



Student life- Finland

You are all coming for the Springtime, which is a great time to enjoy student life here in Finland. In this email we will give you some more insights to the traditions that you will see here and information on how to join in =)



Student associations & nations

We have at Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU) many student associations and nations. Anyone can join any of them! But it is common to join the one relating to one's studies. Not all of them have information in English about all activities, but if you join or are in contact with them, they will provide it and make sure you feel included.

Have a look at the ones we have at ÅAU: [Click here!](#)

ESN is an Erasmus student network which is similar to the other student associations and aimed for international students and finish students alike. Click here for more information: [Click here!](#)



Student overalls

- In Finland a lot of student associations have their own student overall. They are worn on events, parties, picnics and whenever really. Many students also collect patches and put them on. You can get patches from events, parties, the associations, stores, travels etc. Some students in relationships change a part of the bottom of one leg with their partner if they are in another association. Overalls can usually be bought from the associations. ESN the Erasmus student network (again for everyone not just Erasmus students) have their own as well.
- Want to know more? [Click here!](#)

Student events

- Traditional academic dinner parties (“sits”)

This is dinner parties usually hosted by associations/nations and that include food, drinks and a lot of singing. They often cost, but different sits cost differently.

(most sits are not super dressed up, that’s usually the anniversary ones). If you want to join one of those but don’t have the outfit, ask around and see if you might be able to borrow one.





Shrove Tuesday – or Fastlagstisdag/Fastlaskiainen

- Fastlaskiainen is the common celebration among the Finnish and Swedish Universities in Åbo and Vasa, and the name of the event is a combination of the Finnish word laskiainen and the Swedish word fastlag This winter day in February or March is celebrated through sleigh competitions Shrove Tuesday buns are also a must for this day The sweet buns are filled with whipped cream and jam or almond paste



First of May – the most important day for students 30 April - 1 May (no weather can stop this!)

The First of May or "Vappu" is the Finnish version of Labour Day that we celebrate to honour working people. It is also the biggest student festival of the year, bringing together tens of thousands of students and other citizens of Turku.

Åbo

On 30 April at 18:00 the whole city gathers either at Vårdberget (in Swedish, here will ÅAU be) at Turku Art Museum (in Finnish) to listen to music and speeches. At 6pm sharp, we all put on our students caps (we get these when we finish upper secondary school, but no need to have one). The moment when thousands of students with their caps have gathered at Aurakatu is by far the most impressive part of Vappu. The ÅAU choirs performs at Vårdberget and its being shown on national tv.

For students the day starts a bit earlier. Hanging in parks and just enjoying time with each other.

On 1 May from noon until late afternoon, students and other citizens gather at Vårdberget for a picnic. After the previous nights's vappu extravaganza, it's now time to enjoy the spring in a relaxed atmosphere, eat traditional vappu snacks and drink some mead with friends. (text from modified from Turku University information)

Vasa

Usually by the Topelius statue and picnics on 1st of May in Hovrättsparken plus events organized by student union and student associations the whole day!

General

The whole week the student union and student associations are organizing events and parties! So, make sure you join! But please note! Events organized usually have limited places so if there is an application to apply you need to sit the min its being realized and apply or they will be fully booked. More information will come from the Student union!



What else is happening – Vasa

[Click here for more student events!](#)

[Click here for general info about events in Vasa!](#)



[Click here for more international events!](#)

[Click here for general info about events in Åbo!](#)

What else is
happening –
Åbo





Oh and of course no student life is complete without.....studies!

Here are some links to our libraries, our buildings and links to other relevant stuff.

Important links for studies

- Generally confused about study-stuff? Start here at our intranet ([click here](#))
- Study technique ([click here](#)) or the study psychologists moodle guide ([click here](#))
- Need rooms to hangout or study? ([Click here](#))
- Need books and texts online? ([Click here for Alma](#))
- Or need to chat with a librarian? ([Book a librarian click here](#))
- Student union ([click here](#))
- Do you get lost all the time? ([Click here for maps of buildings and campus](#))
- Hungry or in need of a coffee/tea? ([click here](#) for Åbo) or ([click here for Vasa](#))

