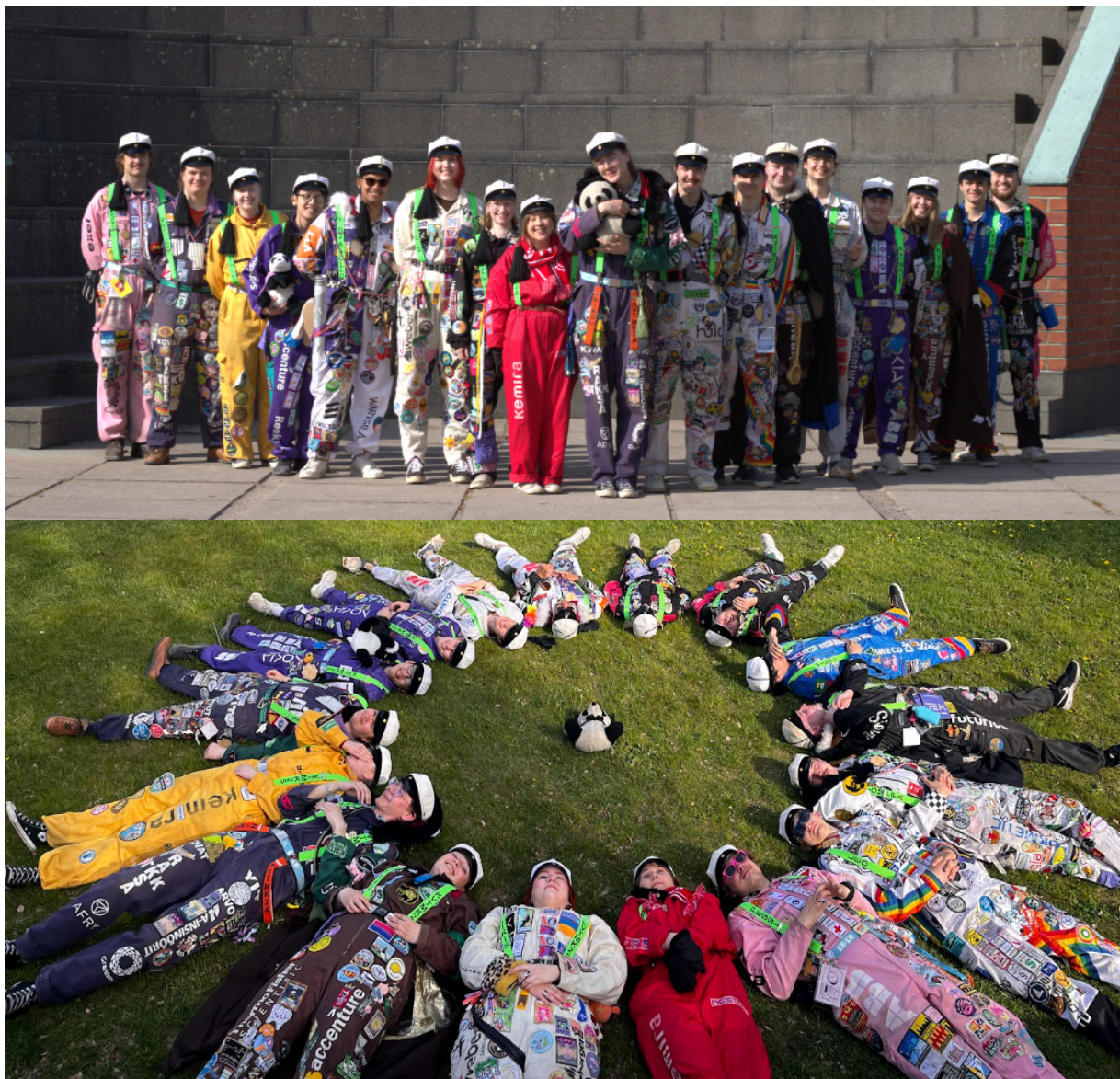


The International Committee

The International Committee or KvTMK (comes from the Finnish word Kansainvälisyystoimikunta) consists of the people in charge of international students and matters in different guilds and associations and is led by the International Director. KvTMK is involved in the fuksi and tutoring activities regarding the international fuksis (new Master's students, exchange students and Double Degree students). The events organized by KvTMK are for all Aalto students, yet prioritizing the internationals as the main language in KvTMK's events is always English. Furthermore, KvTMK also promotes internationalism and the role of foreign students at Aalto and the Teekkari guilds and associations.

KvTMK works under Teekkari Section (Teekkarijaosto in Finnish), or TJ when shortened. Teekkari Section's main job is to uphold various Teekkari traditions and organise many different kinds of activities that are meant to strengthen and enrich the Teekkari spirit. Although its main objective is to focus on Teekkari life, the activities are open for all Aalto students.

Additionally, as the representative of the oldest and original technical university students in Finland, Teekkari Section's opinions have a big impact on the future of Teekkari traditions.





Aalto University Student Union

As a student of Aalto, Aalto University Student Union, AYY, is your student union. AYY brings together about 17,000 students of arts, design, business and technology. We work to ensure the well-being of all our members and we want to develop teaching at Aalto and the best student life in the world.

As a member of AYY, you are entitled to numerous student union services and student benefits both locally and throughout Finland. AYY offers several services for its members, such as affordable student housing, rental facilities, and advocacy. As a student of Aalto, you can also participate in activities and events organised by AYY and over 200 associations within the Student Union.

AYY in Figures

- **More than 17,000 members**
- **Approximately 200 organisations and associations**
- **Approximately 2,700 student apartments**
- **Nearly 50 employees**
- **10 full-time board members**
- **Approximately 500 volunteers**

Communication Channels

You can find comprehensive information about all AYY's services and opportunities at **ayy.fi**. We compile all current information concerning students in the weekly newsletter published by email on Mondays.



@ayy_fi
@ayyhousing



Aalto-yliopiston ylioppilaskunta - AYY
AYY Housing



ayy_fi



Aalto University Student Union AYY



AYY Info
AYY Events



Student Union AYY

Greetings from Aalto University Student Union!



A warm welcome to Aalto University and especially to your Student Union AYY.

Student life is a matter close to our hearts, and we at AYY are working hard to ensure that you can experience the best student life in the world! Our goal is to ensure that every student enjoys a safe and supportive environment during their studies.

A new open world full of great opportunities is now in front of you. We encourage you bravely jump into the unknown – to learn, to discover, to explore and above all to enjoy your time at Aalto. Challenges are part of life and finding your own path can be challenging at times. So don't hesitate to contact us as we are here to support you with any problems you may have.

See you on campus!

AYY board '25

Services

Student housing

AYY owns 2700 student apartments and offers home for over 3400 residents. Apartments are located in Otaniemi and Leppävaara in Espoo and in various parts of Helsinki.

Living in AYY's apartments requires AYY membership and a valid right of residence to AYY apartments.

AYY has single room apartments, studios, two room apartments and bigger apartments. Single room apartments are offered primarily to new students and exchange students. All the apartments are unfurnished, and rent includes internet and water. Laundry room and sauna slots are extra service for free.

You can browse and search for AYY's housing through the Domo system: domo.ayy.fi. You can read more detailed application instructions on AYY's Housing website. As a student, you can also apply housing from the Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region (HOAS).

Advocacy and interest representation

AYY represents students' interests and rights on university level and national level, making sure students are being heard in the society! You can take advantage of AYY's advocacy services, for example, if your exam results are late or you may get in touch with an

equity officer if you encounter any type of harassment. As a member of AYY, you can apply for administration as a student representative and influence the decisions made at the university.

AYY's highest decision-making body is the Representative Council (RepCo), which is elected by vote. In the elections, all AYY members can vote and run as candidates. The next Representative Council elections will be held this fall. Members of the Representative Council decide on the goals and policies of the Student Union.

Student culture

Volunteering, association activities and diverse events are an essential part of Aalto student culture and the Aalto community. The highlights of the year include Wappu and Orientation week events, annual ball, Shrovetide celebrations and many other events.

In addition to the Student Union, events are organised by volunteers who work in sections and committees. AYY has five sections: Community Section Aava, Campus Section, Teekkari (Technical Student) Section, Museum Section, and Advocacy Management Group (more commonly known as EduJory). The call for volunteers will open in late autumn. Information on the call will be published in AYY's communication channels.

In addition, AYY has more than 200 associations that organise activities in the fields of sports, music, games, and other hobbies. New students are always welcome to join association activities, and

AYY offers help, support, and advice for the establishment of associations and their activities. Keep an open mind for different opportunities and get to know the associations in upcoming events!

The Museum of Student Life has expanded its exhibition and activities to cover the student cultures of the entire Aalto community - technology, business and arts. In addition to technology students' culture, the museum now also presents the history and present of KY - Aalto University Business Students and TOKYO, Students of Art, Design and Architecture. In addition, AYY's art collection will also be presented in the exhibition collections. The museum is located at Jämeräntäival 3A.

Rental facilities

In addition to housing, AYY has numerous saunas, event venues and recreational facilities that members can rent. Some facilities are free of charge. AYY also rents a van.

Scholarships and project grants

You can apply for a project grant from AYY or the TTE-Fund for a project organised by a group of friends or an association. You can also apply for scholarships awarded by AYY.

Student benefits

You will receive a digital or plastic student card to prove your student status (card delivered by Frank). By showing your student status, you are entitled to hundreds of benefits from 1 Aug onwards, including Kela, Matkahuolto and VR, as well as to student lunch discount in student restaurants. You are also entitled to student discount in public transport in the metropolitan area if you live in the HSL area and have updated your student status in your travel card at the HSL service point or activated the student discount in your HSL-app. You can find the list of all benefits and discounts available with the student card on Frank's website at frank.fi.

The digital student card Frank App is an official student ID, which you can download and activate starting on 1 Aug once you have enrolled for attendance at the university and paid AYY's membership fee. You can check the prices of other card options on Frank's website. You can also add an ISIC license to both digital and plastic student cards. More information on different student cards can be found on Frank's website at frank.fi.

If you have chosen the plastic student card, please remember to pick up the academic year tag (aka. sticker) for your card from AYY's service point! At the same time, you can also pick up a free Design Notebook and a badge.



Hei fuksi!

Liity Tekniikan akateemiset TEKin opiskelijajäseneksi! Jäsenyys ei maksa sinulle mitään. Saat mm. kesätyönhakuneuvoja, tekniikan alan ammattilehtiä, palkkatietoa, jäsenetuja ja alennuksia sekä pääset mukaan huippupuhujien webinaareihin. Liittymislahjana saat TEKin haalarivyön.

TEK on noin 81 000 tekniikan alan yliopisto-opiskelijan sekä alalta valmistuneen yhteisö. Olemme osaltamme ratkomassa muun muassa aikamme suuria kysymyksiä ilmastonmuutoksesta luonnon resurssipulaan ja modernin työelämän haasteisiin.

Tutustu tarkemmin www.tek.fi/opiskelijat tai liity heti mukaan www.tek.fi/liity!

Terveisin,



Vilppu Viinikainen

Opiskelijayhdyshenkilö / Otaniemi

+358 43 2010 111

TG @Otaniemitykki

TEK
Me tekniikan takana

TOKYO



TOKYO ry is the student association for the whole School of Art, Design and Architecture and was founded in 1961. TOKYO is an acronym for 'Taideteollisen Oppilaitoksen Kuvaamataidonopettajaosaston Ylioppilaskunta', which translates to 'The Student Union of the Art Teacher Department of the Institute of Industrial Arts'.

It is known as the umbrella association for the rest of the arts associations such as NuDe, Kooma, CRUST and GRR to name a few. TOKYO also owns its own canteen on campus, Kipsari, which offers solely vegan food to all any student in the heart of Väre.

At the moment TOKYO's board contains following sectors:

- Chair
- Vice chair
- New students
- Internationality
- Sheryl
- Advocacy
- Communications
- Artistic activity
- Outreach
- Campus and spaces

On top of that, we own vegan restaurant Kipsari, student info-magazine Torso and recently opened Cinema Sheryl!



Outside of that we carry a system of Committees - our volunteers who help out with the board work and events!

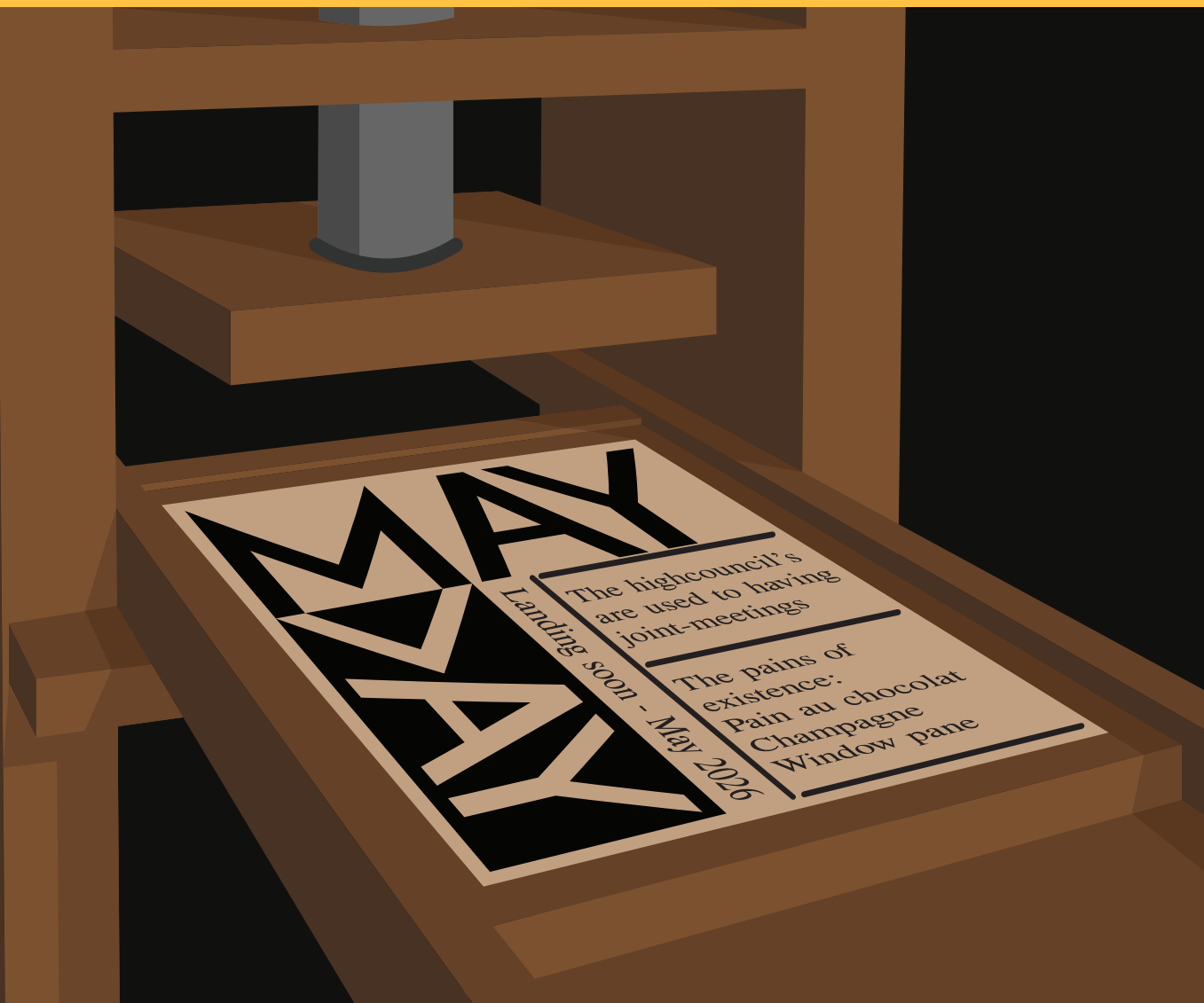
Join our telegram channel to stay tuned with all the new info!



Check our open committee positions!



@TOKYO_MALTO_ARTS





Teknologorkesteren Humpsvakar

Den finlandssvenska teknologorkesteren i
Otnäs! Vi gillar ljuv hornmusik, vacker dans
och typerää viihdettä!

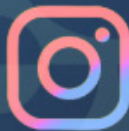
Aalto community
AYY annual ball - festivals
adventures - sports
well being
activities for masters' students
interdisciplinary events

community section

aava




section - committees - events



@aay_aava



AYY events



"A spex is a student run musical in which the audience gets to interact with what's happening on the stage!"

FYYSIKKOSPEKSI

Fyysikkospeksi (The Physicist Spex) is the Guild of Physics' very own spex. It is also known to be the only spex in the world that is also regularly performed in English. The next version will be shown in autumn 2025.

TUE 14.10.

WED 15.10.

MON 27.10.

TUE 28.10.

IN ENGLISH

TUE 18.11.

WED 19.11.

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Community spirit

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JULKKI

since '78

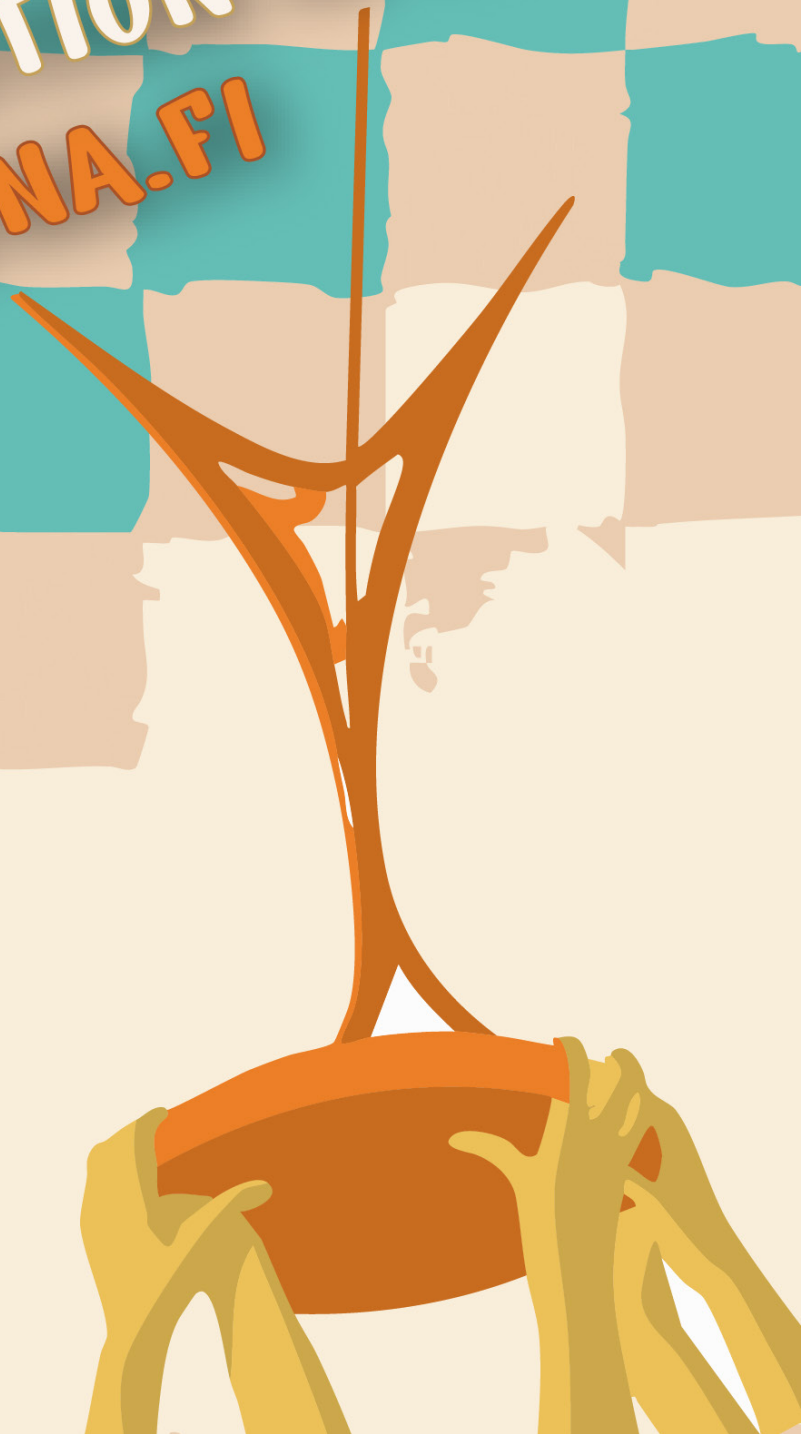
1978

A HIPPIE
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JAYNA

THE COMPETITION IS ON
WWW.JAYNA.FI




RETUPERÄN WBK

same in English

 [retuperanwbk](#)

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 [rwbk.fi](#)

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About Finland

A little insight to the culture of the land of a thousand lakes (not to be confused with Minnesota)

It's not always easy to understand Finns. The culture shock can be overwhelming – however, it helps a lot to understand some habits in advance just so you know what to expect.

The (in)famous silence

Sometimes, getting to know Finns can be quite challenging, but don't give up. Finns are generally very nice people, and surely you'll find some awesome friends among them. In Finland you don't often speak to people you don't know, unless you need to ask for directions or something similar. If you sit next to a stranger in a bus and strike up a conversation, they'll probably think you're drunk, trying to hit on them, or otherwise dangerous.

You might find Finns not very talkative at first, but it's just the way they are, they enjoy the talk as much as the silence. Long gaps in conversations are pretty normal in Finland. Finns are very good at English, even though they sometimes doubt their abilities. Truth be told, though, you can break this barrier by being good company and not giving up on trying – most of you probably aren't native English speakers either, so you're in the same boat as the Finnish students. A lot of Finns start yapping much more easily at student events, so make sure to use this to your advantage.

Where is a good place to meet Finns?

Guilds' and associations' events are obviously the best place to meet international-minded Finns who will be glad to share their experiences with you. In particular, events such as sitsit and Smökki parties have lots of Finnish students who are willing to talk to anyone. Another good place to start a conversation with a Finn is in the sauna; everybody becomes surprisingly talkative in there and people enjoy sharing their backgrounds.



Get outside!

Nature is an essential thing in Finland, and most of the space is taken by it. Considering the area of the country (338 424km²) and the number of inhabitants (5,5 million), you have a lot of space to be by yourself in the nature. The Finnish “everyman's right” states that you are allowed to walk freely in the countryside with some exceptions like gardens, near people's homes, in fields etc, and are allowed to pick wild berries and mushrooms from the woods, as long as they are not protected species.

Climate

The Finnish climate is quite tough during the winter, and you'd better be ready for that. Meaning that if you have good, warm clothes everything should be fine. The temperature can be around -20°C, so the best thing to do is to use the “onion technique”: wear several layers of clothes so that you can remove some when you are in a building (buildings have very efficient heating systems).

Something which might be a bit more difficult to overcome during the winter is the darkness. Starting from November, days are pretty short and dark, and it's not always easy to cope with it, but when the snow arrives, it makes the days lighter and the winter more beautiful. Snow usually fully disappears in March or April, but the temperature stays quite chilly until May. During the summer, the days are very long. They last more than 20 hours in the Helsinki region around the 21st of June, and the temperature can be up to 30°C.



Here are a few things you should expect when coming to Finland:

- Don't be late! Punctuality really matters in Finland, and usually everything happens on time (public transport, meetings...). If you know you'll be late for a meeting, give the other members a heads up beforehand. In the academic world, though, there is the "academic quarter". Lectures and most of the other study sessions begin fifteen minutes past the hour. For example, morning lectures begin at 8.15, not 8.00. Exams make an exception as they start at the hour.
- Finns are very respectful of others and they follow the rules to a high extent, and it's considered one of the safest countries in the world. For example, you can leave your coat unattended in a cloak room when you go to a student restaurant with a pretty peaceful mind. However, it's always better to be safe than sorry!
- On the streets, Finns almost always use the crosswalk, and if there is a light, they wait for it to go green (unless there are no cars, then people often cross on red). If there is no light, drivers will usually stop to let you cross.
- You might find stuff (for example food and clothes) a bit expensive in the Helsinki metro area, especially in the city of Helsinki itself. Secondhand/thrift stores are very popular for this reason, and you can also find students selling clothes and other items for cheap on large Telegram channels (more info on those at the end of this guide).
- Speaking of food, grocery stores, ingredients, nutrition facts, and other food labels are often only in Finnish or Swedish. Keep Google Translate/Google Lens handy; learning some essential food words can help, too.
- Services (banks, tax offices...) are very efficient. Always take a queue-number. Finns have the habit of forming queues, and you'll find machines for queue-numbers in many different shops and places (banks, post offices, railway stations, etc.).
- When using escalators, people in Finland reserve the right side of the moving staircase for standing and the left side for walking the stairs. Standing still on the left side can be considered rude by someone wanting to pass.
- If the smoke alarm in your apartment goes off, but you know for sure that there is no fire, you're allowed to manually turn the alarm off. If you're cooking and creating smoke, please open the window to let it out; do not let it into the rest of the building as this can set off building-wide smoke alarms.
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Healthcare for students

For those who come to study their master's degrees in Finland, it is strongly recommended to register with the DVV (Digital and Population Data Services Agency) in order to get your personal identity code. This is necessary in order to open a Finnish bank account, which makes it possible to run many errands online (for example things related to taxation) and get a Finnish phone number. Working in Finland is usually also easier. Registering is also necessary in order to access Finnish national health care services. Information about registering: <https://dvv.fi/en/foreigner-registration>.

The Finnish Student Health Service (FSHS or YTHS in Finnish) provides student health care services that are available to those who have paid the health care fee. FSHS offers general health, oral health, and mental health services.

Students who have enrolled for attendance must pay the student health care fee to Kela at their own initiative. The fee is paid twice a year: the autumn term fee by the end of September and the spring term fee by the end of January.

It is noteworthy that, as of 1 Jan 2021, international exchange students are not covered by the FSHS student health care. Additional information can be found at yths.fi.

Useful Webpages

Guild:

[SIK Website](#)
[SIK International Telegram](#)
[SIK International announcements](#)
[SIK Telegram](#)
[SIK Announcements Telegram](#)
[SIK Instagram](#)
[ELEC International Telegram](#)

Studies and school related:

[Aalto - English website of the university](#)
[MyCourses - Course info](#)
[Sisu - Course sign-up and study planning](#)
[Aalto Student Guide](#)
[AYY Student union](#)

Food & sports:

[Kanttiinit - Otaniemi and Helsinki student lunchlists](#)
[Unisport - Great sports facilities for students](#)

Traveling & weather:

[Reittiopas - Travel planner for Helsinki region](#)
[VR - Railway travelling in Finland](#)
[Matkahuolto - Bus travelling in Finland](#)
[Finnish meteorological institute - Weather in Espoo](#)

Finding a room:

[HOAS - Student apartments in Helsinki region](#)
[AYY Housing - The student union's apartments](#)

Furniture and other stuff:

[AYY Recycling center - Free furniture in Otaniemi](#)
[Kierrätyskeskus - Helsinki region reuse center](#)
[Aalto marketplace - sell, lend and rent things](#)
[Otaniemi buy/sell Telegram group](#)
[Giving away free stuff Otaniemi Telegram group](#)

Other Telegram chats:

[Aalto International](#)
[Aalto International Events](#)
[#otaniemi](#)
[FOODL Food Giveaway](#)
[Lost&Found Otaniemi](#)
[Aalto Foodsharing](#)



Otaniemi-English Dictionary

You will hear these words a lot during your time here!

1st section - More important:

AYY

The student union of Aalto University. AYY (Aalto-yliopiston ylioppilaskunta) organizes several events for students, rents apartments and maintains active student life. Exchange students can choose whether they want to join AYY.

Fuksi ("Freshman")

Any person who's studying in Aalto University of Technology for their first year is called a fuksi. (Even if they have studied several years in other countries.) You can also be considered a fuksi if you transfer majors and start under a new guild. A fuksi becomes a teekkari after their first Wappu (see below).

KvTMK

The International Committee of AYY, which is responsible for different kinds of events for international students. It gathers all international captains of the engineering guilds and associations. They also govern the fuksipoints for international students.

Fuksi captains (Fuksikapteeni)

Each guild has one or two fuksi captains. They are responsible for the process of fuksis becoming teekkaris. They know a lot about teekkari culture, fuksipoints and so forth. At every guild, the "fuksi captains" are in charge of bachelor's fuksis, while "international captains/master's captains" are in charge of master's fuksis and exchange students.

Fuksi points

Fuksi points are collected throughout the semesters. You need to get a fuksi point card from your captains and they'll sign off on points you've completed. If by Wappu (first of May) you have collected enough points you gain the full title of teekkari and the diploma that allows you to wear the teekkari cap! Collecting the points is a fun way to get to know the culture and make new friends.

Overalls/Haalarit (see: Overalls)

ISO

ISOs ("BIGs" in Finnish) are student tutors (not academic tutors) who are your guides to the basics of living, studying and student life in Finland. They'll guide you through orientation week and they'll be there to answer any related questions on your mind throughout the year.

Guild (Kilta)

Each school in Aalto has several guilds related to the majors at the school. The guilds are student organizations which organize events such as sauna evenings, sitsit, parties, excursions, sports, culture events and much more! Each guild also has their own guild room and their own overalls (see below).

ESN Aalto , KY-Sub

Organisations that also organize events for international students in Aalto University. ESN is the Erasmus Student Network, which brings together European exchange students from across Aalto for events together such as hikes, sitsit, and cruises. KY-Sub is run by and targeted towards business students.

SIK, the Guild of Electrical Engineering

Sähköinsinöörikilta (SIK) is the Guild of Electrical Engineering in Aalto University. SIK organises many different events for its members, such as sauna evenings, sitsit, parties, excursions, sports, electronics workshop, culture events and much more!

Teekkari

A teekkari is a student who studies technology in a university in Finland. However, in many ways one is not a true teekkari before one has collected enough fuksipoints to gain the diploma which allows you to use a teekkari cap.

Teekkarilakki (Teekkari cap)

A white cap with a black tassel. This is a symbol of a Teekkari and there are several rules regarding when to use it. Many teekkaris value their caps very much. To get the diploma to use the teekkari cap one must collect fuksipoints (see above) before Wappu (see below). Collecting fuksipoints is fun and introduces you to our culture so go for it!

Teekkarihymni (The Teekkari Hymn)

The hymn of the Teekkaris which is sang at midnight when the lights are turned off. It is followed by the hymn of your own Guild.

Wappu (First of May)

Wappu is the highlight of the year - a time of party and carnival for the teekkari community. Wappu lasts for more than a week and ends on the First of May when the worthy are awarded the right to wear the teekkari cap. Wappu, as other Finns write it, is celebrated by almost everyone in Finland but only students celebrate it for several days in advance.



2nd section - Slightly less important

Dipoli

A building in Otaniemi with an extraordinary architecture. It is the main building of the university and hosts some of the biggest parties. There is a student restaurant as well.

Julkku, Äpy, and Mayday

Julkku and Äpy are Wappu magazines full of teekkari humor. Teekkaris sell these all around Helsinki and Espoo for anyone in the Wappu mood. These two take turns in publishing: 2025 was an Äpy year, so 2026 will be Julkku's turn. Mayday is a newly developing Wappu magazine aimed to be readable for all Finns and internationals.



Radiodiodi

A Wappu radio station that's open for several weeks before the first of May. Students can book time slots and enter the studio to have their show broadcast to everyone listening. For example, KvTMK had an awesome 2-hour show this past spring about pandas.

Otarhan Ajot (Otarha Grand Prix)

A racing competition between teams consisting of new students at each guild. For master's/exchange students, it's teams from each school, so you'll get to be part of the ELEC team. This is held on September 30, and in the weeks before this you'll need to build a vehicle (usually a really goofy one) that can carry at least one person, and you race it around Alvari Square against other teams while completing challenges along the way. Super fun event early in the year, and more info will be provided in September.



Lakinlaskijaiset

A party in the autumn semester where the teekkari caps are lowered from the head to the shoulder or belt. Between this moment and Wappu the caps can only be worn in certain events with the permission of Teekkarijaosto who represent the whole teekkari community.

Laskiainen and Laskiaisrieha (Shrovetide / Mardi Gras)

On this day the students of the capital region go to Ullanlinnänmäki (a hill in the Kaivopuisto park in Helsinki) to ride down a snowy hill on a sled. Some people instead use sofas, rubber rings, each other etc. There's also a competition for the weirdest and funniest sled/vehicle/thing/style for going downhill. Afterwards there's a big party called Gravitaatio (Gravitation). Historically, Laskiainen was celebrated long before the advent of Christianity in Finland. It was a celebration of spring, and many spells were cast in hope of good crops.

Pikkujoulut = Pre-Christmas parties

Pre-Christmas parties are usually (but not always) celebrated in November and December and come in many forms and shapes. Such parties are organized by employees, guilds and groups of friends alike. Pikkujoulu means literally "little Christmas". The dresscode usually includes something Christmassy. Our guild's Pre-Christmas party is a sitsi called PikoJoule.



Sitsit/sitsi/sitsis/sitz: see "Sitsit"

Kandikeskus/Kandilafka/Undergrad center/UG center

These all refer to the Undergraduate Center, which contains many lecture halls, bookable rooms, and open study spaces. It's also where SIKpaja is located.

SIKpaja

Our guild's electronics workshop, located in the basement of the Undergraduate Center. This can be used for small projects or fixing electronics, and contains various power tools and other items. Apollo's bucket relic was fixed here after his predecessor broke it before giving it to him.

Herlin/Library/Learning Center

All of these refer to the Harald Herlin Learning Center, a building that doubles as a textbook library and a large study space open 24/7. Some very nice architecture as well as some cool hanging seats and a napping pod, plus a small cafe.

A Bloc/Bloc

The building containing the Metro station, K Market, Alepa. etc.

Otamato/Raide-jokeri/Jokeri/Raide McJokeriface/Spora

All of these refer to the "light rail" tram in Otaniemi; "spora" is a general slang term for trams/tram tracks. The tram stop is located next to Harald Herlin.



Learning Hub

TUAS and the CS building have “learning hubs” in them, which are open spaces with booths, couches, and bookable rooms. These are also confused with the Student Hub and the Learning Center, so remember to specify the building.

JMT/SMT/SK

Abbreviations for three streets in Otaniemi: Jämeräntäival, Servin Majjan tie, and Servinkuja. Most of the apartment buildings on campus are addressed to these streets. There are also buildings on Otaranta and Otakaari, but people don't abbreviate them nearly as much.

OK20

One of the apartment buildings, which also contains two event spaces. The top floor is often booked for sitsit while the bottom floor is often used for sauna evenings as it has its own sauna. The abbreviation “OK20” usually refers to the event spaces more so than the apartments.

Rantsu

AYY Rantasauna, located between JMT7 and JMT11. The biggest sauna on campus, which also contains a kitchen, a large common area, a hot tub, and another sauna because why not. It's also next to a boardwalk leading to water.

Keto

AYY Central Office, also just known as the AYY office. Located between Alvarin Aukio and Dipoli. Questions regarding AYY housing or memberships can be answered by staff here.

Otaranta

The entire harbor area next to the bay called Laajalahti. There are apartment buildings at Otaranta, as well as a large sports field, tennis and padel courts, the student gym Unisport, and a long trail that goes all the way to around where the Design Factory is located.

Lintutorni/Bird tower

A bird-watching tower located on a trail behind TUAS, which is essentially an extension of the Otaranta trail. The trail is home to not only birds, but also muskrats as well as thousands of mosquitos, so please remember to wear bug spray. One of the most beautiful areas on campus.

Alvari/Alvari Square

Common names for Alvarinaukio/Alvar Aalto Square. It's a park area between the undergrad center and Otakaari, effectively separating the academic and residential areas of campus. Several large outdoor events are organized here throughout the year, such as Otasuunistus, Aalto Party, and Aalto Open Air. People sometimes have picnics or sports games here too.

TUAS

Common name for Maarintie 8, a common building for electrical engineering courses and also where the SIK guild room is located. Aside from teachers, almost nobody calls it Maarintie 8, and it's almost exclusively referred to as TUAS.

Smökki

Servin mökki, the main event venue for sitsit and free-form parties. Addressed to JMT4. If you actively participate in student culture, expect to come here a lot. You're almost always allowed to bring your own drinks in here as well.



Otaniemi Map

The Teekkarikylä in Otaniemi is Finland's most famous campus area. In addition to the campus and the school, you can find a lot of services and places of interest in Otaniemi.

You can find fulfillment to your most basic needs in day-to-day life, as there are for example a supermarket, a pharmacy, a grill, a kiosk, an ATM, a hair dresser, AYY's service desk and a café here in Otaniemi, most of them locating at the ABloc mall.

There is also a stadium and gyms here in Otaniemi near Otaranta. On Jämeräntaival you can find a small chapel. There is a student restaurant at basically every department and at the main building, but in addition you can enjoy your lunch at TF and Dipoli.

The map depicts some of the most important locations in Otaniemi. You can find a more detailed map of the campus area [here](#).

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Undergraduate Centre | 9. TUAS |
| 2. Dipoli | 10. Väre |
| 3. Harald Herlin | 11. Keto |
| 4. Kone building | 12. Otahall |
| 5. R-building | 13. Smökki |
| 6. TF | 14. Rantsu |
| 7. Maari |   Guild rooms |
| 8. T-building |  |

