Application for ISYY Executive Board 2027

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I am a first-year Sustainable Forest Bioeconomy student at UEF. Before coming to Joensuu, I was involved in several initiatives focused on youth engagement, educational activities and community projects back in Kazakhstan. Having recently become part of the UEF student community, I would like to continue this involvement in a new setting by applying for the ISYY Executive Board, with **International Affairs** as my preferred sector.

My previous experience has involved working with people from various backgrounds, and finding ways to make educational initiatives accessible to different audiences. Through my work with the Smithsonian travelling exhibitions *Soils and Sustainability* and *Women Inventors*, I helped present the exhibitions in ten cities across the country, facilitating workshops for students and other visitors. Later, I took part in the development and pilot implementation of the Climate School educational programme, supported by the GEF Small Grants Programme under UNDP. I facilitated peer-to-peer sessions for more than 30 students and adapted educational materials into Kazakh, Russian and English. These projects were mostly focused on environmental education, and much of the work involved bringing people together, coordinating activities and making sure participants could engage with what was being offered.

I was also recognised as Volunteer of the Year 2025 for my involvement with the National Delphic Committee, where I supported youth and cultural events, charitable activities and creative workshops for children. The role involved working behind the scenes on community activities, including event preparation, interaction with different groups of people and also handling practical matters along the way.

As a new student at UEF, I have been getting to know the university and its student community, including the large international student share. I am interested in how ISYY can support international students and encourage their participation in university activities. I'd like to contribute to this work from within by organizing events that help international students become more involved in Finnish student life and sharing the perspective I have gained, and continue to gain as an international student myself.

My previous experience has been project-based, so I would also like to take part in something more continuous, with regular responsibilities and ongoing cooperation within the community throughout the year. I see the Executive Board as a way to contribute to the university life consistently while learning more about student representation and international affairs in Finnish higher education.