



**The Student Union of the University of Oulu**

## **Draft: Urban-political programme**

### **Urban-political influencing objectives of the Student Union.**

The document details three (3) urban-political influencing determined through the city survey carried out by the Student Union, as well as work done in the office. Additionally, OYY's strategy and political policy paper as well as results of Männikkömetsä Oy's Student City Oulu -project have been utilised in drafting of the document.

Our objective is for students to be recognised as a part of Oulu's regional community. The city of Oulu, the university and the Student Union must have a clear and consistent vision of the image of the city, as the city's reputation is integral to attractiveness as well. In the next council term 2025-2029, special attention must be given to improving the pleasantness and vitality of the city of Oulu. It's important to attract new students, but also to support graduating students in remaining in Oulu. The university students of Oulu, both Finnish and international, are highly skilled people with lots of potential.

## **Objective 1: Oulu is the best city in Finland for a student**

Students are the largest individual user group of public transportation. As the best student city, Oulu needs a sustainable and comprehensive public transportation system from students' homes to both campuses and between campuses. **The public transportation network must be expanded** in order to make it easier to commute in Oulu horizontally as well. Additionally, students must be taken into consideration more in the pricing of public transportation. **Bike maintenance points are needed in the city centre and near campuses** as well as safe bike parking spaces.

Apartments for students must remain affordable and high-quality near campuses as well as elsewhere in the city. **The city of Oulu must support new production of student housing** e.g. by offering cheaper lots for construction of student apartments. Lots must be located along good public transportation routes. The city does not demand car parking spaces in student housing construction particularly in the city centre and campus areas.

### **Objectives:**

- Improving public transportation and adding a 50 % student discount to season and single tickets.
- Adding maintenance points and parking spaces for bicycles.
- Supporting affordable and high-quality new production of student housing.

## **Objective 2: More work experience and jobs for students**

In the next council term, the city of Oulu must commit to students remaining in Oulu. Currently, only 42 % of university students wish to stay in Oulu after graduation (Männikömetsä Oy). **Students' employment in Oulu must be supported** through different initiatives and investments, and employment opportunities must be communicated to students already during their studies.

Employment is improved e.g. by **adding competitive summer job and traineeship spots specifically tailored for students** and communicating about them publicly and, if possible, bilingually. Gaining work experience from one's own field already during studies strengthens the possibility of remaining in Oulu after graduation. The city of Oulu must also **lead by example in getting international students employed**. Finnish language skills are not required if they are not essential for the job. Finnish language studies while working are supported as it advances integration into Finland.

### **Objectives:**

- Adding summer job and traineeship spots specifically tailored for students.
- Jobs and employment opportunities are communicated more clearly already during studies.
- International students are taken into consideration more in offering and communicating about jobs.

### **Objective 3: There is room for studying and student culture in Oulu**

Students must be taken into consideration in planning of city spaces. Not all students live near campus, so **a sufficient amount of spaces must be available for independent study and group work also off-campus**. According to results of the city survey, more study spaces are needed particularly in the city centre area and in libraries. Students also wish for more **recreation and club spaces for leisure time activities** which can be reserved by students and particularly student organisations free of charge or for more affordable rates than those of private providers.

The city of Oulu adds more versatile and affordable sports and culture activities for students. **Sports and culture services must be easily accessible and more transparently communicated**. The number of international students is on the rise, so bilinguality must be taken into account in communication. Easily reservable exercise spaces must be added and communicated to students e.g. through student organisations.

#### **Objectives:**

- Students are offered a sufficient amount of spaces for study and culture activities also off-campus.
- Spaces meant for studying are added particularly in the city centre and in libraries.
- Versatile, affordable and accessible sports and culture activities for students.