

## **KY's policy paper (Linjapaperi)**

This document outlines the opinions of KY - Aalto University Business Students on various matters. Unlike a strategy or an action plan, a policy paper does not create operational activities but instead guides them.

KY - Aalto University Business Students is an association for business students at Aalto University. We exist solely for – and because of – our members. Every degree student at Aalto University School of Business is eligible to join KY.

KY's policy paper takes a stand on certain issues which KY actively promotes. In a broader context, this Policy Paper follows that of AYY's Policy Paper, narrowed down to issues affecting mostly our student base. The purpose of the policy paper is to establish clear positions for KY, so that our work can continue consistently, regardless of who is in charge or where KY's members are involved.

KY supports and encourages the educational mission of Aalto University School of Business, keeping in mind the university's core functions: teaching and research, which complement and strengthen each other. The impact of this work comes from broad-based education and studies that are both challenging and rewarding, offering students opportunities for growth as well as moments of success.

The document includes a list of advocacy goals and opinions, marked with bullet points. The policy paper is especially meant to support KY's advocacy work. It is applied throughout all activities of the student association and is based on KY's core values – Community, Open-minded, and Member-Driven.

<b>1. Student Representation and Decision-Making</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. Teaching, Quality, and Assessment</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. Student Intake</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. Language Policy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5. Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>6. External Advocacy</b>	<b>6</b>

## **1. Student Representation and Decision-Making**

- KY maintains strong relationships with faculty and participates in decision-making processes.
- Students must be represented in both decision-making and preparatory bodies at Aalto University. Deputies must be appointed, and student representatives must have access to all relevant information. Student voices must also be heard during informal preparatory stages—while there is still a genuine opportunity to influence decisions
- Decisions are made as close as possible to the students affected by them and involve them in the process.
- KY's Board members responsible for Academic Affairs and student association academic affairs responsibilities form the Aalto BIZ hallopeds.
- Recruitment of teachers and professors must be transparent and inclusive, with student input included (e.g., via Teacher Competence Assessment Committee).
- Attending university decision-making meetings must be a valid reason for absence from class.

## **2. Teaching, Quality, and Assessment**

- A bachelor's degree provides students with valuable academic and professional competencies and a strong foundation for master's studies, while a master's degree further deepens these skills and builds advanced professional expertise.
- New programs and majors must not be started without thorough planning, as this risks leaving some students with weaker academic foundations.
- KY challenges the GPA-centric mindset by promoting a culture where demonstrated competence is valued more.
- Each course must have a syllabus or similar document available on MyCourses (or similar) at the beginning of the course, including at minimum the assessment criteria, course timetable, and information about mandatory attendance.
- The level of difficulty across courses should be consistent, and the workload per credit must be uniform regardless of the instructor.

- Grade inflation undermines the value of degrees and must be addressed to ensure meaningful evaluation of learning.
- Student feedback must lead to concrete course development. Feedback must be anonymous, published and used to drive improvement.
- Students must be informed of alternative course completion methods – such as remote learning, independent study, or online options.
- Compulsory courses must support the learning objectives of the degree, and efforts are made to reduce compulsory courses in the degree that do not provide added value for the student.
- Students must have an opportunity to complete required courses, ensured through guaranteed course access or meaningful alternatives, and sufficient space in mandatory-attendance classes
- There should be enough high-quality study spaces for business students for independent studying and group working.
- Withdrawing from a course must not negatively impact a student's grade in future attempts.
- Attendance requirements must not force students to attend while ill.
- If a student retakes a course, they have a right to request previous group or coursework to be considered in the new attempt.
- Students must have the opportunity to review their exam performance if the exam is not automatically made available.
- Online courses must support learning equally to in-person instruction.
- Writing the bachelor's thesis during summer must be possible for all majors.
- Changing major or degree program within Aalto should be made easy.

### **3. Student Intake**

- The number of business student admissions must be critically evaluated.
- Decision-making regarding student intake must be transparent, data-driven, and involve student representation.
- The growth of English-taught bachelor's programs must be planned carefully to ensure quality, availability of teaching resources, and integration of students.

### **4. Language Policy**

- KY aims to enable more English-language opportunities for international students.
- Students in Finnish-medium bachelor's programs must be allowed to take exams in Finnish, even in English-taught courses, regardless of major.
- Departments must adhere to their own language policies and ensure study paths in both English and Finnish are available.
- The university must offer a variety of field-specific language courses.
- Studying both domestic and foreign languages must remain accessible and should not require mandatory attendance.
- English refresher courses should be provided for students needing support in academic English.
- Teachers' language proficiency must be considered in curriculum planning; poor language skills must not affect course quality.
- When instruction is in Finnish or Swedish, Swedish-speaking students must have the right to complete exams and assignments in Swedish.
- Teaching, supervision, and guidance must be of equal quality in all languages.

## **5. Artificial Intelligence**

- AI should not be used to generate academic texts but can support idea generation and critical thinking.
- All sanctions related to AI misuse must be clearly communicated and understood by students.
- Increasing students' workload by adding exams or other assignments is not an acceptable way to try to prevent the use of AI or other tools.
- Students' academic work must not be assessed by artificial intelligence systems.

## **6. External Advocacy**

- KY expects Suomen Ekonomit to provide strong advocacy on issues that affect students and recent graduates.
- Students must have clear and easy ways to take part in decision-making in Suomen Ekonomit. KY supports this in turn by promoting openness and encouraging more students to get involved.
- KY actively collaborates with other business student associations to strengthen student advocacy and ensure that all business students' voices are heard, regardless of which association they're a part of.
- KY ensures that business students are visibly and equally represented alongside technology and arts students in AYY's decision-making and communications. We actively monitor and influence the development of AYY's policy paper to support this goal.
- KY is committed to active participation in AYY's committees. We lead by example and ensure that every KY subject association takes part in assembling committees, promoting broad and balanced involvement across the community.