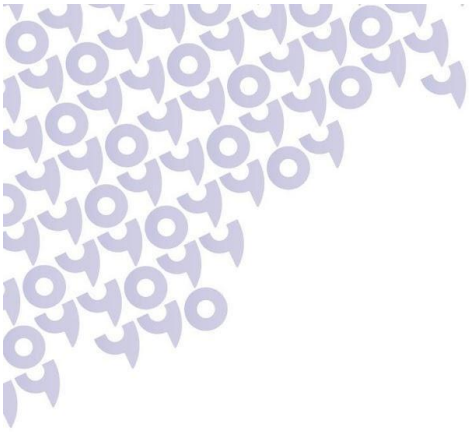




Oulun yliopiston
ylioppilaskunta

The Future is Built by Students

The Student Union of the University of Oulu's Parliamentary
Election Programme 2027

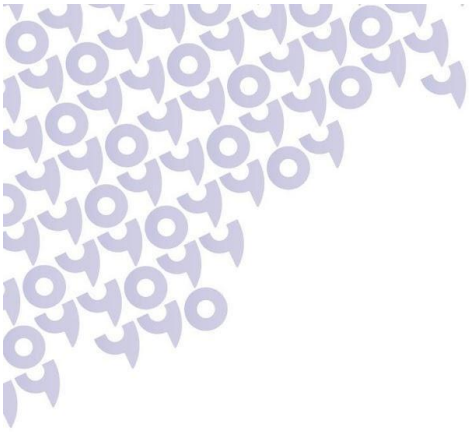


The future is built by students

What does the future of Finland look like?

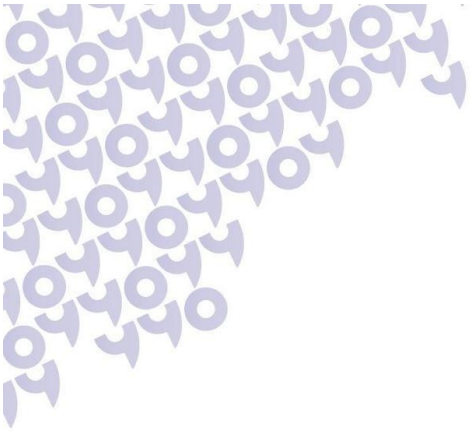
Students are the future of Finland, because we are the ones building this country for decades to come. When shaping Finland, students draw on the knowledge, education, and strong belief in society that they gain through their studies. To develop Finland further, we need renewal and change that enforce education and create the grounds for the wellbeing and livelihood of students.

Education brings resilience to our society. Finland's weakened economic situation affects those with the least resources the most, including us students. Our society's issues regarding income, education and



wellbeing are the same challenges students face daily. We must ensure that education, student livelihood and wellbeing are safeguarded both now and in the future.

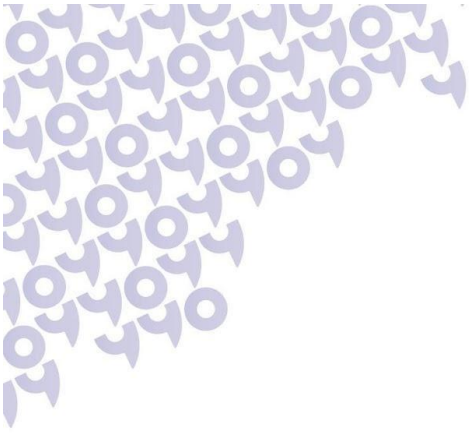
As the Student Union of the University of Oulu, we present concrete measures and solutions based on our election goals to develop education, secure students' livelihoods and support student wellbeing towards a safer society. Recent political decisions have eroded the position of students in society, and we must change the course. We must build a good future for every student.



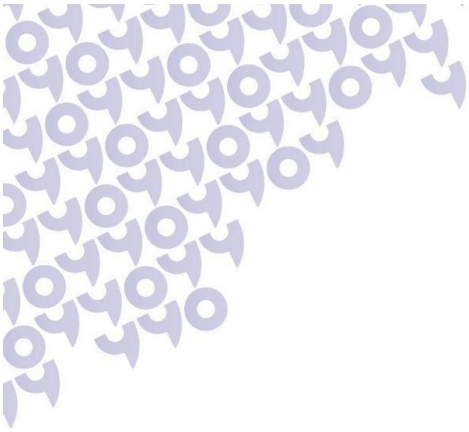
Higher education as the foundation for our future society

Education and students are the key to a sustainable and cohesive Finland. A strong and unified society is built by securing stable funding for education and ensuring that universities are able to function in a way that is sustainable long term. The university funding model should be revised less frequently so that funding remains predictable and higher education institutions can plan their activities several years ahead. Cuts to education do not build the society of the future. We call for a stable, long-term funding for universities.

Raising the level of education is imperative, but it cannot be built on private funding. Free education



ensures a skilled workforce across all sectors and guarantees equal and equitable access to education for everyone (Kallunki & Kivistö, 2024). We do not accept development in which education becomes accessible only to those who can afford it. Finland must strengthen its attractiveness and support international students in securing employment, as one in four people with a foreign-language background feel that they are not integrated into Finnish society (Laine & Happonen, 2026).

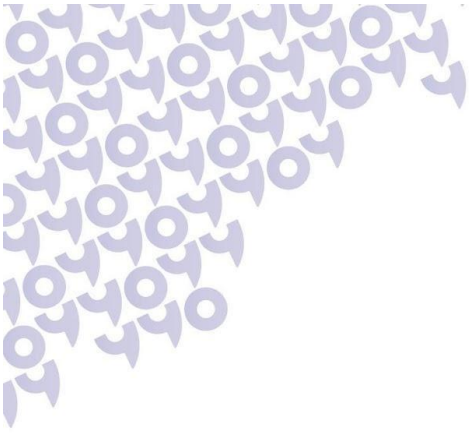


Objectives

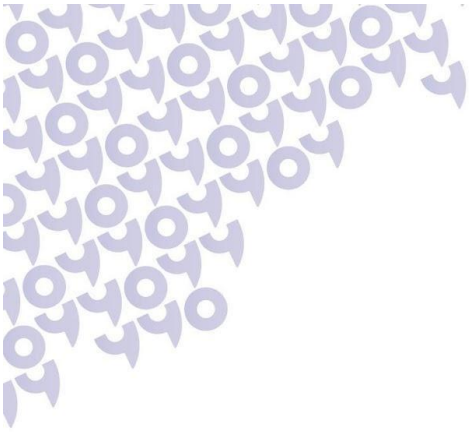
- Universities must be guaranteed stable and sufficient funding.
- Free education is a guarantee of high quality and equitable education.
- University education must be accessible to everyone, regardless of background.

Procedures

- The role of student feedback must be strengthened in the university funding model. In addition to the feedback of Bachelor's students, the feedback of Masters' students must be included in the funding model, and greater weight should be given to student feedback.
- The university's funding model must have a long-term perspective.
- Degree-awarding rights must not be extended to open universities.



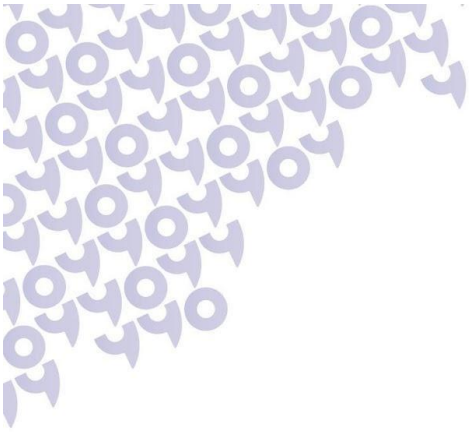
- Student intake numbers must align with available funding, and the pursuit of external funding sources must not become a factor that steers universities' activities.
- Applying to higher education must be straightforward and possible regardless of one's upper secondary education background. The funding model for higher education institutions must not incentivise excessively large quotas for first-time applicants. Opportunities for retraining and changing fields must also be ensured.
- International students should be able to offset their tuition fees through tax deductions if they remain in Finland to work after graduation.



The future is built by securing **students'** **livelihoods**

Students' financial security and wellbeing go hand in hand. The current loan-heavy financial aid system and weak employment situation makes students' everyday lives more difficult and increases financial uncertainty. Financial insecurity is a source of concern for young people (Laine & Happonen, 2026). Students are the only group in society expected to live on debt, even though employment prospects for recent graduates remain uncertain in many fields. The student financial aid must be sufficient to cover basic everyday expenses, as financial security supports both students' daily lives and their wellbeing.

The weak employment situation can make it more difficult for recent graduates to repay their student loans and the interest accrued on them. We demand that the level of the

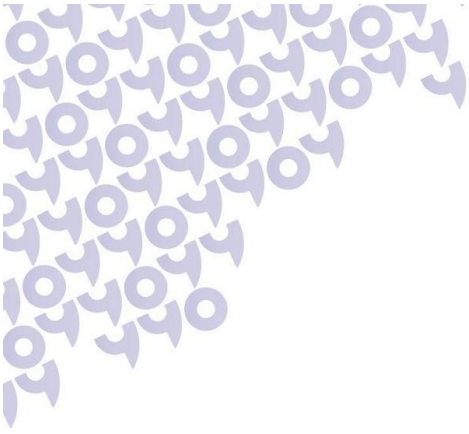


student financial aid enables students to study full-time without being forced into debt. Affordable student housing must also be secured in the future so that students have enough money for other essential living costs.

The current economic and employment situation places a particular burden on students and recent graduates. Employment among students and young adults must be improved so that graduates can enter working life quickly after completing their studies and begin building their careers. We build Finland's future together by ensuring sufficient internship opportunities for students and employment opportunities for recent graduates.

Objectives

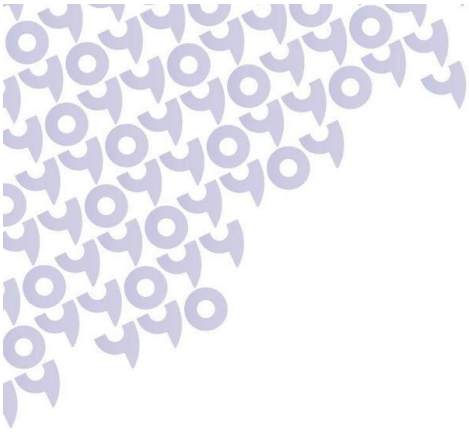
- The student financial aid must be sufficient to cover students' basic everyday expenses.
- Employment among recent graduates must be raised to a sustainable level.



- Affordable student housing must be secured for the future.

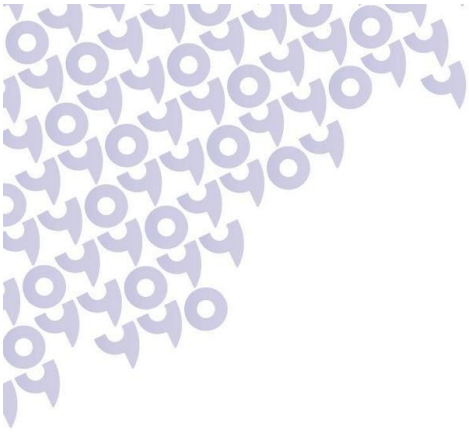
Procedures

- The student financial aid must be safeguarded for future generations of students, and a sustainable long-term solution for students' basic income during their studies must be developed.
- The current emphasis on student loans and the repayment period for student loans must be reassessed. A cap on student loan interest rates must be introduced.
- Adequate incentives must be created for employers to hire interns, recent graduates and international students, for example through an employment voucher scheme for students.
- Affordable housing must be secured by ensuring sufficient authorisation for government-subsidised interest-support loans.



The Finland of the future needs **students who are well**

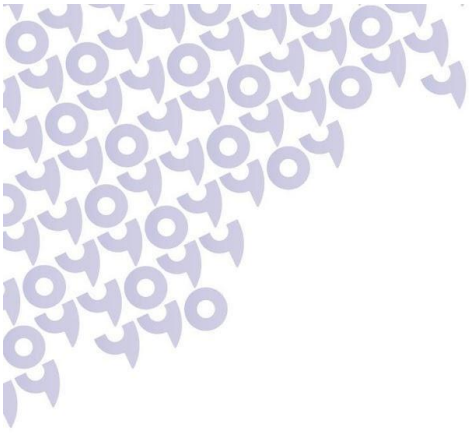
Wellbeing is a right that belongs to everyone. We need decisions that guarantee high-quality and accessible healthcare for all. Mental health problems are one of the leading causes of delays in studies (Laamanen et al., 2023), which is why investment in mental health services is essential. Finland must lead the way in addressing the environmental and climate crisis so that students can maintain confidence in the future (Appelqvist-Schmidlechner ym., 2026). Students who are well are able to focus fully on their studies and help build a more sustainable future for Finland.



Finland must establish clear and binding practices for combating discrimination. A safe and equal study environment can only be created if discrimination is addressed consistently at every level. Professionals must have adequate tools and resources to support people who have experienced discrimination or harassment. We must be a society that fosters tolerant and thriving citizens.

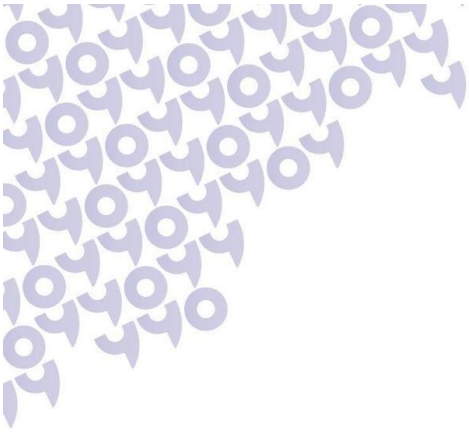
Objectives

- Good mental health services are a right of every student.
- Finland must be an equal and equitable society for every student.
- Finland will create solutions for the environmental and climate crisis.



Procedures

- The government funding for the FSHS will be increased to ensure that students have access to high-quality and preventive mental health care.
- Extend the therapy guarantee to cover all students regardless of age.
- Strengthen a constructive culture of dialogue. Decision-makers must lead by example in promoting equality and non-discrimination.
- Develop clear and effective practices for preventing discrimination. These measures must support people who have experienced discrimination and strengthen professionals' skills in working with people belonging to minority groups.
- Government funding must be allocated to tackling the environmental and climate crises. This will strengthen confidence in the future among people across Finland.



Sources

Appelqvist-Schmidlechner, K., Axelin, H., Helenius, J., Jahnukainen, M., Kallio, J., Kiilakoski, T., Kiiski, A., Kivinen, E., Kurki, M., Palomäki, J., Pihkala, P., Puura, S. & Tähkäpää, O. (2016). *Nuorten tulevaisuususkko horjuu – millaisia toimia nyt tarvitaan? Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriön asiantuntijaryhmän loppuraportti*. Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö. Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriön julkaisuja. 2026:18.

<https://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-415-084-2>

Kallio, J. & Saarinen, A. (2024). Korkeakoulutuksen maksullisuuden kannatus Suomen väestössä: Olisiko maksullisuus reilua? *Tiedepolitiikka*. 49(3).

Laamanen, M., Ladonlahti, T., Häkkinen, P., & Kärkkäinen, T. (2023). *Opiskelijan hyvinvointi koetuksella?: korkeakouluopiskelijoiden kokemat terveys- ja toimintarajoitteet, digitaalinen osaaminen ja opiskelu pandemian aikana*. Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriö.



Opetus- ja kulttuuriministeriön julkaisuja. 2023:41.

<http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-263-750-5>

Laine, S., & Happonen, K. (2026). *Ihan paineissa:*

Nuorisobarometri 2025. Nuorisotutkimusseura.

<https://doi.org/10.57049/nts.1883>