

Annual decision on the general criteria for electing student representatives

The appointment of student representatives to the University's various administrative bodies is one of the statutory duties of the Student Union. Provisions concerning student representatives and their election process are laid down in the Regulations on the election of student representatives. On this basis, the Board of the Student Union decides on the election of student representatives and on the detailed selection criteria, except for the University Collegium and the University Board. This document sets out the general criteria for electing student representatives to administrative bodies, based on which the Board makes decisions on appointments and the prioritization of applicants.

Statutory and regulation-based eligibility criteria:

- A student representative may only be a person who has a valid right to complete a degree at the University of the Arts Helsinki and who has registered as an attending student at the University of the Arts Helsinki before the application deadline. However, a person who is considered eligible as a member of staff at the University is not eligible for election to the University Board, the University Collegium, or the boards of the academies. *(Regulations on the election of student representatives, section 3)*
- A student representative may only be a person who has applied for the specific body in question and submitted their application by the application deadline. For special reasons the Board may appoint a student representative without an application, if they have given their consent and the Board considers this necessary in the interest of students. *(Regulations on the election of student representatives, section 14)*
- In university-level bodies, the aim is to appoint student representatives from all academies of the University of the Arts Helsinki. *(Regulations on the election of student representatives, section 17)*
- Student members of academy-specific bodies shall be selected from among the students of the respective academy, considering the internal representativeness within the academy. *(Regulations on the election of student representatives, section 18)*
- If a body, or a vacant student member position within it, concerns only a specific field of study or degree level, student members shall, where possible, be selected from among students of that field or degree level. *(Regulations on the election of student representatives, section 18)*

Principles for selection:

- The most important general criteria for the selection of student representatives are motivation for carrying out the task and the ability to commit to it.
- Different emphases may be placed on prior experience and the applicant's level of insight depending on the nature of the position.

Factors considered in the selection process:

- understanding of the responsibilities of the body, e.g. experience related to the relevant field of study at the University of the Arts Helsinki and/or outside the University
- prior experience as a student representative at the University of the Arts Helsinki or another educational institution
- other experience in student advocacy or influencing activities
- views related to performing the duties and to developing the university, academy, one's own degree programme or subject group, the position of students, or the arts sector more broadly through the role
- experience within the Student Union and connections to the Student Union, an academy committee, or the relevant subject association
- commitment to the values, policies and objectives of the Student Union while acting as a student representative
- ability and willingness to promote the interests of all students at the University of the Arts Helsinki while taking the interests of the entire university community into account
- language skills required for the position (based on the Universities Act for statutory bodies, and on notifications issued by the University of the Arts Helsinki for other bodies)
- representativeness of the student community, where a body has more than one student representative

Additional considerations when comparing applicants of approximately equal merit

- the possibility of distributing student representative roles among several different students
- positive special consideration of representatives of different minorities within the context of the University of the Arts Helsinki or its academies