



EUniverCities

Student Friendly Tampere

Sub programme for EUniverCities LAP

Student Friendly Tampere



CITY OF TAMPERE



Starting points

- The strength of Tampere lies in its versatile educational establishments, high-quality know-how, and skilled professionals
- Students play a leading role in the image of the area and in attracting businesses
- The city wants students to enjoy living in Tampere even more
- The aim of the Mayor's Programme and the "Rock, rauta ja rakkaus" vitality project is to draft the "Finland's Most Student-friendly City" objective programme during this council term
- Five theme workshops were held in spring 2014 to explore the challenges related to life in Tampere, from the viewpoint of students, and to find solutions to these challenges.
- This presentation includes the results of the workshops held in spring 2014.
- On the basis of the results, further discussions will be held with key organisations, and the implementation of the goals will be examined, in connection with the city's budget preparations with politicians, as well as civil servants
- In the future, the city of Tampere will accommodate the needs of students better and promote the students' goals, even in its national influencing work

TAMPERE AIMS TO BE FINLAND'S MOST STUDENT-FRIENDLY CITY BY 2017



1. Housing

CURRENT STATE (2014)

- About a third of students live in student flats
- Almost half live in dwellings rented from the private sector
- About 15% of students live in owner-occupied flats
- Less than a fifth of students live in shared flats
- Most students live alone or with a partner
- Students' situations in life vary
- Housing expectations and needs vary
- The amount of money available varies at different stages of studying
- A central location is important, so that movement between the university, job, free-time activities and friends is possible without a car

STUDENTS' CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
1. THE LOCATION OF STUDENT HOUSING (AND PLOTS)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The location of dwellings <i>(A central location is the most important issue, so that movement between the university, job, free-time activities and friends is possible without a car)</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land should be allocated for student housing organisations in the vicinity of educational establishments - The city's land policy should be such that the price of land remains reasonable and student housing remains affordable - The needs of housing organisations should also be taken into account in complementary building and the building of high-rises 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Student housing organisations - Students' unions
2. DIVERSE SUPPLY OF HOUSING		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Living costs - Living with a partner - Applying for housing as friends or a group, especially for those of different sex - Varying expectations and needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The varying and changing needs of students should be catered for in student housing, and the correct types of dwellings offered to those who need them - Applications for housing should be separate for degree students and exchange students - The price spread of student housing should be expanded - Quotas should be spread out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Student housing organisations - Students' unions - Opiskelijan Tampere Association

STUDENTS' CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
3. COOPERATION IN APPLYING FOR HOUSING		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There are plenty of those who offer and procure housing and many application systems - After having been accepted as a student, people are in a hurry to find accommodation - Long queues for popular housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applications for housing should be centralised, so that all information about student housing would be available in one place (including the private sector) - There should be one website, with information about all available housing options - There should be one queue for all housing alternatives (by type of dwelling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Student housing organisations - Opiskelijan Tampere Association
4. HOUSING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange and degree students are treated as a mass, without catering for their specific needs - Accommodating exchange students in the same building causes "ghettos" - Offering furniture for certain housing units only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current quota model should be made more flexible and in a way that it promotes internationalisation - Furnished dwellings should be available in all housing blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Universities - Opiskelijan Tampere Association - Student housing companies



2. Services

CURRENT STATE

- There is a need for social work among students, but people do not seek help in time
- Marginalised students often have problems in several areas, such as with money, studies and mental health
- More cooperation between different organisations and common systems are hoped for in physical exercise and library services
- There are challenges associated with the integration and employment of international students and with getting them to stay in Tampere
 - There are about 2,000 foreign degree students in Tampere
 - 90% of degree students are willing to stay in Tampere and Finland after graduation

STUDENTS' CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
1. IDENTIFYING THE NEED FOR SOCIAL WORK AND INCREASING COOPERATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identifying those who are in need of social work - Applying for social work in time - It is easy to become marginalised as a student - Problems with money, studies and health pile up on the same people - The expertise of social workers on the special needs of students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation should be improved between universities and the providers of health services and social work for adults and families with children, in order to identify the students' need for help and services in time - The need for social work should be brought up in the application for income support to enable early intervention - Those in need of social work should be directed towards the right place, on the basis of a jointly agreed, well-working model - A specialised social worker should be appointed to deal with students and their problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Health care services - Universities - Finnish Student Health Service - Housing providers - Students' unions



STUDENTS' CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
2. SERVICE NETWORKS OF UNIPOLI SPORT AND THE CITY'S PHYSICAL EXERCISE SERVICES AND EQUALITY BETWEEN ASSOCIATIONS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inequality between associations, as far as sports facilities are concerned - Lack of cooperation between Unipoli Sport and the city - A healthy lifestyle and lifestyle diseases - A complex and complicated supply of physical exercise services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One annual fee should give access to many exercise facilities - Student and other sports associations should have equal access to the city's sports facilities - Systems should be made more uniform - Opening hours should be longer - Cooperation between the city and the associations should be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Unipoli Sport - Students' unions
3. JOINT USE OF LIBRARY SERVICES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many different library services - Different systems and usages 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There should just be one library card and one retrieval system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - University libraries - Provincial libraries



STUDENTS' CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
4. THE NEED FOR DAY CARE AMONG STUDENTS WITH FAMILIES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organising child day care services for students with families (location, schedules, expenses) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The need for day care among students should be studied (how supply and demand meet) - An easy-to-use system should be created for reserving a temporary day-care place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Students' unions
5. PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT STUDENT SERVICES AND PROMOTING COMMUNITY SPIRIT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Informing new students about the services - Lack of cooperation between organisations - Integration of international students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing information to students about the different services should be improved - Community spirit between international and Finnish students should be fostered - The integration of international students and the internationalisation of Finnish students should be encouraged from the beginning of studies (e.g. by utilising the summer months for studying, by improving language studies, and by increasing tandem teaching) - More events should be organised for students to improve community spirit (such as "Finland's Most Student-friendly City" event) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Universities - Students' unions - Opiskelijan Tampere Association



3. Urban landscape, environment and traffic

CURRENT STATE

- Students move about by bicycle and on foot, and they are active users of public transportation
- In a student-friendly city, these modes of transport should be promoted – this is one of the strategic goals of the city of Tampere
- The year-round use of the different modes of transport is challenging
- The city of Tampere has good public transportation between the main student housing areas and educational establishments
- There is no public transportation that would link up the three university campuses



STUDENTS' CHALLENGES	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
1. PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE WAYS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students often move about on bikes and on foot - Good pedestrian and bicycle ways are considered to be important (also when looking for a dwelling) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Biking and walking should be made easier, with pedestrian and bicycle ways, signs, and bicycle parking areas and lanes - More car parks should be moved below ground and multi-storey bicycle parks constructed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Universities - Students' unions
2. MORE STUDENT-FRIENDLY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pricing of public transportation - Increasing the use of public transportation among students - The pricing of public transportation is not equal for all students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The pricing of public transportation should be equal for all students (domicile, age) - Public transportation should be considered a question of image, rather than cost - Student discounts in public transportation should be made more clear and equal - Students should be taken into account, when schedules are planned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Students' unions



STUDENTS' CHALLENGES

SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS

THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED

3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY CENTRE AND THE TULLI DISTRICT

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The needs of students should be taken into account in the city centre- The Tulli district, important for students, should be made more lively- Unbuilt urban space should be utilised better	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The city centre should have more pedestrian streets and public transportation- The Tulli district should be linked to the city centre and the university with sensible routes and solutions (e.g., a covered route with railway overpasses and underpasses)- Unbuilt urban space and parks should be developed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- City- University- Real estate owners- Students' unions- Companies in the area
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4. CAMPUS SERVICE NETWORK

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lack of services around campuses- Campuses are too quiet outside the busiest hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Services on and around campuses should be improved (e.g. grocery shops, cash points, bars, exercise and spare-time facilities)- Some of the services should be available round-the-clock	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- City- Companies- Universities- Students' unions- Suomen Yliopistokiinteistöt Oy
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4. Entrepreneurship and employment

CURRENT STATE

- A total of 40% of university students and 49% of students of universities of applied sciences consider it very likely that they will be employed in the same field that they are studying.
- A total of 54% of university students and 61% of students of universities of applied sciences work during their study terms
- Students do not get sufficient information about employment opportunities and entrepreneurship from their studies and the current services.
- It is challenging for international students to find employment (even summer jobs)



CHALLENGES (FOR STUDENTS)	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
1. EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employment in one's own field - Employment in a meaningful job - Employment in the Tampere region - Job-seeking process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The supply of employment services for students should be improved and made less complex - Employment services should be offered to university students throughout their studies - Cooperation between employment service providers should be improved - Employment services for university graduates and recruiting services for students should be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Universities - Unipoli - Students' unions - ELY Centres/TE Offices
2. ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND EMPLOYMENT SKILLS OF STUDENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid development of the employment sector - Combining studies and work - Creating networks - Finding employment is challenging - Companies do not know how to utilise the students' skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Entrepreneurship and employment skills should be adopted as a natural part of studies - The business network should be improved - More examples from the world of work should be included in studies - The job-seeking skills of students should be improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Educational establishments - Student associations



CHALLENGES (FOR STUDENTS)	SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDENTS	THOSE IN CHARGE/PARTNERS SUGGESTED
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3. ENCOURAGING STUDENTS TO BECOME ENTREPRENEURS

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students' attitude towards entrepreneurship - A difficulty to step across the threshold of becoming an entrepreneur - Complex and unclear entrepreneur services - Lack of cooperation between organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A joint operations model should be developed between educational establishments, business service providers, representatives of business life and the city - Student-led entrepreneur cooperation should be improved - The city and the educational establishments should, together, encourage students to become entrepreneurs, at all education levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Educational establishments - ELY Centre - Business organisations - Students' unions
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4. PRACTICAL TRAINING

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of training jobs - The content of practical training is not challenging and versatile enough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The availability of training jobs and the content of training should be improved - The summer job voucher system should be improved - Studies and practical training should be made more flexible - The image of practical training among employers should be improved - The city, universities and companies should, together, explore ways to provide training jobs to international students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City - Universities - Business organisations - Students' unions
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Next Steps

- The information acquired from the workshops about the challenges faced by students, and the suggested solutions, provide a solid foundation for making Tampere Finland's most student-friendly city
- On the basis of the results from the workshops, further discussions will be held with key organisations, and the implementation of the goals will be examined in connection with the city's budget preparations, both with politicians and civil servants (goals – measures and their implementation, schedule – metering and follow-up)
- In the future, the city of Tampere will take into account the needs of students better and also promote the students' goals in its national influencing work

TAMPERE WILL BE FINLAND'S MOST STUDENT-FRIENDLY CITY IN 2017

