

11. Associations

Finland has sometimes been referred to as the promised land of registered associations. Finland has some 133 000 (2012) registered associations and many social occasions are organised through associations.

11.1 Student Associations

The student life can and should be a lot of fun! There are many student clubs and associations within each department or faculty. These clubs and associations arrange seminars, social events and excursions. For complete information on specific student unions, see: www.studentkaren.fi.

ESN

The Erasmus Student Network (ESN) is an international student organisation active in 37 countries. Its purpose is to help international students during their stay in another country. ESN sections in Åbo and Vasa organise a wide range of activities for international students throughout the academic year. The sections want to make all international students feel welcome and offer them unique Finnish experiences such as ski and skating events, sauna evenings, trips to neighbouring countries and parties. The organised events are open to all internationally minded people. For more information check the ESN Finland website: www.esnfinland.eu/.

ELSA

The European Law Students' Association (Elsa) offers international activities for law students and young lawyers. Co-operation with other branches of *Elsa* as well as with other international student organisations in Åbo is seen in seminars, conferences and various parties and get-togethers. *Elsa* has also been involved in mentoring law students from abroad. For further information, see <http://elsa-turku.fi/>.

ISHA – Turku

International Students of History Association (ISHA) is an international, independent, non-profitable network for all who are interested in history and related subjects. The main goal of the organisation is to develop contacts between history students in different countries, in order to break the traditional interpretation of historiography for the benefit of a more international and broader viewpoint. *ISHA-Turku* is a collective organisation of history students at Åbo Akademi University and the University of Turku. For more information, see www.isha-international.org/Section/Turku.

ISTU - International Students of Turku Universities

A joint network of the Student Unions of the Åbo Universities organises activities primarily for international degree students. They host pub night regularly and function as a platform for other events. For more information, check out their Facebook page www.facebook.com/isturku.

11.2 Religious Communities

There are two university chaplains, one on each campus, who are there to help the students at the university if they feel like talking to someone. For more information, please contact:

Ms. Mia Pusa (Åbo)

e-mail: mia.pusa@evl.fi

Phone: +358 (0)40 341 7308

Reception hours and location: Tuesdays 12.00-14.00 at Kåren, Tavastgatan 22, 3rd floor

Ms. Tia-Maria Nord (Vasa)

e-mail: tia-maria.nord@evl.fi

Phone: +358 (0)44 480 8327

Office hours: Thursdays 13.00-15.00 room A114 in the A-staircase in Academill

Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) (Turun NNKY), Lilla Tavastgatan 12 A. Phone: +358 (0)400 821 905, tnnky@saunalahti.fi, www.ywca.fi. This association arranges Host Family