

Approved in the meeting of the Representative Council (5-2025) 25/09/2025.

Policy Paper of the Student Union of the University of Eastern Finland

Society

Influence

- ISYY is party-politically and religiously independent.
- In its activities, ISYY cherishes democracy, freedom, non-discrimination and equality.
- ISYY takes a stance on societally significant themes.
- ISYY serves as an advocate of university students together with Student Unions.
- ISYY and Student Unions are involved in preparing decision-making concerning students in campus cities, regions and well-being counties.
- ISYY is in contact with the MPs, advisers and special advisers, local councillors and regional councillors and significant societal influencers of the electoral district.
- ISYY shall use societal influencing channels to promote nationally or locally important issues touching upon ISYY, or different stakeholders included in it.
- ISYY calls for regional equality and sufficient funding for universities.
- ISYY encourages its members to participate in decision-making, societal influence and discussion in campus cities, regions, municipalities and well-being counties.
- ISYY supports free education at all educational levels, including for students coming from outside EU/EEA countries.
- ISYY's investment activities are economically, ethically and socially sustainable.
- ISYY does not engage in procurement or cooperation with companies or parties that support the policy of states conducting a war of aggression and/or dumping human rights.

Working life

- ISYY supports wage equality between genders.
- Internships included in studies shall be flexible and paid.
- Internship support shall be directed at all students regardless of the field of studies.
- ISYY encourages the university, subject-specific student associations and campus organisations to promote the connection between studies and working life.
 - In this, the improvement of working life abilities should be considered, including high-quality career planning working groups, job application workshops and CV workshops.
 - The university shall develop possibilities to write theses for campus cities and regions.

Housing

- The planning of student housing shall consider the needs and wishes of students. Student housing companies shall construct enough apartments of different sizes, considering the apartments' location, accessibility and different life situations.
- ISYY is in favour of sufficient amount of ecological and high-quality student housing in campus cities.
- A student apartment shall be received in a reasonable time.
- ISYY encourages campus cities and the university to cooperate and to increase interaction in coordinating the increase of study places and housing production in cities.
- If student housing companies monitor the progress of studies, it shall include reasonable flexibility for individual delays.
 - Monitoring the progress of studies shall be notified when making the rental agreement and student housing companies shall ensure communication on monitoring the progress of studies for the residents.

Transport

- Rail transport shall be a sufficient, affordable and encouraging manner to move around. There shall be functional rail transport between campuses.

- Public transport within and between campus cities shall be affordable, functional and environmentally friendly. Public transport shall be developed in accordance with the needs of the students.
- Evening and weekend departures of internal public transport in campus cities shall be increased. Public transport shall be a more economically feasible alternative than private car use.
- Walking and riding a bike shall be possible and safe throughout the year.
- Walking, riding a bike and public transport shall be the preferably maintained, developed and considered modes of transport over driving in city planning. Everyday locally accessible services shall be reasonably reached by walking, with a bike or with public transport.
- In traffic planning, walking and riding a bike shall be treated as separate modes of traffic. Instead of combined cycle paths and footpaths, traffic planning shall invest in separating them into footpaths and cycle paths.
- Campus cities shall have a functional city bike system.

University

- The university shall provide the students with sufficient and high-quality counselling throughout the studies in a cross-faculty manner.
- Eternal right to study shall be restored.
- University campuses shall have sound-proof group working spaces where students can work undisturbed. The premises shall be adequately furnished and accessible also during evenings.
- University teaching staff shall have sufficient pedagogical skills and possibility to complement their pedagogical competence.
- Academic subjects shall collect feedback on their teaching and activities systematically. On the basis of the provided feedback, necessary development activities shall be initiated.
- Equal and collegial tripartite decision-making shall be realised, enabling students' participation in the decision-making and its preparation at all administrative levels of the university.
- Subject-specific student associations shall be involved in the decision-making of their academic subjects, schools and departments, since subject-specific student associations are the best experts in student matters in their own field.

- ISYY encourages its students to become student representatives in the administration.
- The Language Centre shall be guaranteed sufficient resources to organise teaching in order for the completion of language and communication studies not slowing down other studies.
- The dual model shall be retained, but moving between the dual model shall be flexible. ISYY encourages cooperation between universities and universities of applied sciences.
- University communication and activities shall be clear and accessible both in Finnish and in English.
- The university shall ensure the training of the staff with regard to electronic study platforms and equipment. The teaching staff shall commit to the use of unified electronic study platforms considering discipline-specific needs.
- Tutoring shall be of high quality and tutor training shall be developed, for example, on the basis of feedback received from the training.
- Campus buildings shall be regularly maintained, the quality of indoor air shall be actively monitored and the equipment of the buildings shall be of as high-quality and unified as possible.
- All campus libraries and independent study premises shall be accessible 24/7.
- Subject-specific student associations shall have equal possibilities to access cross-disciplinary and cost-free premises for subject-specific student associations.
- The university shall not cooperate or conclude partnership agreements with universities from states conducting a war of aggression and/or dumping human rights, excluding agreements concerning exchange and international students.

Studying

- Learning, education and research must form an intrinsic value at the university.
- The university shall enable all-year studying for students. During summer, courses where students can genuinely promote their studies shall be provided.
- Students shall have the right to hold several study rights.
- The supervision of theses shall enable cooperation with different faculties and universities.
- At the university, all disciplines shall enable flexible completion of studies, considering discipline-specific needs.

- Degree-specific and specific entrance examination admission or course admission shall be the primary route to the university.
- Those who have completed secondary education shall have an equal opportunity for university studies. Student admission shall emphasise entrance and applicability examinations. Poor success in secondary education shall not impact admission to universities in a negative manner if the applicant has prerequisites for studying.
- New students needing special support shall be provided with targeted support for orientation into university studies.
- The university shall enable transferring from one major subject to another.
- The university shall maintain free right to minor subjects genuinely enabling students to study in both campuses regardless of the student's campus city.
- Bilingualism or language and communication studies completed in other universities shall form sufficient justification for credit recognition of courses.
- Working life and studies shall be possible to combine.
- The university shall support students' entrepreneurship education and working life education.
- Whenever possible, it shall be possible to follow lectures remotely, and video recordings shall be provided.
- Study credits shall correspond to the amount of work at courses.
- Everyone shall have the possibility to freely include a reasonable amount of other minor subjects in a degree.
- Study environments shall serve different manners of learning and teaching.
- Study environments shall be ergonomic and accessible. Special arrangements related to accessibility shall be communicated.
- Digitalisation and digital accessibility shall be considered when reforming study environments.

Income

The basic principle in students' income is that existing students' support modes and subsidies shall enable full-time studying.

Students' social welfare and benefits

- ISYY conducts influencing on study subsidy.
- ISYY supports basic income.
- ISYY supports social welfare reform and actively influences its preparation.
- For basic social assistance, the conditions related to lowering the basic part shall be reviewed for students in order not to be treated unequally in relation to other applicants of basic social assistance.
- A student cafeteria must provide at least 1 warm meal per day. Students' meal subsidy shall cover the maximum costs of a meal and the meals shall be responsibly produced and in accordance with sustainable choices.
- Student discounts shall cover all students, including exchange and doctoral students.

Study subsidy

- ISYY promotes the raise of students' income limits.
- The payment of a study grant shall be based on the progress of studies.
- When the studies progress in accordance with the schedule, a student shall not be punished for active working through cuts in study subsidy.
- When applying for basic social assistance, student loan that has not been taken out shall not be considered income.
- The number of study subsidy months exceeding the target schedule shall be automatically increased.
- Study grant shall guarantee everyone an equal possibility to study full-time.
- Students with children shall have a parent raise in their study grant.
- Study grant and student loan compensation shall be tied to an index.
- The staggering of study subsidy and student loan compensation shall be removed.

Housing support

- Housing support shall be clarified. The support shall be predictable and flexible with regard to life situations.
- Students shall be guaranteed a possibility for affordable housing.
- Students shall be restored under general housing support.

Well-being

- ISYY promotes and supports non-smoking.
- ISYY encourages not using intoxicants in student activities.
- ISYY shall take an active role in order for every member to find their place as part of the student community. The role of social commitments shall be taken into account in the fluency of the progression of studies.
- Exchange students and doctoral students shall be covered by FSHS.
- The quality of FSHS substance abuse services shall be sufficient.
- The focus of FSHS shall be in preventive healthcare.
- Mental health services received through FSHS shall be easily accessible and the customer shall receive necessary services from one place.
- FSHS shall provide cost-free contraception for all students.
- Cost-free sanitary products shall be available through FSHS.
- Both campuses shall have equal number of experts in students' well-being.
- Students shall have wide-ranging sports possibilities and services.
- Sufficient premises shall be guaranteed for university sports, especially SYKETTÄ services, available for staff and students equally.
- Sports services support pause gymnastics and active lifestyle.
- Everyone has a right to a healthy study environment. University buildings must not have indoor air problems.
- ISYY supports unscented university buildings. Hygiene products used at the university shall be non-allergenic.
- ISYY does not approve discrimination, bullying, racism, sexual harassment or inappropriate behaviour in any form. In order to address them, ISYY shall have its own equality and non-discrimination programme.
- The university shall have instructions to solve harassment issues and a contact person that a student can contact with a low threshold and anonymously, if needed. The person who reported harassment and their identity shall be protected.
- Students shall be provided with comfortable leisure possibilities and premises equally in the campuses.
- The aesthetics of the study environment is part of well-being at studies.

Internationality

- 239 • Internationality shall be a seamless part of ISYY's and UEF's activities.
- 240 • Internationality means diverse understanding and mutually respecting
- 241 interaction.
- 242 • International students' everyday life and settling into student community shall
- 243 be supported with sufficient orientation and high-quality tutoring.
- 244 • ISYY and UEF provide low-threshold possibilities for internationalisation at
- 245 home for Finnish students.
- 246 • Students shall be encouraged to participate in international tutor activities.
- 247 • Possibility shall be provided to include non-Finnish courses and those
- 248 supporting internationality skills into degrees.
- 249 • The degree requirements of international degree students shall include
- 250 studies in domestic languages and culture.
- 251 • Networking and working life skills needed in working life shall be included in
- 252 international master's programmes.
- 253 • Internationality shall be possible for everyone - UEF shall reserve sufficient
- 254 funds to support the mobility of staff and students.
- 255 • Exchange studies shall not significantly slow down studies.
- 256 • Cost-free studies or comprehensive grant programmes shall be guaranteed for
- 257 everyone, including students outside EU and EEA countries.
- 258 • Completing a degree in Finland shall facilitate the granting of citizenship to
- 259 students coming from outside EU and EEA countries.

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261 Environment

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- 263 • ISYY promotes sustainable development by supporting ethical consumption
- 264 and by using corresponding products in its procurement.
- 265 • ISYY shall be carbon-neutral by 2030. Carbon-neutrality shall be primarily
- 266 pursued by decreasing emissions and secondarily by compensating emissions.
- 267 • ISYY encourages wide-ranging and vegetable-rich student food.
- 268 • ISYY and UEF shall decrease private car use by encouraging riding a bike,
- 269 public transport and carpooling.
- 270 • ISYY and UEF shall avoid unnecessary use of paper and consider the
- 271 environmental burden caused by the use of AI.
- 272 • Products used for cleaning the campuses and for maintaining hygiene shall be
- 273 environmentally and allergy-friendly and unscented.

- 274 • Students shall be reserved with a certain number of affordable parking
275 permits at the campus areas. Parking permits shall be granted with discretion.
- 276 • ISYY encourages campus cities to construct with Finnish food.
- 277 • University campuses, student apartments and Student Union premises shall
278 have sufficient and high-quality recycling possibilities. Recycling instructions
279 shall be available both in Finnish and in English.