

ASK's greeting at the Opening of Arcada's academic year

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Bästa rektor, kära gäster, personal och studerande – ASK och alla nya studerande: Varmt välkomna till Arcada och till det nya läsåret!

Det är en stor ära för mig att stå här i dag som ordförande för Arcada studerandekår – ASK och representera Arcadas studerande. Det här året är mycket speciellt. Vi börjar inte bara ett nytt läsår. Vi firar också Arcadas 30 årsjubileum. Det betyder trettio år av utbildning, utveckling och gemenskap. Under dessa år har många människor kommit till Arcada med idéer och drömmar. De har lämnat Arcada med kunskap och med en vilja att göra skillnad.

To all our new students: welcome. Today, you are beginning much more than a programme of study. You are becoming part of a community that has been built over three decades will now help shape its next chapter. and you Some of you have travelled across Helsinki to be here. Others have crossed countries, continents, languages and cultures. You arrive with different experiences, different expectations and different dreams. But from today, you share something important: Arcada is now your university, and this community is yours too.

Starting university is exciting but let us be honest it can also be overwhelming. There will be moments when you feel confident and moments when you question whether you are doing enough. There may be difficult assignments, confusing group projects, early mornings and very late nights. You may occasionally open your calendar and wonder how everything ended up happening in the same week. That is part of student life. But student life is not meant to be experienced alone.

Look around you. The people sitting beside you today may become your closest friends, your future colleagues, your business partners or simply the people who help you get through a difficult Monday morning. So, introduce yourself. Ask questions. Join an event even if you do not know anyone there. Speak to your tutors, your teachers and your fellow students.

Be curious about people whose backgrounds differ from your own. A strong community does not appear automatically. We create it together through small acts of courage, kindness and participation.

At ASK, our purpose is to unite students and promote their social, academic and societal interests. In plain language: we are here to represent you, support you and ensure that your voice is heard. ASK is present when decisions concerning students are made. We work for accessible education, student wellbeing, equality, fair treatment and a student life in which everyone can find a place. We also create opportunities to meet people, participate and build memories beyond the classroom.

But a student union is not only a board, an office or a logo. It is its students. Your ideas, experiences and involvement give ASK its purpose. If something at Arcada works well, tell us so we can help protect it. If something is not working, tell us so we can work to improve it. And if you have an idea that could make our community stronger, bring it forward. You do not need to wait until graduation to make a difference. You can make one from your first day.

Arcada's 30th anniversary also gives us an opportunity to reflect on what a university community truly represents. Buildings matter. Degrees matter. Traditions matter. But the real history of Arcada is written by people: by every student who dared to begin, every teacher who encouraged someone to continue and every graduate who carried their knowledge into society. Now, you are part of that history.

Trettio år är en viktig dag för Arcada. Det är en tid när vi kan tänka på Arcadas historia, men också på framtiden. När vi firar de senaste trettio åren måste vi också fråga: Hur vill vi att Arcada ska vara i framtiden? Jag hoppas att Arcada är en plats där ingen känner sig ensam eller utanför. En plats där olika språk, kulturer och idéer är en styrka. En plats där studerande får kunskap, men också mod att tänka själva, ställa frågor och ta ansvar. Och framför allt: en plats där varje studerande känner sig välkommen och hemma.

To our teachers and staff: thank you for the knowledge, guidance and care you give to students. Your work shapes not only careers, but people and futures. To returning students: welcome back. You already know that being part of the Arcada community comes with an opportunity and a responsibility to help new students find their place.

Share your experience, include others and help preserve the warmth of this community. And to our new students, I want to leave you with three simple messages: Be brave enough to try. Be humble enough to ask for help. And be generous enough to help someone else. You do not have to know exactly where the coming years will take you. Very few of us truly do. What matters is that you remain open to learning, to people and to possibilities you may not yet be able to imagine.

On behalf of Arcada Student Union – ASK, I wish every student and member of staff an inspiring, successful and memorable academic year.

Till hela Arcada: ett varmt grattis på 30årsdagen! Låt oss vara stolta över de trettio år som har gått. Låt oss också arbeta tillsammans för att bygga Arcadas framtid med kunskap, mod, gemenskap och hopp. Och till alla nya studerande: välkomna till Arcada. Välkomna till ASK. Välkomna till er nya gemenskap.

Thank you and let us make this academic year one to remember.