

*Survival  
Guide 2021*



*Athene*

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# Welcome to Athene

Hey You!

I'm Alessa, the Captain of International & Master's Students in our guild Athene.

First and foremost, I want to congratulate you on making the great decision of coming to Finland and Aalto University, and to warmly welcome you to our guild! My job as the International & Master's Captain is to make sure you all have a successful and unforgettable year in Finland, both academically and culturally!

Athene is your home guild – the association uniting Information Networks and ICT Innovation students at Aalto University. Athene organizes all sorts of activities and events to its members from parties to sports events as well as maintains relations to the corporate world and school staff. Joining Athene is your chance to make the most out of your time in Finland. As a member of the guild, you will be very welcome to join in all our events.



We hope everyone will find something interesting to do! A big part of our guild is also the guild room, which we call Olohuone or Olkkari, which means Living Room in Finnish. Olkkari is situated in the computer science building at campus so it is an easy place to hang out during the school day. I hope to see all of your faces there next semester.

In addition to being in the board of the guild, I am also part of the International Committee, KvTMK (Kansainvälisyystoimikunta) at the university. Our job in the committee is to ensure that all the international students are looked after well. We also organise fun events for all the international students of Aalto University.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer and I look forward to meeting you in the autumn!

Alessa Aila  
Captain of International & Master's Students  
captaininternational@athene.fi

# Finnish student culture



Finland has a very active, unconventional and fun student culture with countless traditions formed over several decades. There are multiple centres of student life which naturally take place in the large university cities, such as Helsinki, Turku, Vaasa, Tampere, Oulu, Rovaniemi and Joensuu. However, you are in great luck since arguably the best and liveliest of them all is the Aalto University campus, Otaniemi.

The student culture and traditions are largely maintained by student associations, which there are many types of. All fields of study usually have their own subject clubs, which in the field of technology are

called guilds. Especially guilds are often very active, and organize all types of events, such as parties, sitsit (peculiar and traditional dinner party), sports events, wellness events and events related to studies. However, in addition to subject clubs there is also a wide variety of different student organizations and clubs which unite people with common interests like sports, gaming, cocktail-making or virtually anything you can think of!

In Finland, there are many things of which you can spot a university student even from afar. When attending events or partying, Finnish students wear large long-sleeve overalls in all colors of the rainbow. By the color of the overall, you can also often tell what the student's major is, since all subject clubs have their own overalls in specific colors. The overalls are often decorated with strange dangling objects and sewn-on badges, which students get for example by attending different types of events. Sometimes students also pair their overalls with a white sailorman-like cap, which they have gotten when graduating from high school.

Student culture is also quite diverse and colorful, varying a lot between different fields and cities. For example students in law, business, social sciences and technology all have their own traditions. As technology students, we take pride in our strong and traditional Teekkari culture, which you will surely get to enjoy during your time in Finland!

# What is a “teekkari”?

Teekkari officially means a technology student, but in reality it is much more than just that. You can recognize a teekkari from their student overalls (with the color signifying the study program), teekkari cap (a cap with a tassel) and their cheery and positive attitude.

The teekkari culture of Otaniemi dates all the way back to 1872, when the school was still situated in Helsinki (thus, the old name of the school was Helsinki University of Technology), and is a point of pride for all teekkaris alike. Teekkaris also built the first apartments in Otaniemi before the school came here, so we all consider Otaniemi our home.

Being a part of the teekkari culture in Finland holds a lot of emotion and pride formed over time, which is why we take such good care of our freshmen, to ensure they get the chance to become fully a part of the teekkari culture.

An important part of being a teekkari is the cap. It is protected, so that only the technology students who have completed their “degree” in teekkari culture are allowed to wear them.

This is done by following a point card (which you will get from the Captain of International & Master’s Students), and completing a certain amount of points before the first of May. This will include, for example, visiting companies, attending sistsit-parties, going to the teekkari museum and singing (teekkaris love singing, we have a saying that goes: “a teekkari sings rather than well”).

Don’t worry, it is all doable, if, and hopefully when, you decide you want to do it. However, it is important to notice that none of this is mandatory. Teekkari culture is all about having fun and doing things that you want to do.



# Greetings from the tutor responsible

Hi!

My name is Julia and I'm the Tutor Responsible of Athene in 2021. To help you adjust to all the changes, Alessa and I have recruited 23 amazing tutors who are eager to be the first to welcome you to Athene. We call these tutors by the name of ISO (which means big), so don't be confused if the same people are referred to as ISOs, BIGs and tutors.

All through the year, your tutors are there to make you feel at home and be your friends. They will answer all your questions and guide you in regular things such as getting around Helsinki, but they will also be introducing you to Finnish student culture! I can guarantee you that you have absolutely amazing tutors waiting for you, who are here to make sure that your first year at Athene is unforgettable.

Never be afraid to ask, and see you soon!

Julia Sippala,  
Tutor Responsible



# Greetings from your tutors

Here are your tutors! Together with the Captain of International & Master's Students they will make sure your stay in Finland and at the guild is as enjoyable as possible. They will help you with any problems you might have and also keep you informed about events and parties.



**Ulrica Bladh**  
“Well planned is half done”



**João Hämäläinen**  
“My name is /zhoa-OWN/ (zhoa is like “show” but with a zh like in azure + don’t forget the OWN).”



**Jasmin Jutila**  
“I cook with wine, sometimes I even add it to the food.”



**Emma Kankkunen**  
“I have no idea what I’m doing, but I know I’m doing it really, really well.”



**Kaarlo Liukkonen**

“You can always retake an exam, but  
you can never retake a nap”



**Valtteri Luodemäki**

“Tomorrow is tomorrow”  
-JVG



**Marianna Malkamäki**

“You miss 100% of the shots you don’t  
take.”



**Ilona Malmivirta**

“Always in a rush to get home to do  
absolutely nothing”





**Oliver Mulari**

“If the sauna is too crowded, it’s not hot enough”



**Anna Nikander**

“Be a warrior, not a worrier.”



**Antti Norrkniivilä**

“Let’s see how long my white sneakers will stay white.”



**Kristo Numminen**

“My biggest flex is that I achieve nothing every day even though they say nothing is impossible.”



**Eero Petrell**

“The best thing one can do is to explore life with other people as clueless as you.”



**Eemil Rantala**

“Lunch will be served soon”



**Helena Rautiainen**

“Forward, said granny in the snow.”



**Satu Reijonen**

“Life begins where your comfort zone ends.”



**Ken Riippa**  
“Everybody wants but few hunt”



**Elena Rima**  
“Drink coffee, you can sleep when  
you’re dead”



**Inkeri Rouvinen**  
“If you stumble make it part of the  
dance”



**Oona Salonen**  
“If the best things in life are free, why  
do I have to pay for my red wine?”



**Pyry Seppälä**

“Life is like a box of beer. You never know where it will take you.”



**Aarne Talvela**

“Life is all about how you handle plan B. Or plan C. Sometimes even plan Ö.”



**Eira Erola, Master's tutor**

“What about second breakfast?”



**Gábor Major, International Advisor**

“A miracle only takes 13 minutes at 200°C.”

# Greetings from the chair

Hey you, brand new Athenian!

I'm Aarne, the current chair of the board of Athene. Athene is the Information Networks students' guild, and we have the privilege to welcome all the EIT students to the local student community here in Aalto University.

A guild is a student organization built around students in the same study program. Together with all the other guilds and organizations in Aalto, we organize all kinds of events and activities during the year. Guilds are tightly knit communities and through them everyone can find their own place in student life, make new friends and gain new experiences. In total we have around 300 members – Athene is not the biggest, but still one of the most active guilds in Otaniemi!



In practice, our board and volunteers organize parties, sport events and company excursions, take care of our guild room Olkkari (slang word for 'living room', Olohuone) and much more. We are in close contact with the Aalto School of Science and the Department of Computer Science to make sure that the students' points of view are considered in academic decision making.

There is a huge variety of possibilities and I encourage you to try out everything student life in Aalto and Athene has to offer. Parties and events are only a small part of what makes Athene such a great community. Athene is a guild with lovely people and a culture of helping each other out.

We are really excited to welcome you along – see you in September!

Aarne Talvela  
Chair of the Board, Athene  
puheenjohtaja@athene.fi

# Greetings from the Phuksi Captain

Hey there!

I'm Ellu, Phuksi Captain of Athene. My task is to make sure the bachelor's freshmen (= phuksis/fuksis) of Athene have an easy transition into life as a university student. I'm responsible of arranging events and activities for the phuksis as well as helping with practical things, and I try my best to help with any issues our phuksis might have. In addition, I guide the fuksis through their first year in to finally becoming a "teekkari".

In practice, I organize events especially for fuksis inside our own guild, and as a member of FTMK (Fuksitoimikunta = Fuksi Committee), for all the fuksis of Otaniemi as well. International students are very welcome to most of these events, a few being fuksi exclusive due to limited capacity. Alessa will keep you updated on all the fun events you should definitely attend, but don't hesitate to ask me about them either!

The people of Athene are a bunch of warm, friendly people who, as I very much hope you will discover, happily support you with any problem you may have, and with whom you'll find yourself engaging daily in exciting and inspiring conversations. I truly hope you'll enjoy it here, and feel like home.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Elina (Ellu) Ståhlberg  
Phuksi Captain  
phuksikapteeni@athene.fi





# The board of Athene

**Anna Nikander**  
Corporate Relations

**Nuutti Arvilommi**  
Host

**Valteri Luodemäki**  
Hostess

**Aarne Talvela**  
Chair of the Board

**Iida Saaristomaa**  
Head of Communications

**Alli Kolho**  
Secretary

**Marianna Malkamäki**  
Academic Affairs

**Elina Ståhlberg**  
Phuksi Captain

**Ulrica Bladh**  
Treasurer

**Mea Pousar**  
Community &  
External Affairs

**Alessa Aila**  
International & Master's  
Captain, Vice Chair





The board of Athene is the “administrative” body of the guild. These people are the ones that are responsible for most of the stuff that happens in the guild. Each member of the board has their own area of expertise, but everyone is always ready to help one another.

The board has meetings weekly, and those meetings are open for all guild members. In the meetings they go through all that has happened between meetings, and what will be happening before the next meeting, making sure that the guild members are being looked after.

The board is selected via elections in the fall assembly of Athene, where guild members can volunteer for different positions (in addition to the board we have a lot of volunteer officials in charge of different jobs, like photographing). All of the volunteers hold their posts for the calendar year, and after that the new board (and officials) take the reigns.

Chair of the Board is the big boss, organizing and managing the guild, and steering the board in the right direction.

Treasurer is the one in charge of cash management, budgeting, accounting and financial statements.

Secretary is in charge of writing the transcripts of meetings and organizing a lot of practical things, and on top of that helps out other board members in their fields.

Host & Hostess are the dynamic duo in charge of all the parties and other events (like sauna nights) in the guild. They prepare and organize all events with the help of the Host team, making sure all guild members have fun throughout the year.

The Academic Affairs responsible makes sure that the school keeps organizing all the education needed, looks after the rights of the students and ensures our study program is as we like it to be.

The Corporate Relations responsible communicates with different companies, signing sponsor deals and ensures the guild has enough money to organize all kinds of cool activities for the members.

Head of Communications looks after our website and social media accounts, she is also responsible for all communications towards the guild members.

Phuksi Captain looks after phuksis (freshmen) and ensures they have a memorable first year, and that they get their teekkari caps.

The Community & External Affairs responsible organizes events and co-operation with other guilds and student organizations.

Captain of International & Master’s Students is in charge of the Teekkari Education of international students and master’s freshmen at Athene, making sure you all have a memorable year in Finland, and that you have everything you need. This year she is also the Vice Chair, acting as the Chair’s right hand.

# Athene's Events



Greetings and welcome to our guild!

We are the host and the hostess of Athene, Nuutti and Valteri, often abbreviated as IE (comes from the Finnish words “isäntä” and “emäntä” which translate to host and hostess). Our job in the guild is to organise parties for you and all other guild members throughout the year. The guild offers various types of events for you to take part in. There are parties, hangouts and even sports. So something for everyone! We aren't the driving force behind every event, but we often help with the refreshments.

One particular event that is quite popular in Finland, is something called “sitsit”.

It is a term you will soon be familiar with, but we will briefly introduce it so that you know what to expect. Sitsit means “academic table party” infused with singing and some fun etiquette. Basically what this means, is a traditional three course dinner, which is often preceded by a cocktail event and subsequently followed by an after party. We create them entree to dessert by ourselves with the help of our eight apprentices. The singing and the stories accompanying the songs are the defining characteristic of sitsit. However, no need to be stressed about the singing, as it is meant to be fun group singing, no skills required! Predominantly presented in Finnish and heavy on word plays, the sitsit are a crash course to the language, but not unilingual and there are songs and stories often sung and told in Swedish, German, English and more. Not to mention special international sitsit with a selection of songs to match. Sitsit also have wildly varying themes and the dress code differs from cocktail dress to animal suits. We believe sitsit are the most pleasing way to sit around a table and truly recommend to try it at least once!

Participating in the events is a great way to make new friends, let go of stress and quite simply to enjoy your time, so don't be shy to attend. Everyone is welcome to our events just as they are, and our main priority is that everyone can feel comfortable and enjoy themselves! Us, along with your captain, will do our best to keep you informed of any events, but if you have any questions, you can always contact us.

We look forward to welcoming you to our guild and hope to see you soon! Let's hope that the restrictions caused by the pandemic have gone away before fall so we can meet you all face to face as soon as possible!

Nuutti Arvilommi & Valteri Luodemäki  
Host & Hostess



# KvTMK – International Committee

The International Committee or KvTMK (kansainvälisyystoimikunta) promotes internationalism and the role of foreign students at Aalto and guilds, and is also involved in freshman- and ISO activities regarding international students. The International Committee is led by the International Director and includes board members in charge of international affairs in different guilds. KvTMK will also organize events for international students.

KvTMK is part of Teekkari Section, Teekkarijaosto in Finnish and TJ amongst friends. TJ's main job is to uphold various traditions and organise all kinds of activities that are meant to strengthen and enrich the teekkari spirit. Although its main objective is to have focus on teekkari life, the activities are often open for everyone.



# International Associations

## BEST Helsinki

BEST Helsinki is the local section of BEST (Board of European Students of technology) and a part of AYY. They organize different events in Otaniemi, as well as events where people from around Europe come to participate. They have Finnish and non-Finnish members and are one of Aalto's international organizations. Everyone in Aalto is welcomed to join.

See more information:  
Facebook.com/BESTHelsinki  
Telegram: t.me/BESTHelsinki



## ESN Aalto

ESN Aalto is the local section of ESN Finland and ESN International. They arrange events mainly for exchange and international students at Aalto University, but everyone from Aalto is welcome whether they are studying through Erasmus or not.

For more information:  
facebook.com/Esnaaltoofficial-  
esnaalto.org  
Telegram group: t.me/ESNAalto



## Mosaic

Mosaic is the international section of the student union of Aalto University (AYY). They organize different multicultural events that offer great new experiences from all around the world, help everybody to improve their language skills as well as help people getting to know other cultures.



# Guilds of Otaniemi...

## ELEC (SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)

### **AS - Guild of Automation and Systems**

#### **Technology**

Family in the sense that they came from TiK like us as well. They wear purple overalls with black sleeves like ours. Their guild room is located in the TUAS-building.

### **Inkubio - Guild of Bioinformation**

#### **Technology**

The youngest guild in Otaniemi (that is, the only one that is younger than us), who wear brown overalls with white spots as a reminder of their days with the Guild of Electrical Engineering. Their guild room is located in the TUAS-building.

### **Sähköinsinöörikilta (SIK) - Guild of Electrical Engineering**

One of the bigger guilds in Otaniemi, they wear clean-white overalls, and are the forefathers of many guilds in Otaniemi, like the Computer Science guild. Their guild room is located in the TUAS building.

## ENG (SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING)

### **Rakennusinsinöörikilta (IK) - The Guild of Civil Engineers**

One of the bigger and older guilds in Otaniemi, they wear “builder’s blue” overalls. Their guild room is located in the Civil Engineering building.

### **Maanmittarikelta (MK) - The Guild of Surveying Engineering**

The oldest guild that still receives new freshmen every year, they wear matte black overalls with a sleeve colored according to their studies. Their guild room is located in Otakaari 4.

### **Koneinsinöörikilta (KIK) - The Guild of Mechanical Engineers**

One of the older and possibly the biggest guild in Otaniemi. These guys can be spotted from afar, as they wear pink overalls. They have their guild room in the complex of mechanical engineering buildings.

## SCI (SCHOOL OF SCIENCE)

### **Athene - Information Networks guild**

Us, the second youngest and one of the smallest guilds in Otaniemi. Our overalls are forest green, with a black sleeve as remembrance of when we were part of TiK, and our guild room OLOhuone is located in the CS-building.

### **Tietokilta (TiK) - Computer Science guild**

The forefather of Athene, they wear shiny black overalls that are said to repel dirt and water. Our own green overalls have a black sleeve as a memory from the days we were part of Computer Science guild. Their guild room is located in the CS-building like ours.

### **Prodeko - Guild of Industrial Engineering and Management**

Our beloved friends, who wear white overalls with rainbow details, which differ every year. Located in the TUAS-building.

### **Fyysikkokilta - Guild of Physics**

The true scientists of SCI, who wear natural-white overalls. Their guild room is located in the old main building, and they’re rarely seen over at the CS-building.

# ... and other student associations

## CHEM (SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL ENGINEERING)

### **Prosessiteekkarit (PT)**

An association founded when all the Bachelor studies in CHEM were merged into one program, they are not a guild, but are treated equally. Their overalls are the same as the Guild of Mining and Metallurgy students (below) with red and yellow stripes, as reminders of the three guilds their students go to when they enter their Master's studies. Their guild room is located in the Chemical Engineering complex.

### **Vuorimieskilta (VK) - The Guild of Mining and Metallurgy Students**

One of the older guilds in Otaniemi, and like all guilds in CHEM no longer gets new Bachelor students. You can recognize them from their "beer basket blue" overalls. Their guild room is also located in the Chemical Engineering complex.

### **Kemistikilta - Chemistry Guild**

The oldest guild in Otaniemi. Their overalls are red, and like all the CHEM guilds they no longer get new Bachelor students. Their guild room is located in the Chemical Engineering complex.

### **Puunjalostajakilta (PJK) - Guild of Wood Processing**

One of the older guilds in Otaniemi, they used to be quite big, but like all the other guilds in CHEM they no longer get Bachelor students. Their overalls are yellow, and can be spotted from afar. Their guild room is located in the complex of Wood Processing buildings.

## OTHERS

### **Arkkitehtikilta (AK) - The Guild of Architects**

Although they are no longer associated with the schools of technology, they wear teekkari caps as the rest of us. Their overalls are painter's-white. Their guild room is in one of the Architecture buildings. Also, they are now a part of ARTS (School of Arts)

### **Teknologiföreningen (TF)**

TF is the only students' union in Otaniemi, and they are the Swedish speakers of Otaniemi (from all programs). They have dark (wine-like) red overalls, and they have their own building with a student restaurant, where lots of students go eat their famous spaghetti every Wednesday.

### **Kauppatieteiden ylioppilaat (KY) - Association of Economics Students**

The economic students joined us in Otaniemi for the first time in fall 2015, they are not technology students, and thus don't have teekkari caps. They wear overalls that are dollar-green and have their own club rooms etc. next to the CS building and in the center of Helsinki.

### **TOKYO – Association for the students of Arts and Design.**

The school of ARTS arrived in Otaniemi in the fall of 2018. They mainly study in Väre, the newest building in Otaniemi. ARTS students don't wear overalls, instead, they have jackets called "Wapputakki", that have a different design each year and where their overall patches are sown. TOKYO is the association for the whole school of ARTS, and under it there are several smaller associations for different study programs.

# Otaniemi Campus Map



1. Kandikeskus - Undergraduate Center (Main Building)

2. T-talo - CS Building

3. TUAS-talo - TUAS Building

4. Maarintalo - Maari Building

5. Harald Herlin Centre - Main Library

6. Keto - AYY Central Office

7. Dipoli

8. TF - Täffä

9. YTHS - FSHS

10. Sports field

11. Otahalli Sports Centre

12. Smökki



Guild room OLOhuone



# Otaniemi Campus



# Teekkari - English - Teekkari dictionary

## **Amfi - Amphi**

The amphitheater-like construct of the old main building. Very popular as a place from which all kinds of adventures begin. There you will also receive your teekkari caps if Wappu arrives and you have earned the right to wear them.

## **Appro - Bar crawl**

An event where students go from bar to bar getting at least one drink per bar on a pre-determined route (by the organizers). One of the favorite event-types for the students at the University of Helsinki.

## **AYY**

Abbreviation for "Aalto-yliopiston Ylioppilaskunta", the student union for all Aalto students and umbrella organization for guilds. (see p. 27)

## **Ethana**

The hobby sports team of Athene, led by "Hercules & Xena". Organizes matches against other student teams in for example floorball, basketball, volleyball and futsal as well as other sports events within Athene.

## **Excu - Excursion**

A visit to a company, usually organized by the guild. Organized in order to get to know the local companies that hire students from the guild, to network and of course have fun (companies like to host teekkaris).

## **Haalarimerkki - Overall badge**

Badges of different events, groups, associations and memes that students sew to their overalls. Can be used for showing groups they support, events they've been to and just plain fun. Also used to distinguish between freshmen and older students (if the overall has no or very few badges, the user is most likely a freshman).

## **Hymni**

Teekkarihymni, a traditional song that is sung at midnight.

## **IE**

Host and Hostess (see p. 17)

## **ISO**

Your tutors (see p. 6-11)

## **Jäynä - MIT hack**

A good willed, harmless and fun prank carried out by teekkaris. The definition of a jäynä is that it should amuse all participants (both "victims" and makers alike) and cause no property damage or physical/psychological harm.

## **Kaljakroketti - Beer Croquet**

Athene's "national sport" - a game where certain liquids are used in addition to ordinary croquet equipment.

## **Kilta - Guild**

A student association for study programs. Guilds are specific for technical students in Finland, and most other student associations are formed around similarities in attributes (like language) or the major subject in universities. The objectives of a guild are to make sure that the school listens to the students (when making decisions about study programs etc.) and to organize different kinds of events like sitsit.

## **Laulukirja - Songbook**

The book of teekkari songs. One of the best future memories from your time as a student in Finland, these contain most of the songs sung by teekkaris in sitsit etc. The reason why they form up to be great memories is the tradition of writing or drawing greetings and messages to your friends' song books during sitsit, so after a few, you can find a lot of happy memories there.

## **Lukkari - Songmaster / Toastmaster**

The people who lead the singing at sitsit.

### **OLOhuone / Olkkari - The Living room**

Our guild room, which is always open for guild members to socialize, drink coffee, study or play some PS4. Located in the CS-building right across the main doors, you can't miss it.

### **(Opiskelija)haalarit - (Student) overalls**

The main form of distinguishing university/college students from the major populace, that are worn in major happenings (that happen in the public, if unsure ask your tutor whether to wear them :). To the students they also tell what you are studying, and ease finding your mates at big gatherings ( find a bunch of forest green overalls, and you're sure to find friends). The main point of these, is to show the unity and like-mindedness of students.

### **Otaniemi**

Otaniemi, also called 'Niemi' is a neighborhood in Espoo, which also acts as the campus of Aalto University and the home of teekkaris. (see p. 24)

### **Sitsit**

Academic table party. At its most basic form a three course dinner, with wine and other refreshments, where the attending men wear suits and women wear cocktail dresses (remember to bring yours!), with a lot of singing and socializing. These are something you do not want to miss during your stay! There are also themed sitsit, which aren't as formal, but just as (or even more) fun!

### **Smökki (Servin mökki)**

The biggest place to hold parties or sitsit in teekkari village, and also a historical landmark. This place will be very familiar to you after a few months!

### **Teekkari**

A technology student in Finland, who has earned the right to wear a teekkari cap. Known by their overalls, teekkari caps and overall good will and humor. In Finland teekkaris have a fairly good reputation, as we take care of our own (and others), cause no trouble to outsiders and are cheery throughout the year.

### **Teekkarikylä - Teekkari village**

The place where teekkaris live, if they live in Otaniemi, and a place where most inhabitants are technology students. Also famous for the fact that you will always find some place to sleep there if need be.

### **Teekkarilakki - Teekkari cap**

A cap with a tassel. People in Finland who have passed high school wear similar caps (around Wappu mostly), but without the tassel. Teekkari caps are the most distinct recognition of being a teekkari, and the right to wear one needs to be earned before Wappu. It signifies that the wearer knows the history and culture of teekkaris in Finland, and understands the significance of the right.

### **T-talo - CS-building**

Computer science building, the building where Athene and the Computer Science guild preside. Also home to most departments related to computer sciences, and where at least some of your studies will be at.

### **Paniikki**

The 24/7 computer room located in the CS-building. Favorite study place for many of students in the computer sciences or Information Networks.

### **Phuksi - Freshman**

Often also spelled 'Fuksi', but 'ph' at Athene. At Athene, there are about 50 new bachelor's phuksis every year. At Wappu, phuksis become Teekkaris.

### **Wappu**

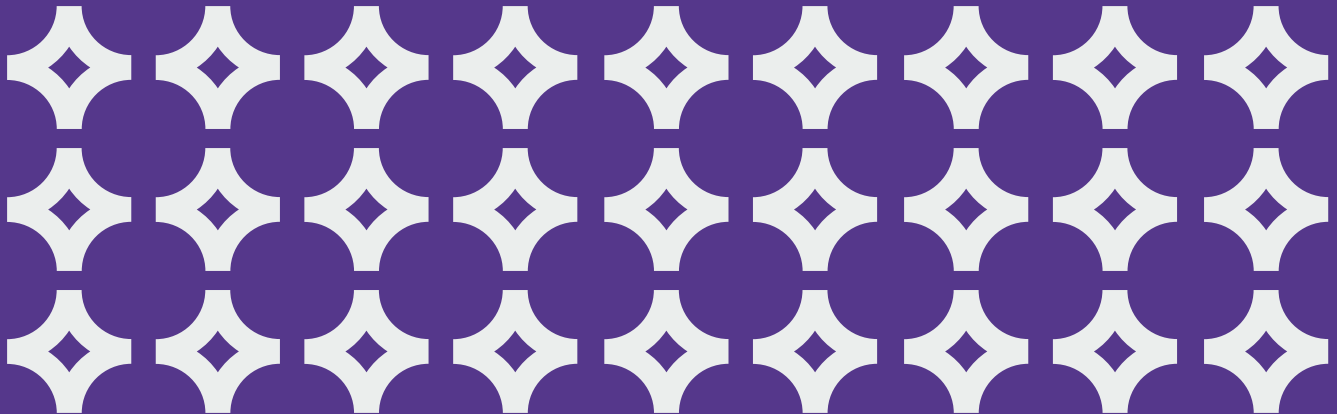
The most important celebration of the year for teekkaris on 1st of May. Also known as May Day or Walpurgis Night, the celebration begins already a few weeks prior to first of May. Also remember that Wappu will only be arranged if the new freshmen have deserved it. (Do not mix with Vappu, which is the general May Day celebration for all other Finns.)

### **YTHS - FSHS**

Finnish Student Health Service, closest post in Otaniemi in Otakaari 12.

ayy

Aalto University  
Student Union



# Greetings from Aalto University Student Union!

Welcome to Aalto University and its student union, which you also recognise from the letters AYY! Here at the Student Union we strive to ensure that you can truly experience the best student life in the world at Aalto. Our wish is that every student feels good and safe in our student community, and that each of us gets all the support they need for the entire duration of their studies.

You are stepping into a world of endless opportunities. We urge you to explore, be curious, innovate, learn, and enjoy your time at Aalto. Don't be afraid, even though finding your own place and passion can sometimes be challenging. We are here to help and support you in all of your challenges.

Let's keep in touch!

**Matias Saikku**

Board Member (Community, Volunteers, New Students)



# Dear first-year student,

welcome to Aalto University, the Aalto community, and the guild of Information Networks Athene. You have a major opportunity ahead to learn new useful skills, gain valuable experience and find lifelong friendships. Furthermore, all of this does not need to take place only on lectures, but through various encounters in the guild room or volunteering positions, for example. Be curious, try something new and aim at learning from everything you do. The university provides a wide range of excellent courses, and the community introduces you to amazing people and associations. Take this opportunity and get to know yourself, the university and our community, and try out something new and courageous. I'm sure that you will not regret the decision to apply for Aalto University and being a part of the awesome Aalto community. Enjoy the summer and see you in the autumn when the new semester begins!

**Laura Nikola**

Member of the Board (Corporate Relations, Alumni, Strategy),  
Board Angel of Athene - the Guild of Information Networks



# What is AYY?

As a student of Aalto, Aalto University Student Union, AYY, is your student union. AYY brings together about 14,000 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 15,000 members
- Approximately 200 organisations and associations
- Approximately 2,600 student apartments
- Nearly 50 employees
- 10 full-time board members
- Approximately 400 volunteers

# Communication Channels

You can find comprehensive information about all AYY's services and opportunities at [ayy.fi](https://www.ayy.fi). We compile all current information concerning students in the weekly newsletter published by email on Mondays.

**Instagram:** @ayy\_fi

@ayyhousing

**Facebook:** Aalto-yliopiston ylioppilaskunta - AYY  
AYY Housing

**Twitter:** AYY\_FI

**Youtube:** Student Union AYY

**LinkedIn:** Aalto University Student Union AYY



# Services

## Student housing

AYY owns approximately 2,600 affordable student apartments in Helsinki and Espoo and offers a home for over 3,200 residents. All degree and exchange students who are members of AYY have the right to apply for AYY's housing. You can apply for housing as soon as your admission is confirmed by the university.

First-year students and students moving from outside the Helsinki metropolitan area are given priority in the allocation of housing. First-year students receive an additional score when they apply for AYY's shared apartment queues. To receive the score, students must apply for housing no later than in July or December, depending on when their studies begin.

You can browse and search for AYY's housing through the Domo system: [domo.ayy.fi](http://domo.ayy.fi). As a student, you can also apply for housing from the the Foundation for Student Housing in the Helsinki Region (HOAS).

## Advocacy and interest representation

You can take advantage of AYY's advocacy services if your exam results are late or you may get in touch with a harassment contact person if you encounter 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, which is elected by vote. In the elections, all AYY members can vote and run as candidates. Members of the Representative Council decide on the goals and policies of the Student Union. The next Representative Council elections will be held in the autumn.

## 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 events, anniversaries, Shrovetide celebrations and many other events starting right from the orientation week.

In addition to the Student Union, events are organised by volunteers who work in sections and committees. AYY has six sections: Aava Community Section, Campus Section, Teekkari





Section, Museum Section, New Students 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!

AYY's renewed museum will open in the autumn after a renovation and a brand reform. In the museum, you can get to know the history of student cultures.

### **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 and a trailer.

### **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. You can find the list of all benefits and discounts available with the student card on Frank's website at [frank.fi](http://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 (service break on 31 July-8 Aug, during which it is not possible to enrol or pay the 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](http://frank.fi).

Once you have received the plastic student card, please remember to pick up the academic year tag for your card from AYY's service point! At the same time, you can also pick up a free Design Notebook and get advice.

# Orientation Week Events

Here are the guild events held during your orientation week. The COVID-19 situation may have an effect on how some of these event will be held.

## **03.09. Head Start**

Get to know your future class mates, tutors and fellow Athenians, and enjoy the sights of Helsinki.

## **06.09. Bonfire Night**

Our “welcome to the guild”-event, where freshmen and alike get to meet the older students etc.

## **07.09. Athene x Prodeko Party**

A night where Athenians and Prodekoians, students of Industrial Engineering & Management come together.

## **08.09. Hanging out with the tutors**

A casual evening at the guild room playing board games and getting to know each other.

## **09.09. Otaorienteeing + Afterparty**

A checkpoint crawl in Otaniemi to get to know the campus and different student associations.

## **10.09. "Freshmen vs. Farts" Soccer match and aftermaths**

The new freshmen face older students in a friendly soccer match. There will be aftermaths at the rooftop sauna in Otaniemi.

Try to arrive in Finland before the Orientation Week, but don't worry if you just can't make it to these events. The year will be full of them!



@athenekilta

# See you soon!



## TO-DO

- Read the guide
- Join the Facebook group: International Students of Athene '21
- Become a member of Athene ([www.athene.fi/join](http://www.athene.fi/join)) and pay the membership fee (8€)
- Read the newsletters and other information material sent by your study coordinator at Aalto University, and follow the instructions for pre-arrival arrangements
- Follow Athene on Instagram @athenekilta
- Make sure the Captain of International & Master's Students knows when you arrive in Finland.
- Order a student card or download Frank app
- Pack warm (Finland gets cold surprisingly fast).
- Make sure you can either pick up your keys for your apartment, or that your tutor will get them for you.
- Come to Finland with an open mind.
- Enjoy and get the most out of your stay here!