



1 HYY's strategy 2016–2020

2 Purpose and use of the strategy

3 The strategy is the highest document guiding the activities of the Student Union of the University of Helsinki
4 (HYY). The document reviews the entire student union and its objectives as a whole. The strategy describes
5 HYY's dream, purpose, values and objectives for the next five-year term.

6 The strategy is the highest document guiding HYY's activities, and its significance is emphasised particularly in
7 the preparatory work for HYY's other policy documents, such as policy papers and programmes. The strategy
8 also serves as a tool for the planning of annual activities and is taken into account in the planning of the
9 programme of objectives. The programme of objectives states the strategic objectives that are under particular
10 scrutiny during the period in question.

11 Dream

12 The world's happiest students build a fairer world.

13 Purpose

14 The Student Union is a community that provides its members with support and the space to grow into active,
15 cognizant and critical citizens. The Student Union's purpose is to act as an interest representative, taking care
16 of the members' interests and their status in society as valued figures.

17 Values

18 Education

19 Education refers to the critical awareness and understanding of the surrounding world. Education is not only
20 book knowledge but also the ability to share, create and apply knowledge in order to benefit society.
21 Knowledge, understanding and the willingness to accept different opinions and views are important in HYY's
22 activities. The Student Union supports the academic growth of the members. HYY seeks to promote its
23 members' education and prepare them to act as active members of society.



24 **Equality**

25 Equality in HYY means that the student union is a place where everyone can and is allowed to express
26 themselves. HYY is a diverse community where everyone has equal opportunities. HYY's diversity is also
27 visible to the outside world. The Student Union treats its members equally and does not treat anyone
28 unequally. HYY is multicultural, opposes racism and sexism and does not tolerate any form of discrimination.

29 **Humanity**

30 In HYY, humanity is apparent in the way that each individual is important and deserves fair treatment in the
31 student union, university and society. HYY's members have the right to feel safe and be approved. The student
32 union activities promote the students' possibilities to human life during study years – including satisfying
33 studies, subsistence, housing and leisure time.

34 **Courage**

35 Courage refers to a courage to form one's own opinions, try out something new, have influence and
36 demonstrate if necessary. HYY comments on issues concerning students and acts as a pioneer that predicts
37 social phenomena. As a unique community, HYY is a strong and confident societal actor – a bold student union
38 dares to disagree, take risks and present new solutions.

39 **Responsibility**

40 Responsibility means responsibility for members, employees, academic community, environment and the
41 surrounding society. The Student Union takes care of the position of students at the university and in society.
42 Responsible operations include open, upright and transparent decision making. The Student Union takes social
43 responsibility by supporting the students' growth into responsible members of society.

44 **Objectives**

45 **Student Union**

46 **Courageous policymaker**

47 As an interest representative, HYY must continually develop itself and ensure that its advocacy skills are up to
48 date. The advocacy field is changing. In addition to traditional advocacy in cabinets, the means of advocacy
49 communications are becoming essential, such as public advocacy and social movements created around
50 individual matters.

51 HYY's advocacy meets the needs and expectations of the members and is relevant in terms of the members'
52 studies and well-being. HYY's advocacy is based on research information and it is convincing. HYY is a well-
53 known and professional partner for interest groups, politicians and the media. The Student Union is eager to
54 defend, challenge and develop the academic community.

55 Indicators: The number of statement requests directed at HYY, reachability of HYY's advocacy
56 communications, achievement of objectives



57 **Student-oriented activities**

58 HYY is a platform for various activities and provides opportunities for independent activities of the members.
59 It is easy to join HYY's activities and organisations. HYY's services meet the needs and wishes of the members
60 and organisations. Member benefits acquired through Frank Students are competitive and visible to students.

61 Students know that they belong to HYY and want to be its members. In addition, HYY has a good reputation
62 and it is an interesting place to work.

63 Indicators: Students' satisfaction with HYY, satisfaction of the staff

64 **Place to grow**

65 The purpose of the Student Union is to educate its members, which is also mentioned in the Universities Act.
66 The educational mission does not only refer to one-way training but to a community where individuals can
67 develop, learn and foster. HYY has a successful plan to train active members and the personnel. HYY's
68 members are a unique group of smart people whose know-how is utilised and highlighted. The Student
69 Union's educational mission is known and acknowledged in society and the university.

70 Indicators: Number of persons who participate in organisational activities, number of training sessions
71 organised by HYY, number of people who participate in training sessions

72 **Power and influence**

73 Students know how to have influence in HYY and use their power actively. HYY is a democratic community
74 where one can have influence. It is easy to join HYY's activities. HYY takes into account the heterogeneity of
75 the members and members are equal to each other.

76 Indicators: Turnout in the Representative Council elections, implementation of the equality plan, students'
77 satisfaction with their own ability to have influence, the number of volunteers.

78 **University**

79 **Room to learn**

80 Community prevents exclusion and facilitates studies. HYY's aim is that students have an adequate number
81 of accessible, purposeful and open study facilities that support communality on all campuses. In 2020,
82 university facilities are open for use and enable various encounters.

83 Indicators: Students' satisfaction with study facilities, the number of open learning facilities on campuses, the
84 diversity of facilities on campuses, utilisation rate of the exam aquarium

85 **Functional student counselling for everyone**

86 Student counselling as a broad concept includes study planning and personal guidance and it also maintains
87 the ability to study. The study ability is a student's ability to work. The role of guidance is essential in terms of
88 a student's well-being and study progress. In 2020, high-quality study counselling is available and it takes into
89 account the students' unequal starting points, study problems and the needs for special support. The Student



90 Union supports and promotes the implementation of digital systems that facilitate studying and study
91 planning.

92 Indicators: Students' satisfaction with study counselling, availability of study support services

93 **University as the cradle of democracy**

94 A democratic university allows the creation of new ideas and the independent internal development of the
95 university. Community members are equal to each other. Students are an important part of democratic
96 decision-making, they are involved in decision-making from preparation to completion. Students know how to
97 have influence and participate in decision-making at the university. In 2020, the decision-making culture at the
98 University of Helsinki is communal.

99 Indicators: Students' satisfaction with their own ability to have influence, results of the student representative
100 survey, international students' opportunity to act in different administrative organs, voter turnout in student
101 representative elections

102 **Society**

103 **Home for all**

104 Home is a basic condition for a good life. HYY actively has influence on the city in order to increase student
105 housing. The Student Union and HOAS have a strong partnership and HOAS provides students with a wide
106 range of high-quality apartments. In 2020, diverse, adequate and affordable housing is available for students in
107 the metropolitan area.

108 Indicators: Percentage of student income spent on housing expenses, the number of student apartments in
109 relation to the number of students, the number of homeless students, tenant satisfaction at HOAS

110 **Enabling full-time studies**

111 The students' income consists of diverse parts and it may be challenging to plan subsistence. The students'
112 subsistence must be sufficient and enable full-time studies, as well as have flexibility in different situations in
113 life – whether it consists of the student financial aid or other form of subsistence. In 2020, basic income or a
114 similar student financial aid system where the level of support is adequate and individual-based, will be in use.

115 Indicators: Exists/does not exist: basic income, basic income experiment, students' transition to the general
116 housing allowance, student financial aid being tied to the index. Quantitative indicator: euro amount of student
117 financial aid

118 **Well-being improves studies**

119 Students' well-being is a prerequisite for learning. HYY defends high-quality student health care and ensures
120 that all HYY members have a community where to make acquaintances and friends. In 2020, students receive
121 affordable and high-quality health care services, which take into account physical, mental and social well-
122 being. In addition to student health care, the students' well-being services also cover good sports services, the
123 availability of which must be ensured.



124 Indicators: Access to health care, the number of persons who need mental health services in relation to those
125 who receive the services, students' satisfaction with FSHS services, the number of students who experience
126 loneliness, the number of sports services

127 **Students' city**

128 In 2020, students are a valued part of the image of Helsinki. The Student Union has fruitful partnerships with
129 the organisations in the city. The city services reach the student union members and serve them in an excellent
130 way. The Student Union is a specialist in major urban affairs that concern students. HYY effectively has
131 influence on a better daily life and future of students. In its advocacy work, the Student Union utilises current
132 research information, its active members and networks. The Student Union cooperates with other student
133 organisations, in particular.

134 Indicators: Implementation of the Student Union's urban objectives in municipal politics, local media coverage,
135 students' awareness of the Student Union's urban advocacy, the number of urban events related to students

136 **Education belongs to all**

137 Education maintains civilisation and humanity. Free education prevents inequality in society. The Student
138 Union prevents the spreading of fees to new groups and has influence on the restoring of free education for
139 non-EU/EEA students. In 2020, education is free for all, and the University of Helsinki does not support tuition
140 fees.

141 Indicators: Exists/does not exist: Act on tuition fees. Quantitative indicator: The number of student groups
142 who pay tuition fees, politicians' attitudes towards the tuition fees.

143