

# Athene Survival Guide 2025



The Guild of Information Networks Athene

Survival Guide 2025

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# Welcome to Athene!

**Hey you!**

I'm Ira, the Captain of International and Master's Students of our guild Athene.

First of all, my biggest congratulations on making the best decision of your life and coming to Aalto! My job as the International & Master's Captain is to make sure you all have a successful and unforgettable time here in Finland, both academically and culturally.

And what is this Athene I keep talking about? Athene is our home guild - the association uniting Information Networks, Engineering Psychology and ICT Innovation students at Aalto University. The people at Athene are curious and welcoming, and put their whole heart in what they do. It's all about working together to make the guild a home for us all.

The Athene board and officials organize all sorts of activities and events for the guild members from parties to culture and sports events as well as maintain relations to the corporate world and university staff. Joining Athene is your chance to make the most out of your time at Aalto and in Finland. As a member of the guild, you will be very welcome to join in all of our events.



Finnish student culture might seem confusing and a bit strange at first with all of its traditions and curiosities, but no need to worry! You have time to figure it out and find what interests you. Our job is to help you find your place in this big and merry community, and you get to make your time at Aalto your own. Many international students have joined as volunteers to organize guild activities and I hope you'll try out what the guild has to offer with an open mind and explore other possibilities as well, there really is something for everyone!

As a member of Athene you'll get access to our guild room, which we call Olohuone or, more commonly, Olkkari. It means "living room" in Finnish, and that really captures the essence of the place. People come there to hang out, study, work, to take a break from work, play Switch or just grab a cup of free coffee. Olkkari is situated in the Computer Science building on campus, so it is an easy place to stop by and hang out during your days at the uni.

Can't wait to meet you all, and to introduce you to Finland and all the best parts of our student culture. You are in for a ride!

**Ira Laihanen**

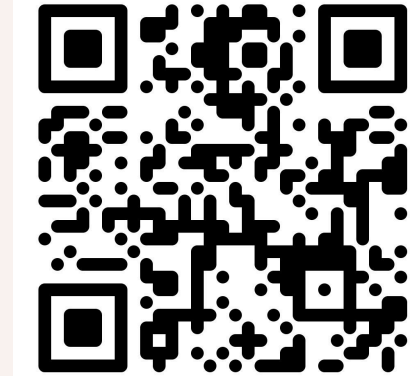
**Captain of International and Master's Students**

Telegram: @captaininternational

[ira@athene.fi](mailto:ira@athene.fi)

# TO DO

- ☐ Read this guide
- ☐ Join the Telegram group: Freshers of Athene '25 ([t.me/+D99tA2kN5fs10TA0](https://t.me/+D99tA2kN5fs10TA0))
- ☐ Join the Captain's Bulletin, a Telegram info channel ([t.me/+HZnrL4l6880Yzg0](https://t.me/+HZnrL4l6880Yzg0))
- ☐ Become a member of Athene ([www.athene.fi/join](http://www.athene.fi/join)) and pay the membership fee (10€)
- ☐ 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, there you can take a peek of the stuff Athenians do
- ☐ Order a student card or get the digital student card by downloading the Frank App ([www.frank.fi/en/](http://www.frank.fi/en/))
- ☐ Pack warm, Finland gets cold surprisingly fast!
- ☐ Apply for housing at e.g. AYY or HOAS if you already haven't!  
Also make sure you are able to pick up the keys, or that a tutor will get them for you
- ☐ Come as yourself and enjoy the ride!





# Internationals at Athene

**Hey and welcome!**

My name is Sabolc, and I'll be your International Advisor in Athene for the upcoming academic year! First off all, congratulations on getting into Aalto and becoming part of this quirky and amazing guild. I'm from Germany and came to Finland for my EIT Digital studies, but somehow ended up staying here for 2 years by now (I guess something about this place really works).

Whether you're arriving from across the globe or just a few borders away, starting life in Finland can feel like a whirlwind. My job is to make sure you don't have to navigate it alone. From understanding student life (what even is a guild?) to figuring out how to survive winter (yes, it gets very dark), I'm here to help.

You'll see me around at events, and I'll be the one nudging you to join all the fun stuff Athene has going on, especially the international activities. But importantly I'll be one of your go-to contacts for anything you're unsure about, whether it's practical questions, cultural confusion, or just finding your people here. No issue is too small or too strange, just ask away.

Athene is a special place, and I'm excited to help you feel at home here. Looking forward to meeting you all and sharing this experience together!

**Sabolc Jut**  
**International Advisor**

Telegram: @sabjut





# Student culture in Finland

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 around Finland, such as Helsinki, Turku, Tampere, Lappeenranta, Vaasa, 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. All fields of study usually have their own subject clubs, which in the field of technology are called **guilds** (kilta in Finnish). Guilds are often very active, and organize all types of events, such as parties, sitsit (a peculiar and traditional dinner party with singing), sports and wellness events, sauna nights, visits to relevant companies, and studies related events.

In addition to subject clubs there is also a wide variety of different student organizations and clubs at Aalto which unite people with common interests like sports, gaming, music, cocktail-making or pretty much anything you can think of! You will for sure find something that interests you.

In Finland you can often 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 tell what the student's major is, since all subject clubs and guilds 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.

Students can modify the overalls to their liking, and often they can tell you something about the personality and history of the person wearing them. Sometimes students also pair their overalls with a white sailorman-like **cap**, which they have gotten when graduating from high school. We, technology students known as “**teekkaris**”, have our own specific tasseled cap we carry with pride.

Finnish student culture is 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 and at Aalto! You can read more about what this “teekkari” means in the next pages.

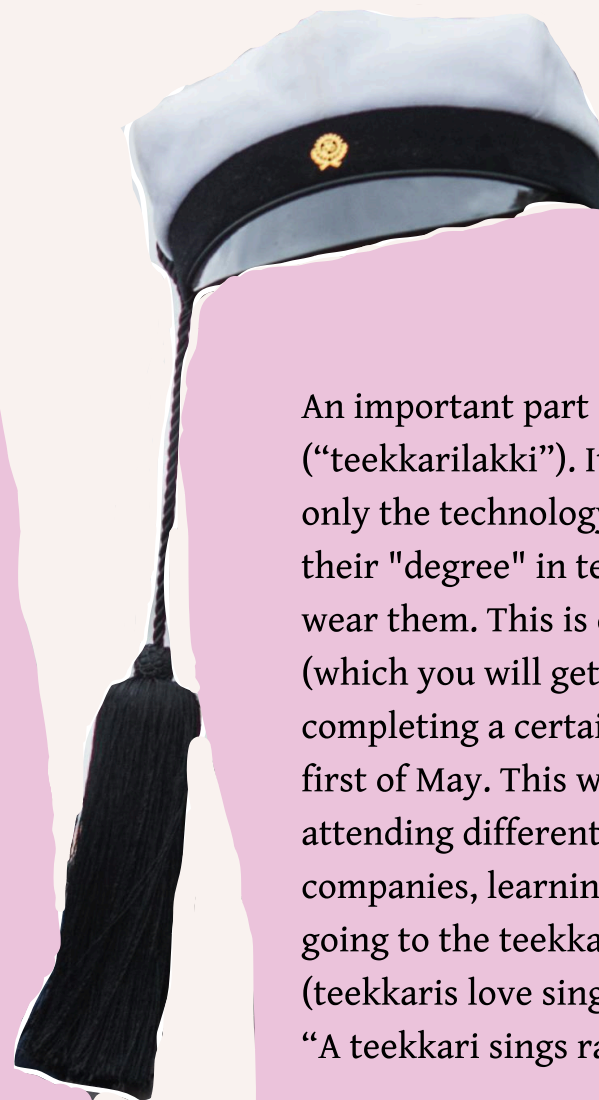


# What is a “teekkari”?

**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 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 even before the university was moved here, so we are very well rooted in Otaniemi and consider it as our home. Many students live on campus, most of them in the area called “Teekkari village” or “Teekkarikylä”. This place will become very familiar to you during your studies here.

Being a part of the teekkari culture in Finland holds a lot of emotion and pride formed over time, which is why we do our best to make sure that you, the freshers, get the chance to fully participate in the teekkari culture. Some events and traditions might seem a bit peculiar at first, and some things are intentionally kept a bit mysterious, but don’t worry! It’s all part of the culture and our goal is to ensure you have fun and get to experience teekkari life to the fullest.



An important part of being a teekkari is **the cap** (“teekkarilakki”). It is trademark protected and 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 your captain), and completing a certain amount of points before the first of May. This will include, for example, attending different events like sitsit, visiting companies, learning things about Finnish culture, 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 very doable, if and hopefully when, you decide you want to do it. The points are easily collected during your year when taking part in different events and activities. Every year many international students and master’s freshers participate and become full teekkaris, with the cap, overalls and a cheeky mindset. However, it is important to notice that all of this is completely voluntary. Teekkari culture is all about having fun together and doing things that you want to do, so consider it rather as a great possibility for you!





From freshers...



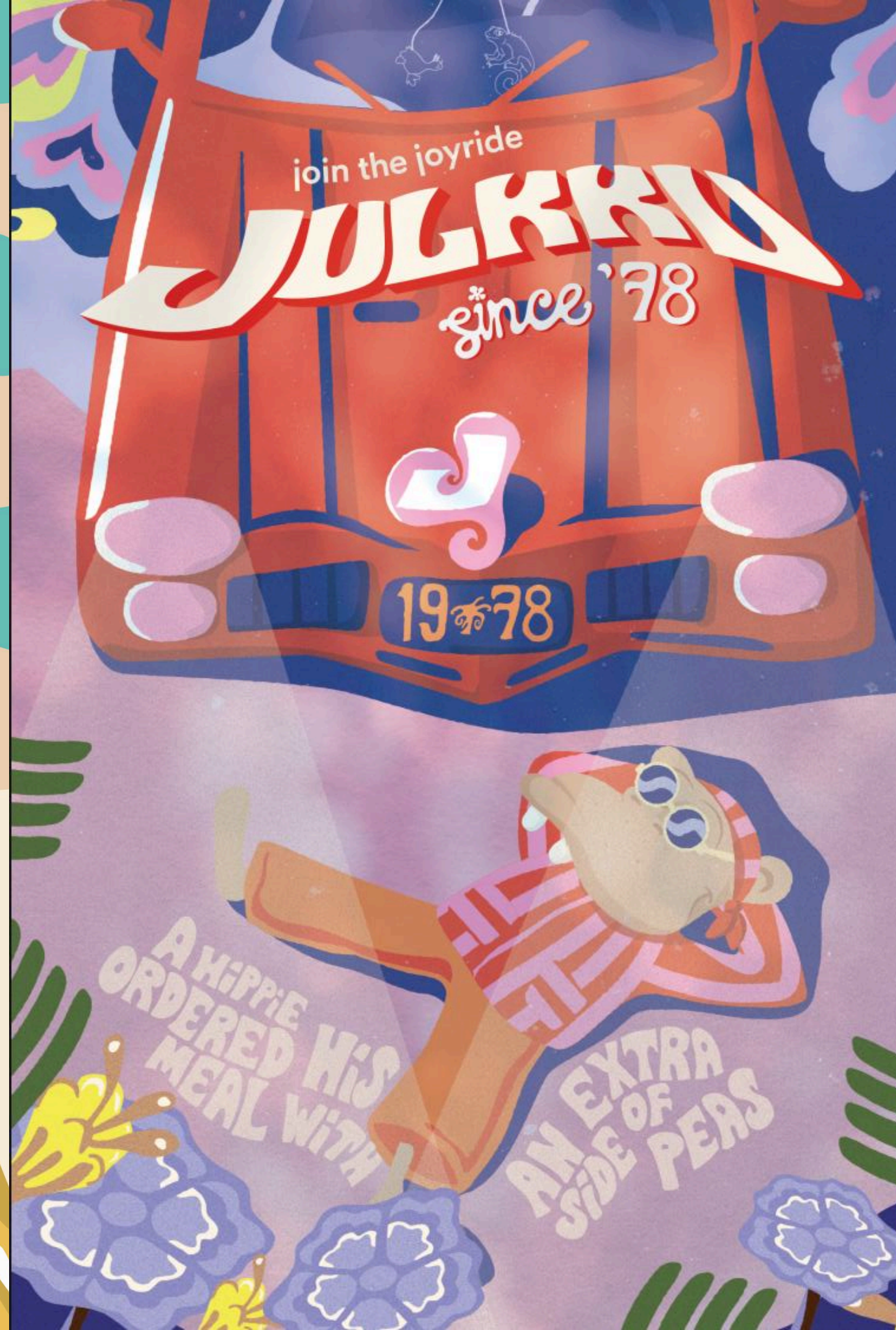
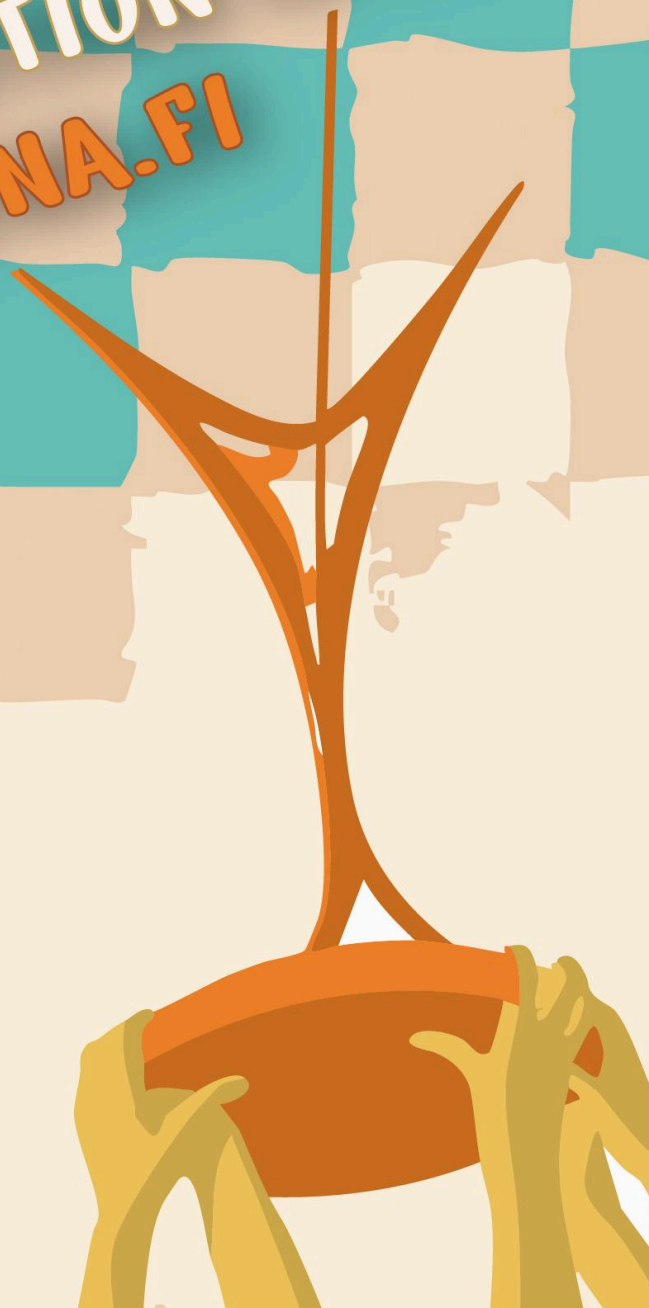
... to teekkaris!





# JAYNA

THE COMPETITION IS ON  
[WWW.JAYNA.FI](http://WWW.JAYNA.FI)





MAY  
MAY

Landing soon - May 2026

The highcouncil's  
are used to having  
joint-meetings

The pains of  
existence:  
Pain au chocolat  
Champagne  
Window pane

# Greetings from the chair of Athene

**Hey you, brand new Athenian!**

I'm Niklas, and I warmly welcome you to join and experience the amazing student life here at Aalto, and most importantly here at Athene. :)

A guild is a student organization built around students in the same study program. Together with all the other guilds and organizations at Aalto, we organize all kinds of events and activities throughout the year. The eclectic and energetic student culture is exceptional but beyond all that craziness, we are students who are simply trying to make the most of our time as students. So please come and talk to us — for you Athene will be one of the best places for you to meet Finnish students. Although Finnish people might seem a bit shy, we are for sure always down to have a chat and meet new people. Especially while we are having a coffee at the guild room.

So keep your mind open and see what Athene has to offer! We value international students exceptionally, and you can experience your freshman year here in the same way as Finnish students. We would really like to have you as part of our ever-growing community of international students.

Because Athene is run by us students, we have a very student-centric view, and we do things we know other students enjoy. We organize parties, sports and cultural events, as well as company excursions, take care of our guild room, and much more. Perhaps you'll have a chance to do something at Athene as well! We are in close contact with the Aalto School of Science to make sure that students' voices are heard in academic decision-making—do not hesitate to contact us!

Athene is waiting for you! See you in September!

**Niklas Koskela**

**Chair of the Board**

puheenjohtaja@athene.fi





# ICT Innovation

## Greetings from ICT Innovation!

We are Riina, Elsa, and Mika – your EIT Digital Master School dream team at Aalto University. And we are here for YOU!

Things can get a bit confusing when you decide to complete a joint degree between two universities in two European countries. There is so much to do, so many places to be and people to meet, and soooo many rules to follow (double the degree, double the administrative steps, am I right?).

Our job is to herd and care for YOU, our precious human-centered-autonomous-data-clouds, through your time at Aalto, and there to catch you if you stumble along the way.

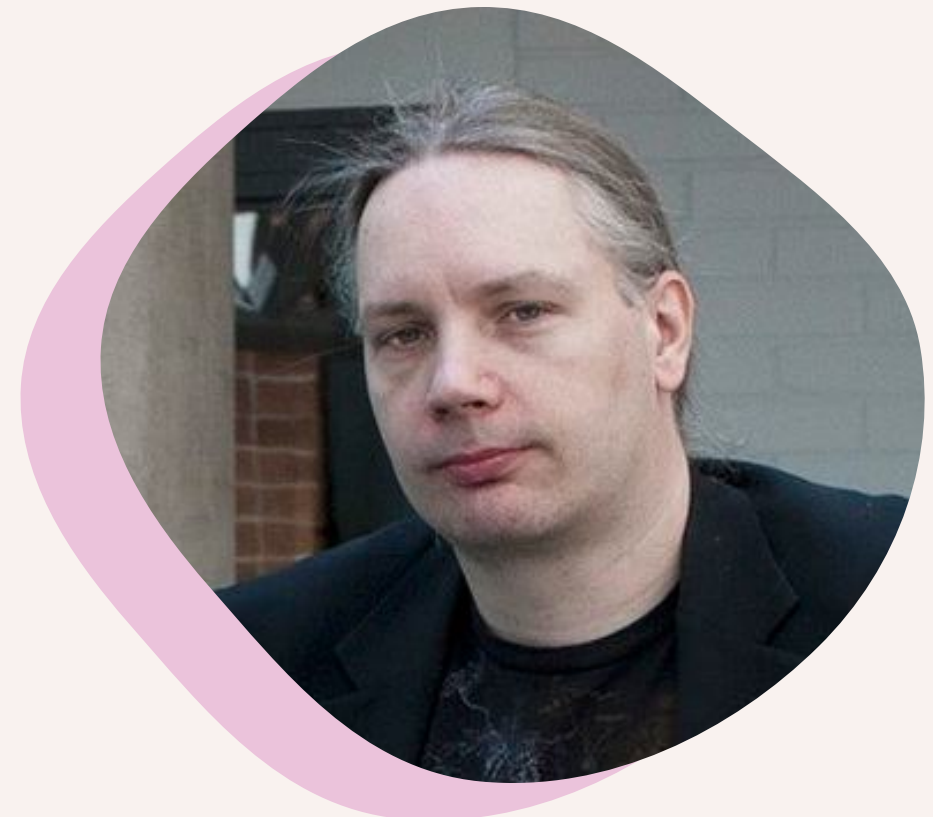
Come meet us at one of the several events we organize through the year, or pop by for an ex-tempore sanity check on your studies. No question is too small to ask, no obstacle too big to overcome – contact us anytime at [ICTinnovation@aalto.fi](mailto:ICTinnovation@aalto.fi).

Let's make this year one for the books!

**Riina Kontkanen, Planning Officer**

**Elsa Levo, Study Coordinator**

**Mika P. Nieminen, Programme Director**



# Information Networks

## Welcome to Info!

As a new Master student in Information Networks, you will join a diverse community of curious minds, united by their identity as bridge builders between technology, society, and business – or societally conscious engineers.

From climate change to societal polarization, our world is facing significant problems that can be compounded or mitigated by technology. In our Information Networks program, you will learn the technical and interdisciplinary skills necessary to tackle the transformative challenges ahead.

While graduates who can work across disciplinary boundaries are urgently needed, studying toward an interdisciplinary degree comes with its own difficulties, and developing your professional identity might take a bit longer than if you had signed up for a monodisciplinary program. This is not a bug, it's a feature – and I encourage you to welcome the uncertainties you will inevitably face – questioning your capabilities, discovering your career path, finding your place in the world – as opportunities for personal and professional growth.

Our program-management team – that's Hanna (our study coordinator), Tarja (our planning officer), Jukka (the program director of the Info Bachelor major) and me – is here to support you on your academic journey, and the program's guild, Athene, provides great opportunities to connect with your peers. We look forward to working with you over the coming years!

**Corinna Coupette, Program Director**





# Important dates

**Friday 22.8. Head Start** - Get to know the BIGs, other freshers and the guild!

**ORIENTATION WEEK** - Try to have your schedule as free as possible, as the days will be filled with program. Here's a sneak peek of the preliminary evening activities organized by the guild (a more detailed schedule including activities and lectures organized by the university will be given to you later):

- **Mon 25.8.** Bonfire Night
- **Tue 26.8.** BIG Crawl
- **Wed 27.8.** Tour de Toimari
- **Thu 28.8.** Ota Orienteering
- **Fri 29.8.** Freshers vs. Farts (older students) football game & Pöhinä Party

## Events during the autumn

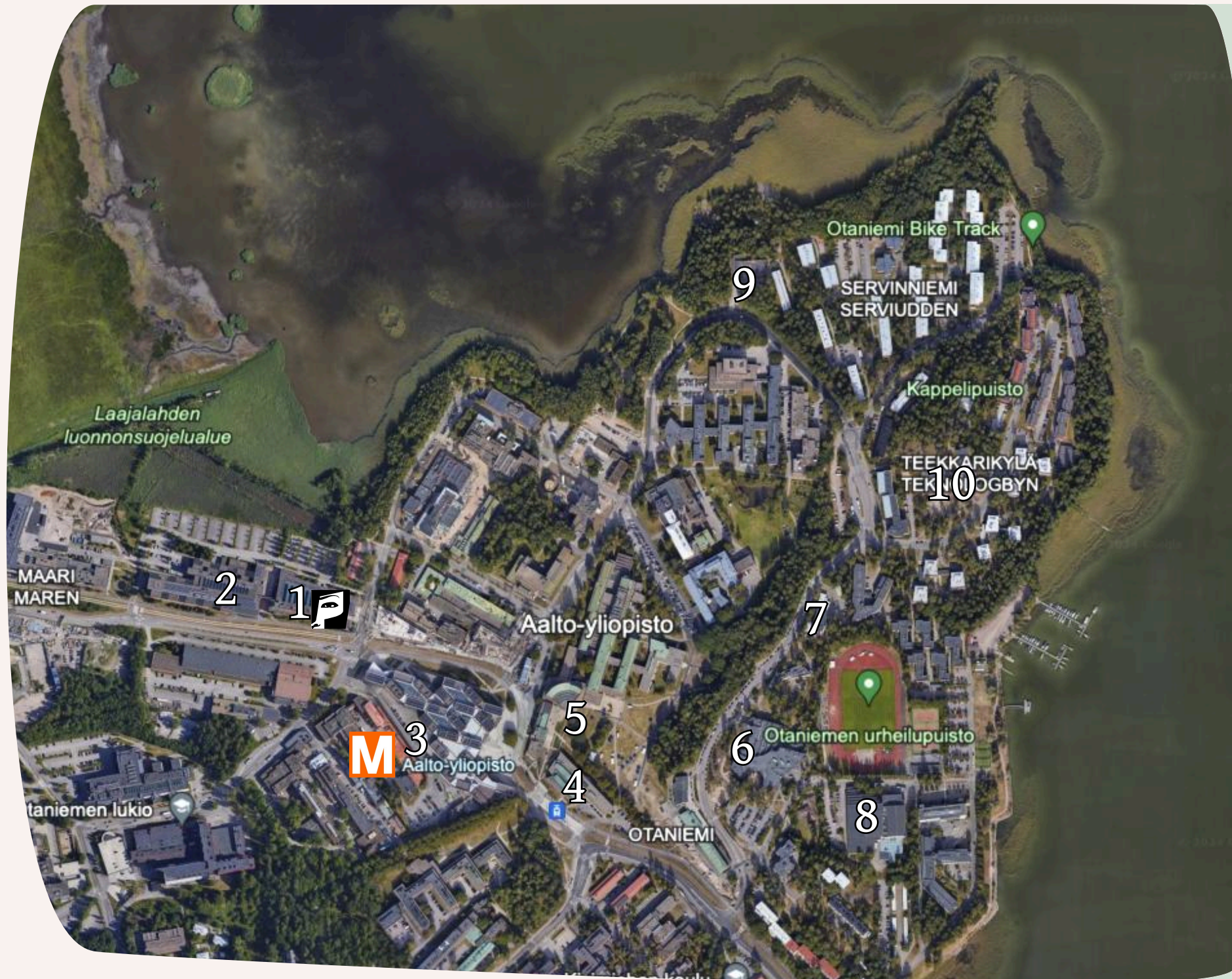
- **2.9.** Aalto Day One, Aalto Party & Aalto Afterparty
- **4.9.** Helsinki Orienteering
- **5.9.** SCI Sauna Night
- **10.9.** Singing Sauna
- **12.9.** Fresher Sitsit
- **30.9.** Otatarha Grand Prix & Lakinlaskijaiset
- **11.10.** International Sitsit
- **16.10.** Overall Sitsit
- **21.10.** Unski's Long
- **2.11.** International Grand Sitsit
- **21.11.** Athene's 26th annual ball aka Infoähky XXVI
- **23.-25.11.** Otacruise

If you want any details on the schedule or events, do not hesitate to contact me, your captain, BIGs, or the International Advisor Sabolc.





# Otaniemi campus map



These are the places you'll most likely visit *at least once* during the next year

1. T-talo = CS Building, also home of our guild room Olkkari
2. TUAS Building
3. Metro station & Abloc
4. Harald Herlin Learning Center - Main Library
5. Amfi
6. Dipoli
7. TF - Täffä
8. Unisport - Otahalli Sports Center
9. YTHS - FSHS
10. Smökki





## 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](https://www.ayy.fi). We compile all current information concerning students in the weekly newsletter published by email on Mondays.



## 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](http://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](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. 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).

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.



# Greetings from the BIG Responsible

**Hello and warm greetings to a brand new Athenian and mega BIG congratulations on your beginning of a new journey.**

You are about to embark on a whole new chapter in your life and above all: you'll become a freshman at Athene! You will soon discover that student life in Finland might differ a lot from what you're used to, and everything may seem confusing and exciting at first. But there's no need to worry, because our brilliant team of BIGs is here to welcome you with open arms!

We call our tutors BIGs, and your BIGs are a group of older Athenian students. They are eager to support you at the beginning of your studies and make your fresher year memorable. BIGs are there for you and they can provide you with help and good advice on both Finnish culture and student life. You can ask your BIGs for help and advice on anything related to your studies or student life, or even simple questions such as "Where can I get student food?" It is the BIGs' job to know or find out the answer to even the strangest questions. I can reveal that our BIGs are a great bunch of people again this year, and you are sure to make friends among them even after your first year!

As the BIG Responsible, I take care of our wonderful BIGs, organize training for them, and provide support for their BIG work so that they can keep up with their role throughout the year.

You new students have been randomly assigned to freshman groups, and you will get to know your own freshman group right away during the Head Start and Orientation Week, but at Athene, you will quickly get to know the rest of your class.

Athene is an exceptionally wonderful community, and it's really easy to make new friends here. So I encourage you to eagerly join in the activities of the coming year and get to know your new fresher friends, BIGs, and other guild members!

Remember to enjoy the summer to the fullest, and see you in the fall<3

**Antti Komulainen**  
**BIG Responsible**  
[komu@athene.fi](mailto:komu@athene.fi)





# Meet your BIGs



**Anna Loimaranta**

"Overthought this. Naturally."



**Linnea Hara**

"j'voulais vivre ma best life"



**Konsta Raitanen**

"Makes sense if you remove  
all the context"



**Arwa Abu Nohaiah**

"Feeling lost? Your tutors are your  
academic compass. Find your North.🧭"



**Eemil Aittokoski**

"Your Friendly Neighborhood Tutor"



**Anniina "Ninni" Karvanen**

"why so sour?"



**Manushree Tyagi**

"Every time I open my Aalto  
calendar, I lose a piece of my soul."



**Yixuan Wu**



# Meet your BIGs



**Emil Laaksonen**

"Life is full of side quests"



**Fangfei Fan**

"Wishing you a warm and sunny orientation week 🌞"



**Sofi Koponen**

"Ain't no fucking way...."



**Vili Vainionpää**

"If you don't jaksaa anymore, you just have to try to jaksaa"



**Meri Kauppinen**

"And so the adventure begins!"



**Rylee (苓君) Liao**

"Start being a new born in a new continent! And it's super cool!"



**Sami Manner**

"Always bet on yourself."



**Roosa Ripatti**

"jees👍"



# Meet your BIGs



**Sara Sofia Koivisto**  
"Remember that everything is  
better with balloons!"



**Petra Alaharjula**  
"No sisu, no success"



**Kelly Yen**  
"täffä best canteen"



**Veeti Pellinen**  
"Burgers at 2AM"



**Juuso Laine**  
"Tralalero tralala"



**Zosia Łoboda**



# Greetings from the Phuksi Captains



**Hey there!**

We are Lotta and Elisa, the Phuksikapteenit (freshman captains) of Athene. Our task is to make sure the bachelor freshmen (=phuksis/fuksis) of Athene have an easy transition into student life here at Aalto university. We are responsible for arranging events and activities for the phuksis as well as helping out with practical things and any issues our phuksis might face. Additionally, we guide the phuksis through the process of becoming fully-fledged teekkaris.

So in practice, we organize events for phuksis inside our own guild, and as a member of FTMK (fuksitoimikunta, Freshman Committee), for all the freshmen of Otaniemi as well. International students are also more than welcome to most of these events! Ira will keep you updated on all the fun events you should definitely attend, but don't hesitate to ask us about them (or about anything else that pops into your mind) either!

Athenians are warm, friendly people who will happily help you with any problems you may face, and with whom you'll find yourself engaging in exciting and inspiring conversations on a daily basis. We truly hope you'll enjoy it here, and that you'll feel right at home here at Athene and in Otaniemi as a whole.

Can't wait to get to know all of you!

**Lotta and Elisa**  
**Phuksi Captains**



# The Board of Athene



Ira Laihanen  
Master & International  
Captain

Olli Ullgren  
Head of  
Communications

Niklas Koskela  
Chair

Kimi Toivonen  
Community Manager

Tuomas Miettinen  
Hostess

Eemil Lähteenmäki  
Treasurer

Elisa Heikkilä  
Phuksi Captain

Antti Puska  
Head of Academic  
Affairs

Nita Sirkka  
Head of Corporate  
Relations

Linnea Laine  
Host

Lotta Jansson  
Phuksi Captain

Vilma Ikola  
Vice Chair



# The Board of Athene

The Board of Athene is the “administrative” body of the guild. Most of us have a small committee to work with, and with them we 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. The meetings are open for all guild members. In the meetings we 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 elected in the fall assembly of Athene, where guild members can nominate themselves for different positions (in addition to the board we have a lot of volunteer officials in charge of different jobs, like photographing). Most of the volunteers hold their posts for one calendar year, and after that the new board (and officials) take the reins.

**Chair of the Board** is the big boss, steering the board and representing the guild. The Chair manages the big picture within the board, and takes care of the well-being of the guild members.

**Vice Chair** assists the Chair and takes their role in case of absence, and acts as the secretary in the board meetings. In addition the Vice Chair is responsible for guild merch.

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

**Head of Academic Affairs** maintains contact with university staff, looks after the rights of the students and brings up the students’ voice in studies related matters.

**Head of Corporate Relations** communicates with and organizes excursions to different companies. They negotiate the guild’s sponsor deals and ensure 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, and is also responsible for most of the communication towards the guild members.

**Host & Hostess** (in Finnish known as isäntä&emäntä = IE) 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 Community Manager** organizes events and co-operation with other guilds and student organizations, and looks after the guild’s officials.

**Phuksi Captains** look after phuksis (freshers) and make sure they have a memorable first year, and that they get their teekkari caps.

**Captain of International & Master’s Students** is in charge of the teekkari education of international students and master’s freshers, making sure you all have a memorable time at Aalto, and that you have everything you need.

# Athene's events

## Greetings and welcome to our beloved guild!

We, Athene's host and hostess, Linnea and Tuomas, or IE for short (from the Finnish words "isäntä" and "emäntä" meaning host and hostess) are responsible for organizing 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! While we are not always the driving force behind every event, we often at least help with the refreshments.

One particular event that is quite popular with students in Finland, is something called "**sitsit**". Although you will soon become familiar with the term, allow us to provide a brief introduction. Sitsit refers to an "academic table party" infused with singing and some fun etiquette. Essentially, it entails a traditional three-course dinner, usually preceded by a cocktail event and followed by an after party. We create them entree to dessert by ourselves with the help of our ten 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!





# Athene's events

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 English, Swedish, German 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 giving it a try at least once!



Participating in the events is a great way to make new friends, let go of stress and quite simply 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 to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and enjoys themselves! Alongside your captain, we will strive to keep you informed about all upcoming 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!

**Linnea Laine & Tuomas Miettinen**  
Host & Hostess





# Greetings from the Harassment Contact Persons

**Hello Phuksis and welcome to Athene!**

We are Kerttu, Rylee (苓君), Pinja and Veeti, Athene's Harassment Contact Persons. Together with the guild board and equality officials, we are working to make activities of the guild safer and more approachable for all guild members. The goal is to make sure that every member of the guild feels welcome to join the activities just as they are. We are always welcome to any suggestions for improvement as we are also learning on the go.



You can contact us if you encounter any bullying or discrimination, for instance harassment or other unpleasant treatment. The guild has a zero tolerance policy for inappropriate treatment, so you can contact us with a very low threshold. Discussions are always totally confidential and are conducted on your own terms. In addition to us, we also have event specific harassment contact persons, whom you can easily contact during events. Also the main organizer of the event, such as the Host and Hostess, the Head of Corporate Relations or the International Captain, are available to be contacted.

If you feel uncomfortable about something, it's worth talking about it so that something can be done. Our guild is full of open-minded and enthusiastic people and people who want to make things meaningful for everyone in the guild. At Athene, we treat each other with respect and open-mindedness. Together, we aim to build a supportive atmosphere and address any grievances with courage. There's no need to stress, guild activities are supposed to be fun!

Lately still, huge congratulations on your admission to Aalto - see you at the Head Start or at the Orientation week!

**Athene's Harassment Contact Persons,  
Kerttu, Rylee (苓君), Pinja and Veeti**





# Congratulations Fuksi!

Become a student member of TEK! Membership is completely free, and includes a host of services to help you not only work in Finland, but to thrive here. These include guidance on how to summer job hunt, recommendations for your salary, as well as legal aid to check your first contract or to later protect your rights. As a joining gift, you will receive a TEK overall belt.

TEK is a community of some 81,000 university students and graduates in the field of technology. We strive to ensure that our members have the best working conditions possible, in order to help them solve the major issues of our time; from climate change and natural resource scarcity to artificial intelligence.

Find out more at [www.tek.fi/en/students](http://www.tek.fi/en/students) or join [www.tek.fi/en/join](http://www.tek.fi/en/join) now!

Best regards,



**Vilppu Viinikainen**  
Student Liaison / Otaniemi  
TG @Otaniemitykki  
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# 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.



# International Director's greetings

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**





# International Committee

The International Committee or KvTMK (comes from the Finnish word Kansainvälisyystoimikunta) consists of the people in charge of international students and matters (usually the International and Master's Captains) in different guilds and associations and is led by the International Director. KvTMK is involved in the fresher and tutoring activities regarding the international freshers (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.





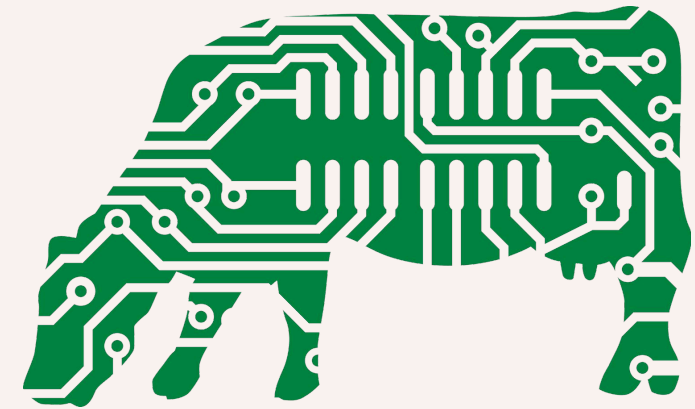
# SCI, SCI, SCI!

The School of Science, commonly known as SCI, includes five guilds:

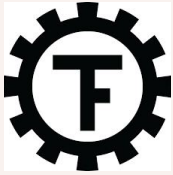
- Athene (Information Networks, Engineering Psychology, ICT Innovation)
- Prodeko (Industrial Engineering and Management)
- Computer Science Guild (Computer Science)
- Guild of Physics (Engineering Physics and Mathematics, Quantum Technology)
- Inkubio (Bioinformation Technology, Life Science Technologies)

We bustle a lot together and you will have many events together with students from the other SCI guilds during the year. You will most certainly make some new acquaintances outside your own guild along the way!

The shout “SCI, SCI, SCI!” is known as the battle cry of the School of Science. It is shouted while waving your hands in the air as you would during cross-country skiing.



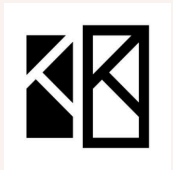
# Guilds of Otaniemi



**Teknologföreningen**, TF, is the Swedish-speaking and the only student nation at Aalto. Everyone is welcome to TF regardless of study programme or language. The only requirement is to be interested in learning or speaking Swedish. They have their own building with a student restaurant, where lots of students go eat their famous spaghetti every Wednesday. TF-members are recognized from their technology red overalls that are usually combined with parts of the wearer's guild or student association overalls.



**The Guild of Surveying Engineers** (Maanmittarikilta, or "MK") is the association for students in the degree programme of Real Estate Economics and Geoinformatics, Sustainable Communities and Built Environment. Established in 1901, it is the oldest guild that still receives new undergraduate students every year. You can spot the members of the guild by their matte black overalls with a fuchsia colored sleeve.



**The Guild of Architecture** (Arkkitehtikilta, or "AK") was founded in 1908. 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. Their overalls are off-white ("painter's white") and made of very easily soiled cotton. The Landscape Architects can be identified by the tree painted on the back of the left leg. Interior Architects design their own fabric to decorate their overalls with. The logo on the back is different each year, as it is designed by the fuksis themselves.



**The Guild of Civil Engineers** (Rakennusinsinöörilikilta, or "IK") was founded in 1913. It's members study Civil Engineering and Computational Engineering at the undergrad level, and Advanced Energy Solutions, Geoengineering, Geoinformatics and Water and Environmental Engineering in the master's. They are easily identified by their builder's blue overalls with a green sleeve and back pocket.



**The Guild of Mechanical Engineers** (Koneinsinöörilikilta, or "KIK") was founded in 1915, and even with 110 years of history, it is the youngest guild in the School of Engineering. However, it is one of the biggest with over a thousand members. Their studies include Mechanical Engineering and Advanced Energy Solutions. Members of KIK can be recognized by their cheerful pink overalls and their pink crawler tractor mascot.



**The Guild of Electrical Engineers** (Sähköinsinöörilikilta, or "SIK") was founded in 1921. The energetic electrical engineers can be identified by their pure white overalls and the cog logo on the back. You can also spot the old lightbulb logo on older students' overalls. These overalls can be spotted on SIK fuksis from day one, as they are the first guild to receive their overalls in Otaniemi.



**The Guild of Physics** (Fyysikkokilta, or "FK") was founded in 1947 and gathers all Engineering Physics and Mathematics, System Sciences and Quantum Physics students in Aalto under the same roof. The guild's overalls are natural white and in order to get the right shade, the fuksis dye their overalls with tea. For Quantum Technology students, the left sleeve is beige.



**The Guild of Industrial Engineering and Management** (Tuotantotalouden kilta, Prodeko), was founded in 1966 although it says 1866 on their overalls due to a legendary mistake. Even though the guild has a small intake, their members are all the more active! They can be recognized by their white overalls, which are decorated with rainbow stripes.



# Guilds of Otaniemi



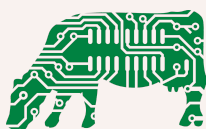
**The Computer Science Guild** (Tietokilta, or “TiK”) is a guild founded in 1986. It is one of the largest in Otaniemi. Many of the younger guilds have started as a part of this guild, namely AS, Athene and Data Guild. Members of the guild are recognized by their shiny black overalls with the guild’s unofficial @-logo in the back.



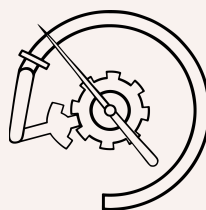
**The Guild of Automation and Systems Technology** (Automaatio- ja systeemitekniikan kilta, or “AS”) was founded in 1988. It brings together students majoring in Automation and Robotics, Information Technology, and Digital Systems and Design. The industrious members can be recognized by their violet overalls. The left sleeve is black with a white pocket, reminding of the shared history with TiK and SIK, and the arduino-blue pocket on the right leg represents students of Digital Systems and Design.



**The Guild of Information Networks** (Informaatioverkostojen kilta, Athene) was founded by Information Networks students in 1999, and from the year 2022 also includes students of Engineering Psychology. Athene doesn’t receive exchange students, but is the home for ICT Innovation students. Athene’s overalls are forest green, and the left sleeve, collar, and back pockets are black as a tribute to the Computer Science Guild, which Athene separated from in 2003. The guild’s logo, the “eye of Athene”, is featured on the back of the overalls.



**The Guild of Bioninformation Technology** (Bioinformaatioteknologian kilta, Inkubio) was founded in 2007. As the result of a historic spelling mistake, Inkubio’s overalls are reddish brown, and they are decorated with white “cow” patches, which guild members sew on 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** (Prosessiteekkarit, or “PT”), founded in 2012, welcomes Chemical Engineering in both the Finnish and English bachelor programmes. PT’s overalls are blue and decorated with yellow, blue and red stripes on each limb representing the three other CHEM guilds that PT descends from. Their logo can be found on the back: it depicts a Bourdon tube pressure gauge, that measures pressure, one of the most important variables in any process.



**Data Guild**, or “DG”, is the guild for students in the Data Science programme. It was founded in 2019 and it is the youngest guild in Otaniemi. Old students can be recognized from their shiny black overalls with a silver left sleeve. Current students wear silver-colored overalls with a black sleeve, which is a memory from the time Data Science students were still a part of Tietokilta.

In Addition to PT, there are three other guilds in the School of Chemical Engineering: **Chemistry Guild** (1891), **Forest Products Guild** (1945), and **The Guild of Materials and Metallurgy Students** (1947). The guilds are active in their own domains; not organizing bachelor fuksi upbringing as this is managed by PT, but instead taking in the exchange and master’s students. The three CHEM guilds’ overalls (red, yellow, and blue) have become a rare sight in Otaniemi, but these colors can be seen sewn onto PT overalls, for example as a sleeve.





# 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!



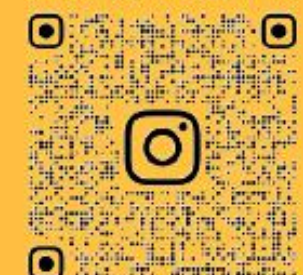
Scan the code!

Check our open committee positions!



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@TOKYO\_AALTO\_ARTS





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

community section

aava



section - committee - aava



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AYY events

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# RETUPERÄN WBK

same in English

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 [Retuperän WBK](https://www.facebook.com/RetuperänWBK)

 [rwbk.fi](http://rwbk.fi)

 [Retuperän WBK](https://www.youtube.com/RetuperänWBK)





# 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 (or shop) on a pre-determined route.

## **AYY**

Abbreviation for "Aalto-yliopiston Ylioppilaskunta", the student union for all Aalto students and umbrella organization for guilds. (see p. 15)

## **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 freshers and older students (if the overall has no or very few badges, the user is most likely a fresher).

## **Hymni - Hymn**

Teekkarihymni, a traditional song that is sung at midnight.

## **IE**

Host and Hostess (see p. 24)

## **ISO - BIG**

How tutors are called at Aalto.

## **Jäynä - Prank, MIT hack**

A good willed, harmless and fun prank or practical joke 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 bubbly 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 usually sung at sitsit. One of the best future memories from your time as a student in Finland. It's a tradition to write or draw greetings to other people's song books during sitsit, so after a few, you can find a lot of happy memories there. Athene's songbook is called Muusa.

## **Lukkari - Songmaster / Toastmaster**

The people who lead the singing at sitsit.



# Teekkari - English - Teekkari dictionary

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

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

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

Number one way of distinguishing university students. Worn in major events (if unsure ask your BIG whether to wear them :-) ). To other students they show what you are studying, and ease finding your mates at big gatherings, so 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. 14)

## **Sitsit**

Academic table party. At its most basic form a three course dinner, with wine and other refreshments, with a lot of singing and socializing. These are something you do not want to miss during your stay! Sometimes the dresscode is cocktail, but 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 white cap with a black tassel. People in Finland who have graduated 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 this right.

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

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

## **Phuksi - Fresher**

Often also spelled 'fuksi, but with 'ph' at Athene. At Athene, there are about 80 new bachelor's phuksis every year. At Wappu, phuksis become Teekkaris.

## **Wappu**

The most important celebration of the year for teekkaris around 1st of May. Also known as May Day or Walpurgis Night, the celebration begins already a few weeks prior to 1st of May. 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 at Otakaari 12.



# Final checklist

This is it, thank you for reading! If you have any questions or concerns, or you'd just like to chat, don't hesitate to contact me :-)

## After reading this guide, I have:

- joined the Freshers of Athene 2025 Telegram group
- joined the Captain's Bulletin info channel
- checked out the pre-arrival information sent by the uni
- marked the Head Start (22.8.) and Orientation week (25. - 29.8.) in my calendar
- applied to become a member of Athene and paid the membership fee
- ordered or downloaded my student card
- packed with me some warm socks and a cheery attitude!

Can't wait to meet all of you!





Welcome to Athene, and see you soon <3

