

JYU for YOU E05

00:00:00.180 --> 00:00:01.890

[Irfan] Oh,
you've seen Santa Claus personally?

00:00:01.890 --> 00:00:04.500

[Venla] Yes. I lived in the same city
as Santa Claus.

00:00:04.500 --> 00:00:09.390

There's a Santa Claus village there.
Uh, the student union is like,

00:00:09.390 --> 00:00:12.240

in Finnish law,
every university has to have a

00:00:12.240 --> 00:00:15.960

student union,
and we do the advocacy work for

00:00:15.960 --> 00:00:20.340

students in the university level,
city level, many different levels.

00:00:20.340 --> 00:00:25.110

And we take care of the students

and make sure they have the rights.

00:00:25.110 --> 00:00:28.230

And the student life is the best
that they can have.

00:00:28.230 --> 00:00:31.510

[Irfan] So, what is kind of like a message
that you would want to leave off

00:00:31.510 --> 00:00:36.580

incoming international students
in particular? [Venla] Just get involved.

00:00:37.210 --> 00:00:41.650

I learned that our university
does many things very well.

00:00:44.350 --> 00:00:46.510

[Irfan] That's going to be the
promotional: Our University.

00:00:46.510 --> 00:00:48.190

does many things very well.

00:00:48.190--> 00:00:59.190

[Intro music]

00:00:59.190--> 00:01:00.060

Terve ja tervetuloa!

00:01:00.060 --> 00:01:03.300

Welcome to the JYU for YOU podcast.

My name is Irfan Durmić and I'm

00:01:03.300 --> 00:01:05.850

your host with the most glasnost.

Today we're joined by the

00:01:05.850 --> 00:01:08.910

international affairs representative

on the board of the Student Union,

00:01:08.910 --> 00:01:12.240

Venla Suosalo, who will tell us

about her work on the board of the

00:01:12.240 --> 00:01:15.870

student union, explain the structure

of the student union and tell us

00:01:15.870 --> 00:01:18.610

about the cool things that the

student union does for the students

00:01:18.610 --> 00:01:21.970

of the University of Jyväskylä.

We will also hear how you, as new

00:01:21.970 --> 00:01:24.940

students and current students at JYU,
could actually become

00:01:24.940 --> 00:01:30.460

involved with the Student Union.
Stay tuned. Cheers.

00:01:30.610 --> 00:01:34.240

Okei, no niin. Oletko valmis? [Venla]
Olen. [Irfan] I would also say that in French,

00:01:34.240 --> 00:01:37.720

but I don't know anything
in French.

00:01:37.720 --> 00:01:42.540

So, um, I'm really trying not to
have a every podcast start with

00:01:42.540 --> 00:01:45.990

a discussion about the weather,
but I have to go with the weather.

00:01:46.350 --> 00:01:48.240

Uh, Venla,

How are you enjoying this weather

00:01:48.240 --> 00:01:52.200

today? [Venla] It's very nice today.

To me, it's not too warm.

00:01:52.200 --> 00:01:55.470

It's not too cold. It starts to feel a bit
like fall, which

00:01:55.470 --> 00:01:58.230

I like. So, it's very nice. [Irfan]

It feels genuinely,

00:01:58.230 --> 00:02:01.290

like really fresh. [Venla] Yeah.

I was just passing up that hill,

00:02:01.290 --> 00:02:04.710

like, right next to that new S-market
that they opened nearby.

00:02:04.710 --> 00:02:09.130

Not sponsored by S Group, but we
like the S-market. At least I do.

00:02:09.640 --> 00:02:12.190

Um, and I was just like, feeling,
you know, when you exit that door

00:02:12.220 --> 00:02:15.220
of the, of the store, it just,
like, felt so kind of fresh that,

00:02:15.220 --> 00:02:21.430
like mixture of fall vibes, almost
like... Almost like you're next to

00:02:21.430 --> 00:02:24.490
the sea or something like that.
[Venla] Yeah, it's a little bit chill,

00:02:24.490 --> 00:02:28.690
so it's like nice and cold fresh,
but you still just like don't

00:02:28.690 --> 00:02:33.020
really need a jacket or anything.
It's warm. Sun is shining... [Irfan]

00:02:33.440 --> 00:02:36.410
Okay, but aren't you kind of,
like, accustomed to weather that,

00:02:36.410 --> 00:02:40.250

like, you know, you're from a much colder place than this place. [Venla] Yeah.

00:02:40.250 --> 00:02:43.850

[Irfan] So, you you're originally from Rovaniemi? [Venla] Yes.

00:02:43.850 --> 00:02:46.700

[Irfan] And am I even remotely properly pronouncing that? [Venla] Yeah.

00:02:46.700 --> 00:02:49.880

It's pronounced well. [Irfan] Okay, great. So, I can add that to one of the

00:02:49.880 --> 00:02:53.090

few cities that I can actually properly pronounce on this podcast.

00:02:53.270 --> 00:02:56.950

So, I'm assuming most people who know about Finland probably

00:02:56.950 --> 00:02:59.590

haven't heard about Rovaniemi, but they know about the general,

00:02:59.590 --> 00:03:02.920

you know, Lapland area and whatever.

Yeah, but Rovaniemi falls into

00:03:02.920 --> 00:03:07.600

Lapland or am I completely... [Venla] Yeah.

Many people actually... They do know

00:03:07.600 --> 00:03:11.890

Rovaniemi. Not maybe the name, but in

Rovaniemi there's Santa Claus there.

00:03:11.920 --> 00:03:14.770

[Irfan] Oh yeah. [Venla] So, they know the place.

[Irfan] I think the Canadians would

00:03:14.770 --> 00:03:21.260

disagree on that point. [Venla] No.

They're wrong. I have seen it.

00:03:21.890 --> 00:03:23.690

[Irfan] Oh,

you've seen Santa Claus personally?

00:03:23.690 --> 00:03:26.300

[Venla] Yes. I lived in the same city

as Santa Claus.

00:03:26.300 --> 00:03:29.510

There's a Santa Claus village there.

[Irfan] Oh, can you be our connection then?

00:03:29.510 --> 00:03:32.090

I'm trying to figure out who's
going to be the next podcast guest.

00:03:32.090 --> 00:03:34.160

And I would love...

I would love to have Santa Claus.

00:03:34.160 --> 00:03:39.020

[Venla] I know an elf that works there also.

[Irfan] Oh, so, like a special connection!

00:03:39.020 --> 00:03:41.090

We can have the elf.

Can we also have a reindeer?

00:03:41.090 --> 00:03:46.650

You know, we can have the trifecta.

An elf, a reindeer, and, uh,

00:03:46.650 --> 00:03:50.520

Santa Claus. [Venla] Yeah.

[Irfan] But, what was it like growing

00:03:50.520 --> 00:03:51.870

up basically in, like, uh.

Because, I mean,

00:03:51.870 --> 00:03:55.560

the main industry in Rovaniemi
is tourism, I'm guessing. [Venla] Yes.

00:03:55.650 --> 00:03:58.800

[Irfan] And the factory,
I guess Santa Claus' factory. [Venla] Yeah.

00:03:58.800 --> 00:04:01.980

And it's close to traveling or so.
[Irfan] Okay.

00:04:01.980 --> 00:04:05.730

So, what was it like to just grow
up there? [Venla] Uh, it was nice.

00:04:05.730 --> 00:04:09.530

And it was a nice place to grow up as
a kid. It was a lot of, like, nature.

00:04:09.530 --> 00:04:12.500

And it's very quiet because it's
not that big city.

00:04:12.950 --> 00:04:16.370

It was a nice place to grow up.

When you grow up a little bit older,

00:04:16.370 --> 00:04:19.610

there's really nothing else to do.

So, you kind of want to.

00:04:19.940 --> 00:04:22.700

To my case,

I wanted to leave there, but as a

00:04:22.700 --> 00:04:27.230

kid is very nice. Cold because the

winter is like almost six months.

00:04:27.590 --> 00:04:30.900

It's very long and cold,

but I like it. [Irfan]

00:04:31.230 --> 00:04:36.630

What's the lowest temperature you've

been in? [Venla] Uh, minus... Close to -40.

00:04:37.290 --> 00:04:40.110

[Irfan] Okay, so I guess this winter in

January was kind of like:

00:04:40.110 --> 00:04:43.290

Oh, this seems familiar. [Venla]

Yeah. It's like, to me,

00:04:43.290 --> 00:04:46.800

it's a joke because people coming,
like, from south to here, like, oh,

00:04:46.800 --> 00:04:50.400

there's like a real winter in
Jyväskylä. I'm like. Real winter?

00:04:50.610 --> 00:04:53.850

No, it's just winter. [Irfan]

This is winter for amateurs.

00:04:53.850 --> 00:04:56.630

[Venla] Yeah. You want to know
real winter? You go to Lapland.

00:04:57.230 --> 00:05:00.860

[Irfan] So, uh, does Rovaniemi have
a university or something?

00:05:00.860 --> 00:05:02.540

Were you ever considering to
stay there?

00:05:02.540 --> 00:05:04.790

[Venla] Uh, there is University of Lapland there.

00:05:05.270 --> 00:05:09.920

Uh, I wasn't considering because, uh, because I wanted to move out

00:05:09.920 --> 00:05:11.870

of Rovaniemi.

Somewhere like close to south.

00:05:11.870 --> 00:05:14.990

Because Rovaniemi is very far, so you can't really leave there

00:05:15.140 --> 00:05:19.350

that easily. So, I didn't.

And also there wasn't the field

00:05:19.350 --> 00:05:22.170

I want to study.

So, there wasn't like

00:05:22.170 --> 00:05:25.950

opportunities I want to do. [Irfan] Okay.

So, you said you wanted to go south,

00:05:25.950 --> 00:05:27.750

but I guess you didn't want to
go fully south.

00:05:27.750 --> 00:05:31.260

So, you found yourself kind of
nicely in the middle. [Venla] Yeah.

00:05:31.260 --> 00:05:33.900

And now the city whose name I
will never properly pronounce.

00:05:33.900 --> 00:05:36.870

Or maybe in like 20 years.

Why, Jyväskylä what brought

00:05:36.870 --> 00:05:41.100

you there? [Venla] Uh, like, very...

I know this is a funny story, but,

00:05:41.160 --> 00:05:46.150

uh, after I graduated high school,
I applied to a different university,

00:05:46.150 --> 00:05:50.980

but I didn't get in any university
first try, and then Jyväskylä

00:05:51.130 --> 00:05:54.160

was my third option. Then.

And then somehow,

00:05:54.160 --> 00:05:57.370

just like sticking my head, I've,
like, I never been in Jyväskylä

00:05:57.580 --> 00:06:00.070

or I didn't know anyone here.
So I was like,

00:06:00.070 --> 00:06:04.030

I just don't know anything about it.
And then I was just thinking

00:06:04.030 --> 00:06:06.880

what it's like to be there.
And then I didn't get in,

00:06:06.880 --> 00:06:10.980

so, I try, okay, I will move to
Jyväskylä and I apply for a job.

00:06:10.980 --> 00:06:15.750

I got a job, an apartment, and I move
here and I have a gap year here.

00:06:15.750 --> 00:06:18.930

And it's just looking do I like
it here. I did like it.

00:06:18.930 --> 00:06:22.620

And then I decide I want to stay
here. So, I start to look different

00:06:22.620 --> 00:06:26.610

fields that I can study here.

And I found in my field economics,

00:06:26.610 --> 00:06:31.230

I study economics, so I applied,
I got in and then I stayed. [Irfan] Okay.

00:06:31.230 --> 00:06:34.000

So, like, you were kind of going
in a little bit blind. [Venla]

00:06:34.030 --> 00:06:39.100

Yeah, I like jump with unknown. [Irfan]
Okay. That's kind of interesting

00:06:39.100 --> 00:06:42.220

because I mean, you are a local
student, but in many ways,

00:06:42.220 --> 00:06:45.190

most international students would say
that's kind of their experience.

00:06:45.190 --> 00:06:47.530

You know, they read about the place,
but they didn't have like a

00:06:47.530 --> 00:06:50.530

direct experience.

So, they kind of jumped into the

00:06:50.860 --> 00:06:53.410

adventure.

So, you say you're studying economics.

00:06:53.410 --> 00:06:57.950

What year are you right now? [Venla]

Uh, third year. Now. Started. [Irfan] Okay.

00:06:57.950 --> 00:07:03.020

Okay. So why economics in particular?

[Venla] Uh, I consider like, uh,

00:07:03.020 --> 00:07:08.480

social science studies, but then

also, I like math and then I feel

00:07:08.480 --> 00:07:11.810

like I really like politics also.

And I feel like everything

00:07:11.810 --> 00:07:15.560

politics always comes to the
economics and the finance.

00:07:15.560 --> 00:07:20.290

So, I find it that very interesting.

And so, I played that in my major.

00:07:20.290 --> 00:07:24.730

But I also in minor can study like
social sciences in different ways.

00:07:24.730 --> 00:07:27.640

So, I can have very good combination.

[Irfan] Okay.

00:07:27.640 --> 00:07:31.540

So, kind of like you had this
multidisciplinary inclination and

00:07:31.540 --> 00:07:34.930

you figured, oh this seems like
the kind of nicest combination.

00:07:34.930 --> 00:07:37.990

[Venla] Yeah. And I like our university.

You can really like study what

00:07:37.990 --> 00:07:41.980

you want and really, like,

find your own own specialty,

00:07:41.980 --> 00:07:45.590

special things you want to do.

[Irfan] I agree with that 100%,

00:07:45.590 --> 00:07:48.890

especially because, um, I mean,

I guess I took like a slight

00:07:48.890 --> 00:07:52.040

detour to your guys' department.

I took microeconomics,

00:07:52.040 --> 00:07:55.460

or was it macro?

Micro micro micro micro? Uh, yeah.

00:07:55.460 --> 00:07:57.260

Because technically we had the

same course and we never bumped

00:07:57.260 --> 00:08:00.260

into each other.

Um, and I did appreciate that where I

00:08:00.260 --> 00:08:02.720

could, you know, I studied math,
and then I could just have,

00:08:02.720 --> 00:08:05.180

like, a little casual detour
into microeconomics.

00:08:05.180 --> 00:08:09.100

And I do feel like they have
that good combination of exactly:

00:08:09.460 --> 00:08:13.390

You have a little bit of mathematics
there, but in... To a enough of

00:08:13.390 --> 00:08:17.050

an extent, the kind that lets you
help build an argument. [Venla] Yeah.

00:08:17.050 --> 00:08:21.880

[Irfan] So, to say that you can then later use
it to form a certain level of policy.

00:08:22.630 --> 00:08:26.410

Um,

so is there like a particular course

00:08:26.410 --> 00:08:29.140

or experience that you've enjoyed
so much in your studies right now?

00:08:30.070 --> 00:08:34.760

[Venla] Um, like my favourite course
is like, uh, education.

00:08:35.300 --> 00:08:40.430

I don't know how, like, translate it.
Education economics? [Irfan] Okay. Oh.

00:08:40.430 --> 00:08:44.210

[Venla] Yeah. We go, like, uh,
university finance. How,

00:08:44.210 --> 00:08:49.100

when you like, educate yourself more
level how that affects your, like,

00:08:49.100 --> 00:08:53.090

future income and everything.
It was very interesting.

00:08:53.090 --> 00:08:56.330

And that course was also we didn't
have like final test there.

00:08:56.340 --> 00:09:00.690

So, it was like essays through
the course it was like interesting.

00:09:00.690 --> 00:09:04.290

You can really like research
yourself and I really like it.

00:09:04.830 --> 00:09:07.020

[Irfan] Well that's lovely when you can
have a little bit of that like

00:09:07.020 --> 00:09:10.110

independent inquiry. [Venla] Yeah.

[Irfan] And I feel like that's also a lovely

00:09:10.110 --> 00:09:13.740

course for you to take, considering
what you're, what you're doing,

00:09:13.860 --> 00:09:16.800

I guess, in a professional sense.

So, let's kind of like start off

00:09:16.800 --> 00:09:18.660

a little bit with why you're
here today.

00:09:19.170 --> 00:09:22.790

Uh, an interesting thing that you
told me when we had a coffee the

00:09:22.790 --> 00:09:27.350

other day was that even before
you actually became a student,

00:09:27.350 --> 00:09:30.320

you became involved with an
institution of the university.

00:09:30.350 --> 00:09:33.050

So, what is that institution,
so to say? [Venla]

00:09:33.200 --> 00:09:36.770

Uh, the student union of
University of Jyväskylä.

00:09:36.800 --> 00:09:39.620

[Irfan] So now I'm super curious.
How did you even get involved

00:09:39.620 --> 00:09:42.290

with the student union before
you became a student?

00:09:42.320 --> 00:09:44.900

[Venla] I don't think I was, like,
involved, but. Like.

00:09:44.940 --> 00:09:50.280

Where I was, where I was just like,
I knew a lot of people that was

00:09:50.280 --> 00:09:54.090

in like the student council or
the board of the JYY.

00:09:54.090 --> 00:09:58.320

So, I really knew the student
union very well before I was

00:09:58.320 --> 00:10:00.720

even a student.

What is like maybe a little bit

00:10:00.720 --> 00:10:03.210

strange.

Not many people do that,

00:10:03.330 --> 00:10:08.250

but I did like know it before,
and I kind of also knew before I was

00:10:08.250 --> 00:10:11.890
a student that I would want to
get involved in the student union,

00:10:11.890 --> 00:10:15.850
and I wanted to get on the board
and do the council stuff. [Irfan]

00:10:16.420 --> 00:10:19.240
So, you're giving us a lot of material
to kind of dissect over here.

00:10:19.240 --> 00:10:23.440
But let's start from the beginning.
Uh, almost every student is probably

00:10:23.440 --> 00:10:26.560
sooner or later going to hear about
the student union. Uh, partially.

00:10:26.560 --> 00:10:28.780
This is a reminder for everybody
to pay their fee if they want to

00:10:28.780 --> 00:10:32.350

get some nice discounts.

Um, fourth wall, a little bit,

00:10:32.350 --> 00:10:36.210

but what is, in the simplest terms,
what is even the student union?

00:10:36.720 --> 00:10:40.740

[Venla] Uh, the student union is like,
in, like, Finnish law,

00:10:41.130 --> 00:10:43.530

every university has to have
a student union.

00:10:43.770 --> 00:10:48.210

And we do the advocacy work for
students in the university level,

00:10:48.210 --> 00:10:52.770

city level, many different levels.
And we take care of the students

00:10:52.770 --> 00:10:57.420

and make sure they have their rights.
And the student life is the best

00:10:57.430 --> 00:11:01.240

that they can have. [Irfan]

So, kind of fitting for a city that

00:11:01.240 --> 00:11:03.820

has, I think, one of the highest
densities of students in Finland,

00:11:03.820 --> 00:11:08.140

like whatever, you know, every fourth
fourth citizen is basically a student.

00:11:08.230 --> 00:11:11.920

So, when we're talking about the
student union, can you give me a

00:11:11.920 --> 00:11:16.750

little bit of like a rough rundown?

So, it's basically mandated by law,

00:11:16.750 --> 00:11:19.240

but what is the history of it?

Do you have any idea like when was

00:11:19.240 --> 00:11:22.110

this one even founded? [Venla]

Uh, this.

00:11:22.110 --> 00:11:26.190

The student union of Jyväskylä is like
celebrating 90th years birthday.

00:11:26.190 --> 00:11:28.920

So, we are very old.

It's a very old student union,

00:11:28.920 --> 00:11:32.190

but the oldest one,

I think the student Union of

00:11:32.610 --> 00:11:39.090

University of Helsinki is the oldest.

Uh, it's very old. Uh, yeah.

00:11:39.090 --> 00:11:42.810

I don't really... Can't go that much

the history I don't really remember

00:11:42.810 --> 00:11:47.170

in this setting, but it's all done.

We have done the student union

00:11:47.170 --> 00:11:51.640

movement, have done a lot.

We have like founded YTHS.

00:11:51.640 --> 00:11:55.660

It's like it's part of the work the
student union has completed

00:11:55.660 --> 00:12:00.280
completion and other stuff,
but it's like very long history.

00:12:00.280 --> 00:12:02.320
[Irfan] I actually didn't know that that
like the student unions were

00:12:02.320 --> 00:12:04.660
involved with like kind of the
creation of YTHS. [Venla] Yeah.

00:12:05.170 --> 00:12:07.240
[Irfan] Can you just give like, just for
people who don't know,

00:12:07.240 --> 00:12:11.240
like what is YTHS? [Venla]
It's like the health care system

00:12:11.240 --> 00:12:15.110
for students, like they, like
students don't have to go to the

00:12:15.110 --> 00:12:19.100

city health care they can go to

YTHS: heir own health...

00:12:19.550 --> 00:12:24.800

Health care? [Irfan] Yeah. Health care system.

Oh, I got to say, YTHS was one of the

00:12:24.800 --> 00:12:27.560

nicest surprises that I've ever
seen when I became a student here.

00:12:27.620 --> 00:12:30.320

It's, like, super convenient,
super nice, and, you know,

00:12:30.590 --> 00:12:35.140

incredibly affordable. [Venla] Yeah.

[Irfan] Um, so in what way is the

00:12:35.140 --> 00:12:38.050

student union organized?

Every institution has a structure.

00:12:38.050 --> 00:12:39.730

What is the structure of the
student union?

00:12:39.850 --> 00:12:44.410

[Venla] So, we have a board where I'm sitting
that we have ten person there.

00:12:44.410 --> 00:12:47.950

Then we have the student council.
That is like the highest power

00:12:47.950 --> 00:12:51.790

in the student union.
We have 41, uh, members in there,

00:12:51.790 --> 00:12:56.350

different groups, and they make
the most like the final decisions.

00:12:56.350 --> 00:12:58.760

Then we have the board,
we have ten people there and we're

00:12:58.760 --> 00:13:03.080

working like every single day.
Then we have also seven people

00:13:03.080 --> 00:13:05.030

working,
like we have specialists that work

00:13:05.030 --> 00:13:09.290

in every day in the student union.

And then we have also like Soihtu,

00:13:09.320 --> 00:13:12.680

the student apartments.

Then we also have people working

00:13:12.680 --> 00:13:17.240

there and also the student council

makes decisions to Soihtu also.

00:13:17.510 --> 00:13:20.450

[Irfan] So how often do all of you guys meet?

How often does the board meet?

00:13:20.480 --> 00:13:22.530

How often does the student

council meet? [Venla]

00:13:22.890 --> 00:13:27.630

Uh, the student council meets

every month. Oh, and the student...

00:13:27.630 --> 00:13:31.110

The board meets every week.

We are meeting every single week.

00:13:31.680 --> 00:13:36.210

[Irfan] Sounds like a fun time. [Venla] Yeah. It is.

[Irfan] So, about the student council.

00:13:36.210 --> 00:13:39.300

Uh, do you have... Do you know of any
decision that they've recently

00:13:39.300 --> 00:13:42.150

made that you can kind of
highlight or something that you

00:13:42.150 --> 00:13:44.550

think might be interesting that
the student council has done?

00:13:45.210 --> 00:13:49.430

[Venla] Um, we did update our policy
paper that student council,

00:13:49.430 --> 00:13:54.230

like, decide. Uh, I don't know.
It's like a fun thing, but we like,

00:13:54.230 --> 00:13:58.910

uh, decide to end our event:
Jyrock. That goes all through

00:13:59.090 --> 00:14:02.870

the student council. It is not maybe
the funnest thing to do,

00:14:03.140 --> 00:14:07.130

but they do decide a lot of,
like, everyday stuff also.

00:14:07.910 --> 00:14:10.400

[Irfan] I guess sometimes you gotta make
those difficult decisions and so.

00:14:10.410 --> 00:14:15.300

yeah, and balance out the funding.
So how can somebody become a

00:14:15.300 --> 00:14:19.110

member of the student council? [Venla]
Uh, we have elections every two years.

00:14:19.110 --> 00:14:22.890

This year we don't have election,
but 25. Fall.

00:14:22.890 --> 00:14:25.710

We have a next election and you
can run.

00:14:25.710 --> 00:14:30.660

You can go be a part of one
of the groups and it's an election.

00:14:30.660 --> 00:14:35.210

It's like every normal election: you
go run and then people can vote,

00:14:35.210 --> 00:14:38.180

and then you need a certain amount
of votes to be in.

00:14:38.480 --> 00:14:40.430

[Irfan] So can international students
also run? [Venla] Yeah.

00:14:40.430 --> 00:14:43.880

If you're a member of the
student union, you can run and

00:14:43.880 --> 00:14:49.280

you can elect, like vote. [Irfan] Okay.
So, besides the ability to run and

00:14:49.280 --> 00:14:52.970

I guess vote, uh, and we're going
to get back a little bit to the,

00:14:52.970 --> 00:14:55.430

the voting later.

What's another reason why

00:14:55.460 --> 00:14:58.070

somebody would want to even be
part of the student union?

00:14:58.070 --> 00:15:00.000

Why would somebody
want to be a member?

00:15:00.810 --> 00:15:05.730

[Venla] Um, a degree student
is a member like you can't choose

00:15:05.730 --> 00:15:07.830

are you a member or not,
but student union...

00:15:07.920 --> 00:15:11.970

But you can actually really make
a difference.

00:15:11.970 --> 00:15:16.320

And the student union have a lot of
like, uh, city and the university

00:15:16.320 --> 00:15:20.010

actually, listens to student union.

We have like, good reputation.

00:15:20.700 --> 00:15:26.080

And you make very important decisions
there and you can really affect and

00:15:26.080 --> 00:15:31.390

your voice is being heard there.
So, if you want to affect the

00:15:31.390 --> 00:15:34.930

surroundings yourself in the
university or the city, you can

00:15:34.930 --> 00:15:38.590

do it through the student union.
[Irfan] Based on that little pitch.

00:15:38.590 --> 00:15:41.080

I feel like that you're giving
us a little bit of information

00:15:41.080 --> 00:15:44.500

why you decided to run to be
part of the student union.

00:15:44.800 --> 00:15:47.490

Uh, so how does the election
process even work?

00:15:47.520 --> 00:15:50.190

I remember, you know, from the
student side, I remember just at

00:15:50.190 --> 00:15:56.010

some point in the fall of 2023,
random people's faces started showing

00:15:56.010 --> 00:15:59.520

up a little bit more often then
at some point, we all got a link

00:15:59.520 --> 00:16:02.550

and there was that. There was this.
Like, I whoever did this in the

00:16:02.550 --> 00:16:04.800

student union, God bless their
souls because it was brilliant.

00:16:05.250 --> 00:16:08.340

Uh, there was that, uh,
like an election campus for the

00:16:08.340 --> 00:16:11.100

student union where you could do,
like, a questionnaire and see who,

00:16:11.100 --> 00:16:13.960

like, fits with you the most.

But that was my perspective from

00:16:13.960 --> 00:16:15.820

the student side.

I just randomly saw people and I

00:16:15.820 --> 00:16:18.700

was like, okay,

this person seems to agree with the

00:16:18.700 --> 00:16:22.660

things that I agree with, roughly

at least up to a up to a constant.

00:16:22.660 --> 00:16:26.860

So, what was it like for you guys who

were actually running for the student

00:16:26.860 --> 00:16:28.900

union? What was the procedure?

What was the process?

00:16:29.320 --> 00:16:31.360

[Venla] The process... Like...

It was like,

00:16:31.390 --> 00:16:37.370

fill a form that you wanna be a part.

And I think it depends on also

00:16:37.370 --> 00:16:41.360

at the group where you're like

running. We did, our group,

00:16:41.360 --> 00:16:46.010

we did we did like we make coffee

and offer like almost every day

00:16:46.010 --> 00:16:50.930

in the fall and campaigning uh,

it was like to me it's like normal

00:16:50.930 --> 00:16:55.850

political campaign. You do it.

But also it's not maybe that showing,

00:16:55.850 --> 00:16:59.060

maybe because also people are

studying the same time so you don't

00:16:59.060 --> 00:17:03.010

have that much free time campaign.

You don't really do.

00:17:03.010 --> 00:17:06.460

I didn't personally do that much
campaign, just maybe one

00:17:06.460 --> 00:17:10.450

Instagram post or something and
then fill the form like you can

00:17:10.450 --> 00:17:14.650

what you mentioned earlier.
Uh, then just going in different

00:17:14.650 --> 00:17:18.100

campus and telling about people,
I feel like my campaign wasn't

00:17:18.100 --> 00:17:20.920

really campaigning myself.
It's more like campaigning to

00:17:20.920 --> 00:17:24.380

students: oh, this election is going on.
Did you know that?

00:17:24.410 --> 00:17:26.450

Do you know what the student union is?

00:17:26.450 --> 00:17:30.140

So, I was more maybe campaigning the student union than

00:17:30.140 --> 00:17:33.560

myself. [Irfan] Kind of, I guess trying to raise, you know,

00:17:33.560 --> 00:17:37.880

the... What's the word? Uh, the, the number of people

00:17:37.880 --> 00:17:40.130

actually voting. [Venla] Yeah. [Irfan] Instead of necessarily just

00:17:40.130 --> 00:17:42.920

trying to put yourself out there. But what was your reasoning?

00:17:42.920 --> 00:17:48.080

Why did you want to run? [Venla] Um, I was I was always want to

00:17:48.100 --> 00:17:52.120

go to the board, so I was like,
this is the one step going there to,

00:17:52.120 --> 00:17:56.680
like, being, uh, going to run and
maybe getting to the council.

00:17:56.680 --> 00:18:00.130
But I was also like that fall,
I was knowing that I want to run

00:18:00.130 --> 00:18:03.550
for the board.
So, it was just a step going there.

00:18:03.550 --> 00:18:08.260
And also just like what I was
talking about earlier, like I really

00:18:08.260 --> 00:18:12.310
do want to like make sure the
student have better life in here.

00:18:12.310 --> 00:18:14.840
And that university is the best
place for our student.

00:18:14.840 --> 00:18:18.920

So, like those simple things. [Irfan]

But you personally did you have

00:18:18.920 --> 00:18:21.620

just, you know, was it just like a
particular day when you decided,

00:18:21.620 --> 00:18:24.740

okay, I'm going to run!

Was it like, did you have any doubts,

00:18:24.740 --> 00:18:28.430

any considerations with yourself,
or was it just like a natural thing

00:18:28.430 --> 00:18:31.460

that was constantly on your mind?

[Venla] I think it was natural.

00:18:31.460 --> 00:18:34.490

Maybe we go back to that,
that I knew student Union before

00:18:34.490 --> 00:18:37.650

I was in the university.

It was like very natural.

00:18:37.860 --> 00:18:41.250

It wasn't like when I started,
uh, studying here.

00:18:41.250 --> 00:18:45.600

The election was like in my second
year. So, I have, like, time to think.

00:18:45.600 --> 00:18:48.360

And it was like,
very normal thing to do for me.

00:18:48.360 --> 00:18:50.280

I didn't really have to think
about it. [Irfan]

00:18:51.210 --> 00:18:54.390

Uh, did you do any work with the
student union before you got elected?

00:18:54.900 --> 00:18:57.660

[Venla] No. [Irfan] Okay.
So, you kind of just, like,

00:18:57.660 --> 00:19:00.180

had a little bit of tangential
affiliation, but then immediately just, like,

00:19:00.180 --> 00:19:04.280

jumped into it when you could...

[Venla] Yeah, I went to the deep end

00:19:04.280 --> 00:19:08.870

straight away. [Irfan] Okay.

So then tell me just one thing.

00:19:08.870 --> 00:19:13.460

You're mentioning these groups.

[Venla] Yeah. [Irfan] What are the groups?

00:19:13.460 --> 00:19:17.900

Are those like political parties on like a
university level or?

00:19:18.200 --> 00:19:20.180

[Venla] Um,

there's like many different groups.

00:19:20.180 --> 00:19:24.170

There are political groups, and then
there's non-political groups there,

00:19:24.720 --> 00:19:32.070

And there's, uh, seven, eight groups
right now in the student union.

00:19:32.970 --> 00:19:36.900

And there's some political that are
like political party groups and

00:19:36.900 --> 00:19:40.800

political does not involve in the
party, party politics in Finland.

00:19:40.890 --> 00:19:44.520

And then there's like association
groups that are more like we have

00:19:44.520 --> 00:19:48.060

like natural scientists that are
more like gathering natural science

00:19:48.060 --> 00:19:52.180

students together or gathering
more like people in the Seminaarinmäki.

00:19:52.600 --> 00:19:54.760

So, there's different,
different groups.

00:19:55.690 --> 00:19:58.810

[Irfan] Okay, so let me see if I'm
understanding this correctly.

00:19:59.290 --> 00:20:03.940

Uh, different students come together
based on like some ideas or ideals,

00:20:03.940 --> 00:20:08.560

but they are more related to
student life, form a group,

00:20:08.560 --> 00:20:12.310

and then they kind of have a platform
that they're running on. [Venla] Yeah.

00:20:12.310 --> 00:20:14.130

[Irfan] Okay, so I got something
relatively correctly.

00:20:14.460 --> 00:20:17.850

Uh, and so currently seven or right
of them are represented in the

00:20:17.850 --> 00:20:21.150

student council. [Venla] Yeah.
There's I have to...

00:20:21.570 --> 00:20:26.490

eight groups. Okay. Um, no. [Irfan]
Give or take. [Venla] Yeah. We got, uh.

00:20:29.400 --> 00:20:34.050

Seven groups. [Irfan] Okay. Nice, huh?

[Venla] I was in my summer holidays so...

00:20:34.230 --> 00:20:38.860

[Irfan] You're fine. You're. You're fine.

I probably couldn't even name a

00:20:38.860 --> 00:20:40.930

single one there,

so, you're totally fine.

00:20:41.530 --> 00:20:44.560

Um, but do you have any idea how

many of them were registered in

00:20:44.560 --> 00:20:46.270

the last election?

Because I remember seeing a

00:20:46.270 --> 00:20:51.190

couple of funny ones. [Venla]

Uh, there were nine groups.

00:20:51.190 --> 00:20:55.750

I think there were two group that

didn't get any members. [Irfan] Oh, poor.

00:20:55.990 --> 00:20:59.830

Well, better luck next time
to those two groups.

00:21:00.010 --> 00:21:03.210

So, when did you get into the
student union formally?

00:21:03.210 --> 00:21:06.720

Because an election was in the fall.
And when did your guys' term start?

00:21:07.260 --> 00:21:11.730

[Venla] Uh, the term start like, uh,
in the, like the year change. [Irfan]

00:21:11.910 --> 00:21:17.670

Okay. So, January 24. [Venla] Yeah. [Irfan]
Okay. So what are you actually doing on

00:21:17.670 --> 00:21:20.070

the board of the student union?
What is your title?

00:21:20.520 --> 00:21:24.480

[Venla] Uh, my title is like, I'm the board
member International affairs,

00:21:24.480 --> 00:21:28.450

so, I do advocacy work to
international student.

00:21:28.450 --> 00:21:34.630

Then I do work for the European
Alliance also and also exchange

00:21:34.630 --> 00:21:36.790

stuff. [Irfan]

So can you just tell us a little

00:21:36.790 --> 00:21:39.790

bit about that European alliance?

Because I know some people have

00:21:39.790 --> 00:21:43.000

probably heard of it, most haven't.

What is this? Is that the FORTHEM

00:21:43.000 --> 00:21:46.030

alliance. [Venla] FORTHEM. Yeah.

Our university is part of

00:21:46.030 --> 00:21:50.480

FORTHEM alliance.

So, I'm there in like work groups, uh,

00:21:50.930 --> 00:21:54.950

representing the student union
and the student in the alliance.

00:21:54.950 --> 00:21:59.210

Like we do same kind of work with
what we do in the university.

00:21:59.210 --> 00:22:02.030

And we try to make the student
voice heard there.

00:22:02.510 --> 00:22:05.210

[Irfan] But on a European level and...

[Venla] European level. Yes. [Irfan]

00:22:05.210 --> 00:22:07.310

Does that pose additional challenges?

Because like, you know,

00:22:07.310 --> 00:22:10.070

every country is probably going to
have a different perspective and then

00:22:10.070 --> 00:22:14.620

coordinating across the borders...

[Venla] Yeah, it's it's difficult.

00:22:14.620 --> 00:22:17.560

It's more difficult.

And also, like what the work

00:22:17.800 --> 00:22:21.220

packages are in there.

I'm only student in there so there's

00:22:21.220 --> 00:22:23.650

not really student involved

another country.

00:22:23.650 --> 00:22:28.870

So also, a bit difficult to like

be a voice of nine different

00:22:28.870 --> 00:22:35.920

universities in Europe.

So, it's difficult but also maybe

00:22:35.920 --> 00:22:39.890

sometimes frustrating but but

also very interesting.

00:22:40.100 --> 00:22:42.530

[Irfan] Does it offer any additional
perspectives to you guys?

00:22:42.890 --> 00:22:44.570

Do you feel like you've learned
something from it?

00:22:45.530 --> 00:22:49.970

[Venla] I learned that our university
does many things very well.

00:22:52.670 --> 00:22:54.830

[Irfan] That's going to be the
promotional: Our University

00:22:54.830 --> 00:22:59.510

does many things very well.
Um, so speaking of doing things

00:22:59.510 --> 00:23:03.600

very well, what do you... Okay.
So why international affairs?

00:23:04.170 --> 00:23:07.410

[Venla] Um, I felt when I was, like,
doing the gap year,

00:23:07.410 --> 00:23:11.160

I was working very international
workplace and I learned my work

00:23:11.160 --> 00:23:15.120

friend was international student.

So, I really saw what it's like to

00:23:15.120 --> 00:23:19.230

be international student also.

And, uh,

00:23:19.380 --> 00:23:22.410

maybe also I'm like interested
in the EU level and everything.

00:23:22.410 --> 00:23:25.320

So, I find it very interesting
and international affairs you

00:23:25.320 --> 00:23:28.430

can do almost like every sector
in the board.

00:23:28.430 --> 00:23:33.080

So, it's very, uh,
diverse the work which we do

00:23:33.080 --> 00:23:37.400

and I feel like in the student
union and university level,

00:23:37.400 --> 00:23:41.900

this international student voice is
not that heard and not seen.

00:23:41.900 --> 00:23:44.330

So, I hope that...

I was like very interested.

00:23:44.330 --> 00:23:47.210

We need to get the international
voice heard more.

00:23:47.420 --> 00:23:53.520

So, I was I have like very like
interest to do something there like

00:23:53.520 --> 00:23:57.930

purpose like job that has purpose.
And I feel like that sector I can do

00:23:57.930 --> 00:24:01.980

things that actually matters. [Irfan] Okay.
And the things that are actually

00:24:01.980 --> 00:24:04.170

meaningful. [Venla] Yes. [Irfan]
So is there anything that you've

00:24:04.170 --> 00:24:08.730

concretely done in your position
as the international affairs

00:24:08.730 --> 00:24:12.180

representative? [Venla]

Uh, like when I started,

00:24:12.180 --> 00:24:16.040

there wasn't really any data
what international students think

00:24:16.040 --> 00:24:18.560

about different things at the
University or the city.

00:24:18.560 --> 00:24:23.570

So, I created the survey to
international students to tell

00:24:23.570 --> 00:24:27.830

what they think.

And we got a very nice response.

00:24:27.830 --> 00:24:34.430

We got a lot of answers there
and a lot of like, like my eyes

00:24:34.430 --> 00:24:39.930

was opened more and uh,
so that's been accomplished.

00:24:39.960 --> 00:24:43.440

What I have done this year and in
the fall, we're going to continue,

00:24:43.440 --> 00:24:47.370

like using those data and
bringing the tables that can,

00:24:47.370 --> 00:24:50.880

like, change things and need to
be that need to be heard

00:24:50.880 --> 00:24:52.680

what the international students
have to say,

00:24:53.190 --> 00:24:56.100

[Irfan] Oh, is there anything concrete
that you've learned based on

00:24:56.100 --> 00:24:59.790

that data that you would like to
use to implement something?

00:25:00.450 --> 00:25:05.320

[Venla] Uh, one of the big one is that we asked, what, uh, do the international

00:25:05.320 --> 00:25:07.780

student wants to stay in Jyväskylä after they graduate,

00:25:07.870 --> 00:25:11.920

like, almost like over 60% say that they wants to stay here.

00:25:11.920 --> 00:25:15.790

But then we ask how they see their work opportunities here.

00:25:16.180 --> 00:25:20.620

And over 60% say they don't see it very well. It's not good.

00:25:20.740 --> 00:25:24.610

So that is like big things we have to do to make better.

00:25:24.610 --> 00:25:29.160

Like there's... People wants to say we have so much, like, people that

00:25:29.160 --> 00:25:33.090

they have, that they study here.

There's so much things that they

00:25:33.090 --> 00:25:39.390

can do, and we have to use it
and see the city have a problem

00:25:39.390 --> 00:25:42.030

that people are leaving,
but many people want to stay.

00:25:42.030 --> 00:25:47.100

So just like, what is called... [Irfan]
Like there's this disbalance. [Venla]

00:25:47.100 --> 00:25:50.430

Yeah, that's what we have to balance.
And city have to do more so that

00:25:50.670 --> 00:25:54.130

International student can stay
here and have the opportunity to

00:25:54.130 --> 00:25:58.810

work because they do want to. [Irfan]
So that is definitely something that

00:25:58.810 --> 00:26:02.500

I can relate to and understand,
because I know from a lot of friends

00:26:02.500 --> 00:26:05.350

who wanted to stay in the city,
unfortunately, you know,

00:26:05.350 --> 00:26:07.300

things didn't work out.

So, then they would end up going to

00:26:07.300 --> 00:26:10.270

like another bigger city in Finland,
like either Helsinki, Oulu or

00:26:10.270 --> 00:26:14.170

Tampere or something like that.

So, what do you guys hope?

00:26:14.170 --> 00:26:16.580

So now you guys have the,
you know, piece of information.

00:26:16.580 --> 00:26:19.550

You see that people want to stay.

And there is like that little

00:26:19.790 --> 00:26:23.420

issue, that disbalance.

How are you planning to tackle

00:26:23.420 --> 00:26:27.020

that. Are you guys planning to
talk with the city, try to talk

00:26:27.020 --> 00:26:29.870

with the local businesses or
something to build that connection?

00:26:29.870 --> 00:26:32.030

Or is that still kind of like in
the works?

00:26:32.210 --> 00:26:35.810

[Venla] It's still in the works, but my
idea is to meet the right people.

00:26:35.810 --> 00:26:39.290

That's the thing, to meet the right
people and showing the data,

00:26:39.490 --> 00:26:43.480

and also not only showing the data,
but also telling ideas how they

00:26:43.480 --> 00:26:49.210

can do that and improve things,
and hire international students.

00:26:49.510 --> 00:26:53.230

Yeah, it's just a lot of meeting
people, contacting people.

00:26:53.860 --> 00:26:56.590

[Irfan] So basically, just kind of doing that,
like reaching out as much as

00:26:56.590 --> 00:26:58.840

possible. [Venla] Yeah.
Like in the student union,

00:26:58.840 --> 00:27:02.080

we do a lot of lobbying.
So, just a lot of lobbying. [Irfan] Okay.

00:27:02.080 --> 00:27:07.850

So, you're our lobbyist. [Venla] Yes.
[Irfan] Okay. Um, but I was kind of wondering.

00:27:08.390 --> 00:27:10.700

It's kind of interesting.
I can see this parallel, you know,

00:27:10.700 --> 00:27:13.160

to why you're studying economics.

As you said, you have that

00:27:13.160 --> 00:27:16.460

multidisciplinary viewpoint.

You want to get some information,

00:27:16.460 --> 00:27:19.400

process the data, try to make a

decision based on that data,

00:27:19.400 --> 00:27:22.790

and then propose a policy.

So, it looks like you're quite

00:27:22.790 --> 00:27:25.940

literally living your own

studies in a practical sense.

00:27:26.060 --> 00:27:29.290

If you don't have a thesis topic,

this might be like a potential

00:27:29.290 --> 00:27:32.020

thesis topic.

But beyond international affairs,

00:27:32.020 --> 00:27:34.390

when you're a board member,
what other things do you have to

00:27:34.390 --> 00:27:39.280

be involved with? [Venla] A lot of things.
Usually, the sector is kind of

00:27:39.280 --> 00:27:42.400

nothing you do.

The broad stuff is the main thing,

00:27:42.400 --> 00:27:47.140

and even though you have a sector,
we all do every sector job, uh,

00:27:47.140 --> 00:27:51.730

we have the meetings every week.

We have like regular meetings and

00:27:51.730 --> 00:27:56.720

we go do like basics,
everyday decisions there.

00:27:57.320 --> 00:28:02.540

Uh, we do a lot of, uh,
paper updating, rules updating.

00:28:02.540 --> 00:28:07.910

We are like going different
events and meetings.

00:28:07.910 --> 00:28:14.540

We meet the city, we meet the rectors
and just going every places and

00:28:14.540 --> 00:28:17.850

telling what the student thinks.

[Irfan] So does that kind of mean, like,

00:28:17.850 --> 00:28:21.000

you know, let's say, I mean,

I am a student, I have an issue,

00:28:21.000 --> 00:28:23.130

I have a suggestion.

Can I just walk to one of the

00:28:23.130 --> 00:28:26.580

board members who's responsible
for a particular, you know, thing

00:28:26.580 --> 00:28:30.900

and knock on their desk and say,

Mr. or Mrs. or whatever, blah, blah.

00:28:30.900 --> 00:28:32.580

I think this should be done
differently:

00:28:32.580 --> 00:28:37.530

Can you relay the message?

[Venla] Yeah. [Irfan] Just ideally I should not...

00:28:37.860 --> 00:28:41.960

[Venla] I think we don't really have our own
table. So, I do recommend emailing.

00:28:42.050 --> 00:28:48.050

Maybe emailing is probably the best
way to contact, but yeah, like we all

00:28:48.050 --> 00:28:52.520

represent, like we are the student voice
and we need to hear the students.

00:28:52.520 --> 00:28:57.080

So of course we want the student tell
us a meeting us and if you have any

00:28:57.080 --> 00:29:00.620

problems or anything you want to talk
about, of course you can contact

00:29:00.620 --> 00:29:04.010

and we would love you to contact us.

[Irfan] So what are all the sectors that

00:29:04.010 --> 00:29:08.670

people can contact? [Venla]

Uh, there's international affairs, there

00:29:08.790 --> 00:29:13.320

of course, is the chair of the board.

Then we have the vice-chair also

00:29:13.320 --> 00:29:16.320

is like business side working

close to Soihtu.

00:29:16.950 --> 00:29:23.430

Uh, then we had academic affairs,

social policy, uh, communication,

00:29:23.430 --> 00:29:29.290

culture and events.

Uh, then we have multi... Like city...

00:29:29.470 --> 00:29:34.450

I don't remember the word in English

but more close to like city, through a

00:29:34.450 --> 00:29:40.930

city policy and then association and
tutoring. [Irfan] Okay I guess that's ten.

00:29:41.410 --> 00:29:44.530

[Venla] Yes, if I count, you're right.

[Irfan] I lost the count halfway through.

00:29:44.530 --> 00:29:48.820

I got, I got thinking about, like. [Venla] And,
International affairs, of course. [Irfan] Oh.

00:29:49.270 --> 00:29:52.540

I think you got that one twice,
but I... [Venla] It's the most important.

00:29:52.540 --> 00:29:55.530

[Irfan] I am biased towards it as well.

So we can say it

00:29:55.680 --> 00:29:59.070

another time if it's necessary.

But you kind... You already kind of

00:29:59.070 --> 00:30:00.480

mentioned Soihitu

a couple of times.

00:30:00.480 --> 00:30:05.070

Yeah. Um, what is Soihtu?

[Venla] Soihtu s like, uh,

00:30:05.070 --> 00:30:10.920

the student apartment that
does, uh, the student apartments and

00:30:10.920 --> 00:30:13.650

is part of the student union.
The student union owns that.

00:30:13.830 --> 00:30:17.130

[Irfan] So they are the lovely people that
make it possible for people to

00:30:17.140 --> 00:30:20.080

actually live in affordable housing
is what you're telling me. [Venla] Yes.

00:30:20.110 --> 00:30:23.830

[Irfan] So how much involvement do you guys
from the board have with that,

00:30:23.830 --> 00:30:25.990

or is that more like student
council or do they have like

00:30:25.990 --> 00:30:29.830

their own separate thing? [Venla]

Uh, if there's like usually we

00:30:29.830 --> 00:30:33.580

do like first decision that we
make decisions about Soihitu.

00:30:33.580 --> 00:30:36.970

So that doesn't go to the
student council if not that big.

00:30:37.000 --> 00:30:41.410

Um, but then we also if there's a
decision we make our like, oh, we

00:30:41.410 --> 00:30:44.490

think this is the best thing to do.

And then it goes to the student

00:30:44.490 --> 00:30:47.010

council and they make the last
decisions.

00:30:47.010 --> 00:30:51.570

But we do most like the most
important decisions about Soihitu.

00:30:51.900 --> 00:30:53.040

[Irfan] Okay.

So, you guys are essentially

00:30:53.040 --> 00:30:57.300

consultants in a sense. [Venla] Yeah.

Like if there's if Soihtu wants to

00:30:57.300 --> 00:31:00.720

build a new building, the student
council have to decide: "Yes.

00:31:00.720 --> 00:31:04.380

We want to make a new building"

[Irfan] Okay. So you guys are the people who

00:31:04.380 --> 00:31:08.020

are destroying my view. [Venla] Yes.

I'm sorry. [Irfan] It's fine, it's fine.

00:31:08.020 --> 00:31:10.720

It's convenient.

Just for context,

00:31:10.720 --> 00:31:14.260

for people, like I'm in the student
village and I'm in one of the newer

00:31:14.260 --> 00:31:18.940

buildings that they finished in 2022.

And now they're wrapping up

00:31:18.940 --> 00:31:22.090

another building in 2025.

And I got to say, I'm genuinely

00:31:22.090 --> 00:31:24.280

impressed by how quickly they're
constructing that building.

00:31:24.580 --> 00:31:27.070

I am disappointed that I can't
see the forest anymore, but it is

00:31:27.070 --> 00:31:29.810

kind of nice to see the entire,
you know, building get up in like,

00:31:29.810 --> 00:31:33.740

you know, six months they went
from zero to hero, almost.

00:31:34.220 --> 00:31:40.430

Um, but you guys don't just do that.

There are a lot of events that

00:31:40.430 --> 00:31:42.560

people might associate with the student union.

00:31:42.560 --> 00:31:45.590

So what are some of the bigger events that you had the opportunity

00:31:45.590 --> 00:31:47.840

to involve yourself with, with the student union?

00:31:48.440 --> 00:31:51.230

[Venla] Uh, the biggest one is maybe Vappu. We organize Vappu.

00:31:51.230 --> 00:31:56.650

Like when we put our hat, like, graduation hat for the statue, is

00:31:56.650 --> 00:32:00.340

the student union that does that. And we held many events also

00:32:00.760 --> 00:32:03.730

through Vappu, but that's like the biggest thing.

00:32:03.730 --> 00:32:07.990

[Irfan] Can you explain Vappu and Vappu week?

[Venla] Yeah. Vappu is like the

00:32:07.990 --> 00:32:12.910

1st of May celebration,
and, I feel like, student just kind of

00:32:12.910 --> 00:32:16.570

celebrates the end of the semester,
end of the academic year.

00:32:16.750 --> 00:32:21.290

And it's a very big, big celebration.
And people celebrate it through

00:32:21.290 --> 00:32:23.330

the whole week.

And there's a lot of different

00:32:23.330 --> 00:32:28.010

events.

And usually we go to the, uh, the

00:32:28.010 --> 00:32:31.340

hat, we put the hat and celebrate.
And the next day, 1st of May,

00:32:31.340 --> 00:32:35.480

we go to the picnic and, on the
Harju and have a nice chill day.

00:32:35.930 --> 00:32:37.700

[Irfan] I think that's like it's
one of those, like,

00:32:37.700 --> 00:32:41.450

very fascinating phenomena where
you just have like almost a city

00:32:41.450 --> 00:32:44.400

collectively being like, I mean,
in the entire country in a sense,

00:32:44.400 --> 00:32:47.550

collectively just being like,
okay, we're just going to relax.

00:32:47.550 --> 00:32:51.420

We're going to enjoy ourselves.
What is the point of the hat on

00:32:51.420 --> 00:32:52.800

the statue?

Just

00:32:52.800 --> 00:32:56.070

contextually for people.

There is a park, you know,

00:32:56.070 --> 00:33:00.750

Uno Cygnaeus, I guess, is the guy. [Venla]

Uh, usually we're not there because

00:33:00.750 --> 00:33:04.470

we usually in the Kirkkopuisto, uh,
putting the hat on Minna Canth.

00:33:04.470 --> 00:33:09.740

But now the city is making the
car park place... [Irfan] Parking garage.

00:33:09.740 --> 00:33:12.020

[Venla] Yeah, so we can't be there.

So we went another park.

00:33:12.020 --> 00:33:15.950

But I think we are back next
year in the Kirkkopuisto...

00:33:16.160 --> 00:33:18.890

[Irfan] But the entire point is just like,
sorry to cut you off...

00:33:18.890 --> 00:33:23.000

It's like to put on a graduation
cap on one of the two people who

00:33:23.000 --> 00:33:26.030

had a lot to do with building up
education in this area. [Venla]

00:33:26.210 --> 00:33:30.080

Yeah, I don't really know what the
history is putting the cap because

00:33:30.080 --> 00:33:35.460

you do in every like university
city, I don't really know why.

00:33:35.460 --> 00:33:38.130

Actually, I never think about it.

I just, like, we just do it.

00:33:38.130 --> 00:33:39.570

[Irfan] It's just the thing.

[Venla] Yeah, we just do it.

00:33:39.570 --> 00:33:42.600

I never think about why we do it.

[Irfan] It's just like eating a munkki.

00:33:42.600 --> 00:33:44.670

It's just... [Venla] Yeah...

[Irfan] It's there.

00:33:44.670 --> 00:33:47.400

Yeah. But it's so fascinating.

We just have like an, you know, a

00:33:47.400 --> 00:33:51.300

huge group of people just watching it
and waiting for something to happen.

00:33:51.660 --> 00:33:55.340

Um, so since the semester is kind of
like starting off relatively soon,

00:33:55.910 --> 00:33:59.900

um, and many new students are
coming in both like, international

00:33:59.900 --> 00:34:02.870

and both Finnish students.

Uh, are you currently involved in,

00:34:02.870 --> 00:34:06.350

like, any events for that?

[Venla] Uh, we are.

00:34:07.040 --> 00:34:10.820

I'm going to international
student orientation.

00:34:11.060 --> 00:34:16.640

I have a little, like, slideshow. [Irfan]
Oh, okay. [Venla] About, uh, student culture.

00:34:16.760 --> 00:34:19.890

But we do have our own events
also coming.

00:34:20.010 --> 00:34:25.560

We have like speed friending in
3rd of September. [Irfan] Okay.

00:34:25.560 --> 00:34:31.500

[Venla] And we have a lot of other like
events in the student union.

00:34:31.500 --> 00:34:35.610

You can go look them up at our website.
There's like event calendar,

00:34:35.610 --> 00:34:40.380

you can see everything. And then also
if the subject associations

00:34:40.380 --> 00:34:45.130

invite us we go to their
events also telling about what

00:34:45.130 --> 00:34:47.800
the student union is. Okay. [Irfan]
So, you guys are kind of hitting

00:34:47.800 --> 00:34:49.150
the ground running.
There are a lot of stuff...

00:34:49.240 --> 00:34:53.860
[Venla] Yes. I think the orientation
week is going to be long for us.

00:34:54.100 --> 00:34:57.400
[Irfan] Oh, it's... But that's a fun one.
So, you're giving a speech:

00:34:57.430 --> 00:35:00.940
Is that like the degree
student orientation? Right? [Venla] Yes.

00:35:00.940 --> 00:35:03.370
Degree, exchange and all
International students. Yeah.

00:35:03.550 --> 00:35:08.040

[Irfan] That's what, what is that?

That's, uh, August 26th, 27th?

00:35:08.040 --> 00:35:10.890

[Venla] Yes, something like that.

[Irfan] It'll be in the link in

00:35:11.010 --> 00:35:14.460

in the description: that

makes everything easier.

00:35:14.610 --> 00:35:19.830

So, you've been in this position

for the last eight months. [Venla] Yes.

00:35:20.130 --> 00:35:23.400

[Irfan] What is kind of like have you had

the opportunity to reflect on the

00:35:23.400 --> 00:35:29.640

process? How have you enjoyed it?

[Venla] Yes, I have, I really enjoy it a lot.

00:35:29.640 --> 00:35:34.300

I do like it, and I feel like, when you

do the work, you have, like, really have

00:35:34.300 --> 00:35:39.610

to, like, feel that I do something
important and meaningful. And, also,

00:35:39.610 --> 00:35:43.480

maybe some time I have a little time
to chill and not just going in my

00:35:43.480 --> 00:35:48.280

calendar, to meetings, to meeting.
But yeah, I'm really enjoying it.

00:35:48.430 --> 00:35:50.950

[Irfan] Even though it's basically I mean,
it's like full time work.

00:35:50.950 --> 00:35:53.260

[Venla] Yeah, it's full time. Yeah.
I'm not really studying right

00:35:53.260 --> 00:35:57.380

now: is full time job,
but still enjoying it.

00:35:57.500 --> 00:36:00.020

[Irfan] Do you really consider it that
meaningful, like the work in the

00:36:00.020 --> 00:36:03.920

student union, that it's meaningful
enough to kind of like, put the, put

00:36:03.920 --> 00:36:07.070

the studies in like the on the back,
in the back a little bit? [Venla]

00:36:07.100 --> 00:36:11.240

Yes, I do, because also you get
like so many opportunities that

00:36:11.240 --> 00:36:14.960

you don't get anywhere else.
Like you are meeting a lot of like,

00:36:15.350 --> 00:36:19.930

uh, big, higher people that have
like a lot of power and you're

00:36:19.930 --> 00:36:23.560

getting opportunity to do stuff
that you don't get anywhere else.

00:36:23.560 --> 00:36:28.150

And you get also like work experience
a lot, like you don't really get

00:36:28.150 --> 00:36:32.800

in this age, the opportunity to
do like work that specialists do

00:36:32.800 --> 00:36:37.750

anywhere else. So yeah. [Irfan]

Is there anything that you would have

00:36:37.750 --> 00:36:41.410

wanted to do differently over the
last like eight months in the work,

00:36:41.410 --> 00:36:47.810

I guess. [Venla] There probably is,
but then also like timewise...

00:36:47.810 --> 00:36:52.130

I don't know what I would do
differently. Maybe sleep more.

00:36:55.130 --> 00:36:58.580

[Irfan] I mean, in in the context of work,
in the context of work, we could all

00:36:58.580 --> 00:37:03.140

use a couple of extra hours of sleep. [Venla]
No, there's nothing going in my mind.

00:37:03.380 --> 00:37:07.520

No. Not really. [Irfan]

Uh, so what is the next big

00:37:07.520 --> 00:37:10.150

thing that you would really like
to make sure that you achieve

00:37:10.150 --> 00:37:15.250

before your tenure ends? [Venla]

Um, I still want to make sure that

00:37:15.250 --> 00:37:19.990

the international student voice is
heard in different levels. More.

00:37:21.100 --> 00:37:26.020

[Irfan] Okay. Are you. Can you run
again? [Venla] Yes, you can run again.

00:37:26.050 --> 00:37:32.450

[Irfan] Would you like to keep doing this?

[Venla] Yeah. Maybe it's like...

00:37:33.170 --> 00:37:34.520

[Irfan] That was like a slightly hesitant...

Yeah.

00:37:34.520 --> 00:37:38.210

It's like, it's, you're like... [Venla]

You can also do like different

00:37:38.210 --> 00:37:42.650

level you can do in the student
council and, or you can be like,

00:37:42.650 --> 00:37:48.800

uh, student representative in the
faculty council or...

00:37:48.800 --> 00:37:51.230

There's many different places
you can go. [Irfan]

00:37:51.680 --> 00:37:54.110

I will be honest with you,
I didn't know there was this much

00:37:54.110 --> 00:37:58.740

of a level of involvement of
students in all of these different...

00:37:59.010 --> 00:38:01.620

[Venla] Yeah, we also like,
have student almost like every

00:38:01.620 --> 00:38:05.550

level of the university.

We have student in the university

00:38:05.550 --> 00:38:10.410

board and the faculties, and they
also come from the student union,

00:38:10.410 --> 00:38:14.190

student union, collect them there.

[Irfan] So, and I think I think you also

00:38:14.190 --> 00:38:16.680

mentioned this to me,
you know, off the camera, there are

00:38:16.680 --> 00:38:20.570

also, the student union is
also involved with all the student

00:38:20.570 --> 00:38:25.550

restaurants. [Venla] Yes, we are. On the board.
We have two places in the Semma board.

00:38:25.550 --> 00:38:29.210

[Irfan] Also, just context for people.
Semma is one of the providers of

00:38:29.210 --> 00:38:33.680

the student lunches at the, at
the, at the university. [Venla] Yeah.

00:38:33.680 --> 00:38:37.850

So, we also affect there so we can
if there's a problem in there,

00:38:37.850 --> 00:38:40.760

you can also come to us and we
can try make it better.

00:38:40.970 --> 00:38:43.790

Oh, so are we talking about like
special menu requests because their

00:38:43.790 --> 00:38:46.080

butter chicken is really good.

I gotta say... [Venla] I think you

00:38:46.080 --> 00:38:48.510

can do that without us; say it
to the restaurant.

00:38:48.690 --> 00:38:51.810

[Irfan] But what's more effective?

Me going there? Or you can give it...

00:38:51.810 --> 00:38:54.720

[Venla] I'm not there, so...

[Irfan] Okay, so I need to talk to that

00:38:54.720 --> 00:38:57.960

representative. [Venla] Yes. [Irfan]

Um, so what is kind of like a

00:38:57.960 --> 00:39:01.500

message that you would want to

leave off incoming international

00:39:01.500 --> 00:39:05.700

students in particular? [Venla]

Just get involved and get

00:39:05.700 --> 00:39:09.190

involved in the student union.

And also, if you have anything that,

00:39:09.190 --> 00:39:12.670

on your mind or something, you

feel something is not correct, or

00:39:12.670 --> 00:39:16.480

something is wrong, contact us.

We are here for you.

00:39:16.480 --> 00:39:20.200

I'm here for international students,
specially, so you can always contact

00:39:20.200 --> 00:39:23.080

me and always come to talk to me.
And I do want the international

00:39:23.080 --> 00:39:27.130

student come to talk to me.
And because, then I can, like, make

00:39:27.130 --> 00:39:29.980

the international student voice
heard and seen more.

00:39:31.150 --> 00:39:35.100

[Irfan] I think that's a perfect point to
stop. Well, hey Venla, thank you so much.

00:39:35.130 --> 00:39:38.430

Uh, I really want to say I appreciate
the fact that you kind of clarified

00:39:38.430 --> 00:39:40.440

some stuff about the student union,
that it isn't just like,

00:39:40.440 --> 00:39:42.450

you know, this random place where
you're spending your money.

00:39:42.480 --> 00:39:45.750

It has, like, deeper meaning.

Uh, and also, I got to tell you,

00:39:45.750 --> 00:39:49.890

it's very nice to see somebody in,
like, a position where you can make a

00:39:49.890 --> 00:39:53.910

difference, but also you genuinely
have a desire to implement sort

00:39:53.910 --> 00:39:57.580

of a difference and also give an
opportunity to a community that is

00:39:57.580 --> 00:40:01.720

still new here to have their voices
heard. So, you guys have heard it.

00:40:01.720 --> 00:40:03.970

If you want to have your voice
be more directly heard,

00:40:03.970 --> 00:40:06.850

you have the opportunity to become
more involved with the student union,

00:40:06.850 --> 00:40:10.210

once you arrive as a student.

If you're already a student,

00:40:10.210 --> 00:40:13.870

you can run in 2025. [Venla] Yes. [Irfan]

Okay. You just got to do a little bit

00:40:13.870 --> 00:40:16.270

of research on the different
groups and everything.

00:40:16.270 --> 00:40:18.370

And as always, you guys,
if you want to learn more about

00:40:18.370 --> 00:40:21.340

the University of Jyväskylä,
you can check out the other episodes

00:40:21.340 --> 00:40:26.310

of our show JYU for YOU and check
us out next week, future weeks,

00:40:26.310 --> 00:40:28.050

and of course,
you can also check out everything

00:40:28.050 --> 00:40:30.750

in the link in the description for
all the information about this

00:40:30.750 --> 00:40:33.990

episode and future episodes.

Kiitos ja moikka! Cheers!