

## Tutkintona Jyväskylä, kausi 2 jakso 10: International Special

*Sakke: Tutkintona Jyväskylä. Ikuiset Henkiset opiskelijat, Aapeli ja Sakke, tutustuvat Jyväskylän opiskelijan ja vastavalmistuneen näkökulmasta.*

*Aapeli: Pitkä oppimäärä Jyväskylästä tuo kaupungin palvelut, henkilöt ja tarinat kuulokkeisiin ytimekkäästi.*

*Sakke: Kuuntele ja tiedät mitä Jyväskylässä voi tehdä opiskelijabileiden ulkopuolella tai tutkinto kädessä*

**Sakke:** Welcome to the Tutkintona Jyväskylä International special. My name is Sakke, I'm a lifetime student and I have here in the studio, Aapeli, once again.

**Aapeli:** So nice to be here. I'm Aapeli.

**Sakke:** And today we have two awesome special guests, and I want to give a warm welcome to Satu and Anna. Welcome.

**Anna:** Thank you.

**Satu:** Thank you. Nice to be here.

**Sakke:** Would you briefly tell who are you going to what you do?

**Anna:** So hello, I am Anna, I'm a fourth year degree student in JAMK University of Applied Sciences, and I am starting on the Bachelor of Business Administration. I came to Jyväskylä three and a half years ago and currently I'm also working in JAMKO student union as the international and degree tutor in Responsible.

**Satu:** And I am Satu, and I'm working as the international relations manager to the city of Jyväskylä, and I actually came to Jyväskylä at twenty five years ago and I started to study social sciences.

**Sakke:** Cool, what a diverse background. What do you think, what's the best thing in Jyväskylä?

**Satu:** Well, I can say that for me, I think is the size of the city, so I think Jyväskylä is a good size to run a family and do your work.

**Anna:** For me, it's first of all, as for the person coming from a very big city, I'm originally from St. Petersburg in Russia, is that the urban part of the city is closely correlated to the major part and the citizens have an opportunity to go hiking or enjoy the nature, not leaving the Jyväskylä area. And of course, a lot of events concerned with the nature and free time and well-being that are held by the city or the universities or other organisations.

**Aapeli:** Well, how is the international students community here in your vascular?

**Anna:** I wouldn't say that there is like a solid defined community in Jyväskylä, although there is a vast majority of international students and also international people who are working here or living here with their families. And there is like different places where they can go and socialise like Gloria then there is, of course, different student organisations or just international organisations. So I would say that the community's feeling pretty well and it blends in quite well with the rest of the Jyväskylä society.

**Satu:** From my point of view, I've noticed that international students are active and we have some three thousand six hundred international students in our city, and I have had a chance to meet the students, for instance, in international get together events that is organised every year. And there I met also, Anna, you there, and I really noticed that students have many ideas and they want to enhance the life in the city.

**Anna:** Yes, that's true. Like, I have heard that every third person in Jyväskylä you meet is the student and that JAMK university and Jyväskylä University like have at least two thousand international students per year on the degree and exchange programmes. So, yes, and those students are very active. They are eager to participate in different societies and events and also take practical trainings from companies in Jyväskylä.

**Aapeli:** So as a brief summary, like the best thing in Jyväskylä in general is that students are really active and they play really crucial part of the scene in the city. Uh, but how this looks like from the perspective of City of Jyväskylä, students in general and especially international students?

**Satu:** City of Jyväskylä provides many basic services for the residents of the Jyväskylä, as well as for the international students, and maybe the most known service is the Linkki buses. So the local transportation. Then we have cultural services, the author, libraries and museums, and then we have health care services and employment services. And other international students play an important role because we need to enhance our services, that the services meet the needs of the international people here in our city.

**Anna:** Yes, I support that because international people play a very important role. And a lot of them actually, after finishing their studies, would like to stay in Jyväskylä City, and they need like facilities and also services provided to them, like especially in English, because some of the public services are unfortunately lacking this quality. But we can see that our city of Jyväskylä tries to improve it every year. And that's very great.

**Aapeli:** Well, as Satu mentioned previously, there are like three thousand six hundred international students in the Jyväskylä. And as Anna said, many of them would like to stay here after graduation. So I could ask you, Satu, so what kind of advice would you give to international students or international people in general who would like to stay in school after graduation?

**Satu:** I have some tips for international students and those tips on networking, Finnish language skills and then the use of the employment services. So I've noticed that it's very important for international students that they have strong networking connections to local companies, associations as well as people outside the educational institution. They are studying already during

their studies. And then if you have Finnish language skill, it enhances your opportunities to find a job. So there are not many job opportunities or jobs where you can cope only with English language. So it's rather crucial to learn at least some Finnish language. And then, of course, we have employment services that are targeted for international students.

**Sakke:** The language question is really important, and I'd like to ask Anna, how do you find a Finnish? And have you learnt that by yourself?

**Anna:** I started learning Finnish, then I just came here on my first year of studies and I have been learning Finnish in JAMK university on the basic language courses, and I would say that for now my level is around B1, but it has been extremely hard for me. And as for many international students, because Finnish language is somewhat unique and I believe that the possibilities to study should be broadened a little bit and there should be more opportunities for international students to study Finnish language outside of their universities and maybe like more opportunities to talk to native speakers and communicate with them and of course, to discover the culture of the Finnish language. And that, I think, would be like the best thing to do, because I would say that a lot of students find it quite challenging to master Finnish language in order for it to be sufficient for starting the working life.

**Aapeli:** Well, correct me if I'm wrong, but I have noticed that many of my Finnish friends, they usually switch to English quite fast, even though the person they are talking with understands at least a basic Finnish. So that's something many international students usually that's something really wrong, I think. Or what do you think, Anna?

**Anna:** Well, Finnish people tend to have very high level of English skills. And of course, when the person is trying to speak in Finnish and doing it obviously wrong, it's like a natural thing for a person to switch to the language, which is convenient for both of them. But I believe that my advice would be that if you have a Finnish friend, ask Finnish friends to practise with you the language, even though you can make mistakes. But that's very essential to practise the speaking skills.

**Sakke:** Yeah, that's the same I, uh, found out during my own exchange I was willing to learn Italian, but then I was always speaking English. So that needs a lot of strong mind to, like, keep on the hard language. But, uh, in every episode me and Aapeli, we have done this field report in which we kind of go more into that topic. And this time we were like wondering like what kind of nationalities we have in general, in Globe, and then like how many of them would live here in Jyväskylä. So, Aapeli, what was your first comment when we went through all these countries?

**Aapeli:** Well, we were going through a list of flags and I really recognised what quite a lot of them and the next thing to come to my mind that actually I have met many people from these nationalities here in Jyväskylä, even though Jyväskylä is quite a small city in international standards. We have a huge international students community here in Jyväskylä. Or what do you think, Sakke?

**Sakke:** Yeah, that's correct. And I think that that's the crucial takeaway from our field trip report, that you can be really international here in Jyväskylä. You don't need to go abroad. And especially in this situation, that's a really good thing. Like you can be international in Jyväskylä, in Finland.

But let's go forward. And we have also questions regarding Finnish students, even though we are talking about international students. So my question is to you Anna, like what all the Finnish students should know about the international students here in Jyväskylä.

**Anna:** Well, first of all, they should know that a lot of the international students are very willing and extremely excited to learn about Finnish culture, traditions and language, so Finnish people should not hesitate to offer, like, information about different museums, events and trips, and also that international people like they have different cultures. So because Finnish people respect, like, for example, personal space, some international people, they might not have that in their culture. So if the international person seems a little bit overactive for the Finnish person, you shouldn't judge it too hard. Just let the international person to open up their true identity. That also come like that. That is also true that it comes to the work and employment that international people are very eager to learn Finnish work and culture and etiquette. And they just need some guidance and some patience.

**Sakke:** That's a really great answer. We have also this one common theme in every episode, and it's called like word association game, and we have prepared like six words, which we are going to say next and we ask you to reply as fast as possible with the first thing you come up with a bit. So are you ready?

**Anna:** Yes.

**Aapeli:** Sauna.

**Anna:** Lake.

**Satu:** Summer.

**Aapeli:** Student cafeteria.

**Anna:** Coffee.

**Satu:** Noisy.

**Sakke:** Student event,

**Anna:** Alcohol.

**Satu:** Noisy.

**Aapeli:** Jyväskylä.

**Anna:** Universities.

**Satu:** The best city.

**Sakke:** The tower of Harju.

**Anna:** Lookout point.

**Satu:** The evening sun.

**Aapeli:** Winter in Finland.

**Anna:** Cold.

**Satu:** Snowy.

**Sakke:** What great answers. Thanks. We have been asking a lot of questions from you, but now it's your turn to ask something from us. So what would you like to ask from us as a lifetime student, something that would be useful in your work or in your daily life?

**Anna:** What is your perspective on the integration of international students in Jyväskylä? What would you maybe improve or suggest?

**Aapeli:** I think there would be more integration between Finnish students and international students, even though I have to say that the situation in Jyväskylä is much better than it was when I was doing my exchange in Prague, in Czech Republic. After all, Jyväskylä is a student city. But I think I would add more more events that combined Finnish and international students.

**Sakke:** I'm not sure if this is a politically correct answer, but I think saunas in Kortepohja that's a great way to kind of get to know the people. And that's also there are a lot of Finnish and also international students. So especially like the sauna opera is really a great way to, get to know new people.

**Satu:** And I would like to ask that what Jyväskylä could do to be even more international.

**Aapeli:** I'll let Sakke answer this one first.

**Sakke:** I was waiting this, but I'm ready, as always. I think city of Jyväskylä could be kind of the, uh, or like build the bridge between, uh, like the international community and also like the local Finnish students. So kind of, uh, encourage like student associations to do more collaboration and, uh, that kind of things. So maybe you don't need to organise events by yourself, but like, you could do it like encourage the local associations to do more collaboration.

**Aapeli:** And I would like to see more international people stay in Jyväskylä after graduation, so there could be more effort put into that more collaboration with like student organisations and university and University of Applied Sciences. And, yeah, that's what I would like to say.

**Sakke:** So, now it's time to thank you. It was really nice to talk with you. And now we're going to wrap this up and go to then some finish and also get known to all the local international students. Right.

**Anna:** Thank you. It was a delight.

**Satu:** Thank you for both of you.