

Municipal election platform

Tampere is home to a large number of students. You are now reading the election platform of 35,000 students of Tampere that was written by the Student Union of Tampere University and the Students' Union of Tampere University of Applied Sciences together. Students were widely involved in the preparations of the platform and each student of the universities community has had an opportunity to comment on the objectives of the platform. The result is a vision of four themes about the best student city in Finland, Tampere, where it is good to study, work, have hobbies, live, and move around both during studies and after them.

Study ability, well-being, and urban culture

Tampere is an attractive university city with a good image and high-quality study opportunities. It is no wonder that every sixth resident of Tampere is a student. We students are a large, diverse group of people, and we need and use the City's services just as much as everyone else.

As the best Finnish city for students, Tampere should actively invest in supporting study ability and well-being as well as ensure that social and healthcare services are accessible to all students in different life situations. Maintaining an attractive, lively, and safe urban environment and culture and offering various leisure activities are also important investments in order to improve students' quality of life and the City's ability to keep its residents.

- Parks, places for outdoor activities and free-to-use spaces for all residents contribute to well-being and help promote various recreational activities. The City invests in making the city centre welcoming and lively. The centre is a living room for the City's residents. All campus areas are important focus points in city development.
- Students are viewed as an important part of urban culture. The City is flexible and excited to support even the wildest event ideas of students. Student associations are offered discounts when renting the City's facilities. Students are considered an important group in cultural policy-making, and local culture is actively promoted.

- The City of Tampere offers various reasonably priced sports services to students. There are open-air gyms and other free outdoor exercise opportunities in popular student neighbourhoods.
- Flexible early childhood education services help support students with families. Day care centres located near campuses have enough available places for children.
- Social services understand the daily lives, financial situations, and well-being of both Finnish and international students.
- The City of Tampere and the Finnish Student Health Service act in close cooperation with TREY, Tamko and the rest of the universities community in matters related to the health and well-being of students. Students are referred to the services they need regardless of the institution providing those services. The healthcare services the City provides for exchange students are accessible and of a high quality.
- The free contraception policy is extended to cover all young residents of Tampere under the age of 25. Different forms of contraception are offered free of charge, taking the diversity of gender and sexuality into account.

- All the City's services offer English-language service. The website of the City of Tampere is fully translated into English.
- The City's digital services are extensive and current, and their development is user-centred.
- The City continues its goal-oriented climate policy that takes the future of the student generation into account. The climate policy ensures that the City will become carbon neutral by 2030.
- Decisions are prepared openly and democratically to allow everyone to participate in decision-making. Possibilities to participate in English are increased.

Employment policy and the universities community

The students of Tampere are studying to become future experts in various fields. Many of us students, both Finnish and international, would like to complete our practical training and find employment here in Tampere, but are often forced to move elsewhere for work. We believe that our employment opportunities in Tampere could be improved.

To allow the City of Tampere to harness the expertise of its students, we should be offered different kinds of internships and practical trainings as well as thesis work and course project opportunities.

Opportunities for cooperation between the City and the universities community can be found in almost all fields.

However, we students are a lot more than just future workforce: we are part of the universities community whose knowledge and expertise should also be utilised in the City's decision-making.

- Students of various fields are offered paid training opportunities in the City's different departments.
- The City works in tight cooperation with the universities community. The cooperation includes organising courses as well as executing project, course, and thesis work.
- The universities community is an important cooperation partner in the City's development. Research and the expertise of students is extensively valued in the development of the City and its services.

- Students form an important part of the City's workforce. The City develops its employment policy to allow employers to take students and recent graduates better into consideration. The City launches a mentoring programme that supports the beginning of the careers of students and recent graduates.
- The City of Tampere offers businesses information about the degree profiles in Tampere Universities.
- The City offers opportunities for networking with businesses for both Finnish and international students.
- The employment services of Tampere are developed in cooperation with TE Services (public employment and business services) to help highly educated people find employment and to take international professionals better into consideration.
- The City of Tampere introduces anonymous recruiting practices where the background information of applicants, such as age, gender, or ethnic background, will not be revealed to the recruiter before job interviews. Anonymous recruiting reinforces the equality of working life.

- Tampere offers support services for students and recent graduates who are either getting into entrepreneurship or have already become entrepreneurs.
- A one-hour train service between Helsinki and Tampere improves the education, employment and practical training opportunities of people living in Tampere as well as fortifies the City's vitality and its status as a working area.
- The City of Tampere is one of the founding members of Tampere University. In this role, it promotes the long-term building of a high-quality universities community and works openly while listening to the community.

Housing policy

Housing has an essential role in good everyday life. Reasonably priced quality housing improves students' quality of life, supports their financial situation, and creates a stronger sense of community. We students need different kinds of housing options in various locations: one prefers to share a

flat in Hervanta, the other enjoys living in a family apartment in the city centre, whereas the third is happy to live in a studio in Kaleva.

Student housing services are not able to meet the needs of all students, and there are not enough student flats for everyone. For this reason, Tampere needs moderately priced and student-friendly housing that should be offered by both the City and private renters.

High-quality student housing is environmentally friendly. Housing policy and land use planning that respect the limits of the environment promote a carbon neutral, sustainable Tampere.

- Diverse student housing options are planned in central residential areas near the Universities' campuses and units. Densification is favoured in urban planning policy without sacrificing an attractive living environment.

- Ecological sustainability is considered in urban planning projects.

Green urban areas are systematically increased, and nature is kept as untouched as possible in city development.

- The parking space norm is relaxed to free up space for useful purposes and to lower housing costs. The City is not required to regulate the number of parking spaces in student housing areas in the city centre or along the tram route.
- The City is determined to support housing options that promote communality, which makes it possible for students from different backgrounds to meet.
- The increase in rent level is controlled by prioritising the planning of reasonably priced rental flats, so that students and recent graduates can find housing in the private housing market as well.
- Students with families are also considered in land use planning!

Transport policy

We students travel from one place to another primarily by bike, on foot or by public transport. These sustainable means of transport are also at the core of the City's transport policy.

Affordable public transport encourages people to explore the City of Tampere and opt for low-emission vehicles. For these reasons, the public transport services should have a fair student discount that is applied to all students.

Developing the city centre so that it is accessible to all walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users makes the City more pleasant and ensures that it remains lively 24 hours a day, every day of the year.

Taking usability and safety aspects into account in cycle paths and walkways will take us one step closer to not only a carbon neutral but also more student-friendly Tampere.

- All students, exchange students and students over 30 included, receive a fair public transport discount all year round.
- All campuses and units of the Universities can be reached by public transport at frequent intervals.
- The tram network and local train traffic are developed as a part of a student-friendly public transport system.
- Public transport services are also extensively available at night. No night fares are charged.

- The mobile ticket application also allows the purchase of season and value tickets.
- The public transport card is developed together with the providers of transport services in a way that the same card can also be used to pay for, as an example, the use of e-scooters. With common ground rules of sustainable development, e-scooter companies commit to developing their operations.
- The City supports low-emission traffic by offering low-emission vehicles discounts for parking and by increasing the number of charging points for electric vehicles.
- The maintenance of cycle paths and walkways is of a high quality all year round. Essential routes will be kept clear of ice and safe to use.
- Traffic arrangements around construction sites are clearly marked to ensure the smoothness of cycling and walking. The City actively monitors the functionality of the special arrangements.
- People can move between campuses and in other essential areas easily and safely by bike. Cycle paths are developed in cooperation with those who use them.

- The city bike system promotes moving around effortlessly in the City.
City bikes are also available on campuses and in central student housing areas.
- Solid bicycle racks with frame locking and racks for e-scooters are available everywhere in the City.