Contents

Editor’s column 3
Chair’s column 4
Meet the fuksi team 5
TEK’s greetings 12
TREY 13
Oncoming events 14

Cover: Elli Horelli
Cover photo: Henrik Laakkonen
Layout: Kerttu Ojala

Bioner’s 14th anniversary party. Credits: Henrik Laakkonen
Greetings, honored fuksi! (Fuksi means a first year student). You have made the right choice in applying to Tampere University. Many among us have found their home in the champagne-gold embrace of Bioner, hopefully you will too!

This year has been unusual in many ways. Regardless, it now appears that in the autumn we can again study on the campus and that many of the fuksi events will be arranged. The autumn shouldn’t be boring, as right after the fuksi weeks there will be SyysWappu, meaning the traditional May Day parties that were moved from the spring. During Wappu there are many important events, including NamiAppro (Sweets Appro). Any self-respecting bioner is expected to attend.

Student life is often advertised with big parties and constant events, but I have often found most enjoyment from small events with close friends. An example of this sense of community would be the guild and club rooms, of which there are dozens in Hervanta. Bioner has its own guild room too. The bad news is that we had to renovate the room due to water damage, and due to certain events (read: corona) the room has yet to be refurbished. I suppose we’ll get there before Christmas.

Personally, I’m completely done with the new normal and unusual times. Regardless, Bioner promises to be there to support.

*The writer has the firm opinion that we all would be happier if the sale of the Lipton Yellow Label tea was banned.*

Editor-in-chief Kerttu Ojala
Hello you fuksi!

Like everybody else in this magazine, I shall start by congratulating you about the beginning of your new studies! You are welcome to start your journey in this student association called Bioner.

But what is Bioner and its purpose?

Officially, Bioner is a student association (“a guild” for an engineering student association like we are) for biotechnology and biomedical engineering students. Our guild’s ground purpose is lobbying for our members in study related issues but on a daily basis we organize all kinds of free time activities like movie nights, academic dinners (“sitsis”), excursions to companies in our field and weekly sport sessions, to begin with! In other words, we bring students together for fun but also beneficial purposes. And most importantly, we support and tutor you, new students, in the beginning of your studies. We and the whole student community are doing our best to involve and engage international students to the Finnish student culture.

You can participate in the guild’s activities and use its services as much as you feel like. The most important thing is that you find your own comfortable place in this society, whether it means living at our guild room all-day-long and participating everything or maybe only utilizing the exam archives at the guild’s website (bioner.fi) once a year. And remember that there are also many other guilds and hobby clubs whose activities you can participate, too!

The pandemic has brought its own challenges to the guild due to the gathering restrictions, for instance. We aim to organize your freshmen year as epic as possible still considering the corona regulations from the government and the university. We also try to pay attention to fuksis in the risk groups.

The beginning of your studies is rather different but maybe that makes you even more special!

If you have any questions about Bioner or maybe some practical matters, please contact me or our fuksi team. See you in the autumn!

Hilla Mäkinen
the chairperson of Bioner 2020
hilla.makinen@tuni.fi
+358443386820
Hello future fuksi of Bioner! Congratulations on your place in Tampere University! Biotechnology and Biomedical Engineering is a great choice and we are sure you’ll enjoy your time with us. In the coming fall you will join the awesome students of the subject association Bioteekkarikilta Bioner ry (Bioner for short). Our spirit is unparalleled, and you’ll surely find lifelong friends among us!

You might be nervous about the change of environment or meeting new people, which is completely normal. There’s no need for greater tension, though, because our amazing fuksiteam will help you start your studies and adjust to the new environment! We are Katri and Atte, your fuksi-aunt and uncle. Along with the tutors we’ll make sure you get all the necessary information before the studies start. We’re going to show you around the campus and Herwanta, but the most important goal is finding new friends and having fun. We’ll introduce you to the different aspects of student life and especially teekkari-culture (teekkari means student of a technical university).

But wait – what is a fuksiperson? And what in the world is a fuksi? A fuksi is a first-year student at a university but the term is by no means a condescending one. The title means that you’re experiencing all the fun things for the first time. All the events and the studies feel new and exciting. Whether you’re stepping into higher education for the first time or you already have a degree from another institution. Maybe you’re changing your field or starting at a new university because your previous studies didn’t match your expectations. Whatever your background is we’ll make sure that your studies here at Tampere University start off nicely.

Student life at university is quite different compared to high school, for example. You might already know that. Studying at a university is quite extensive. This applies to both studying and other activities. Students organize a great number of events for each other: everything from sports competitions and bungee jumping to book clubs and sauna nights. Your fukiyear will be exactly the way you make it be. We’re here to guide your way and tell you about all the things you can and should do.

The first event after arriving to Tampere University will be the orientation weeks. These two weeks are packed with activities, so we recommend you free up time from your calendar. During the days there will be important informational events about the university and getting to know the campus and its’ practices. During the evenings we’ll have more time to get to know each other, Herwanta and the other fuksis of the campus. Evening activities include for example barbecuing, parties and hanging out. We hope that you’ll join as many activities as you can and learn to know the secrets of teekkari-culture during your fuki year. You should also keep in mind why we’re here, though: credit points won’t come knocking at your door, you need to actively work for them. Studying isn’t particularly hard but it’s possibly different to what you’re used to. There’s more responsibilities and freedoms and you’re in charge of your own studies. Come and make your studies the way you want them to be!
We’re eagerly looking forward to the orientation weeks and meeting you! You can ask us questions even before the studies begin. Below are our contact details: you can (and should) message or call us. Congratulations once again and see you on Monday 17.8. though we recommend you come to the fuksivaraslähtö (fuksi head start) on Sunday 16.8. at the front lawn of Hervanta campus (if you find the campus you can’t miss the front lawn).

Best regards,

Katri and Atte

Fuksi officers

Name: Atte Sinkkonen
Year of study: 2nd year
Home city: The home of the best licorice in Finland, Kouvola.
Expectations for the autumn: A lot of new cool fuskis to whom I can present teekkari culture and with whom I can make friends. I’m also waiting for the possibility to network with other fuksi people. In other words, I’m looking forward to meeting new people and having new experiences :)
Best fuksi-year memories: The one-night stand of Bioner was the best single event. On a more general level, the feeling of community and the warm welcome to student life were amazing.
Hervanta pro-tip: Herwood has everything you need except a McDonalds. Do not stare at the all-seeing Tuni face too long.
Totem animal: Capybara
Contact information:
Email: atte.sinkkonen@tuni.fi or alternatively fuksivastaava@bioner.fi. Both me and Katri can see the emails in this address.
Phone: +358 44 0192990

Name: Katri Ala-Mononen
Year of study: 3rd year
Home city: Originally I’m from Iittala, but for the last 7 years I’ve lived in Tampere.
Expectations for the autumn: I’m so excited for the orientation weeks and the chance to get to know you all! This autumn will be a little special and I’m excited to see what the autumn and the unusual circumstances will bring.
Best fuksi-year memories: I have many best memories, but the topmost on my mind are the
Meet the Fuksi Team

bungee jump on the Front Lawn, all the fun fuksi events on the orientation weeks, the anniversary party of Bioner and of course the fuksi Wappu, that culminated in the teekkari dipping.

Hervanta pro-tip: From Sääs Bar (in Koneta-lo) you can get wings for a student price every Friday!

Totem animal: Fox

Contact information:
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Phone: +358 44 7777836
Faksi officer Katri Ala-Mononen

Hervanta pro-tip: Suolijärvi best destination in Summers
Totem Animal: Rabbit
Ali Nadeem

International tutors

Name: Ali Nadeem
Home City: Faisalabad
Home Country: Pakistan
Year of Study: 2019 and currently 2nd year Masters Student
Best fuksi year memories: Well i think i didn’t attended any of the events :D

Name: Austin Evans
Home City: Baltimore Maryland, USA
Year of study: Second year International Master’s student
Expectations from Tutoring: I look forward to helping new students get acclimated to the university and show them everything that Bi- oner has to offer as a guild.

Best Fuksi-year memories: Bioner Sitsits during the fall, sports events, and welcome week.

Hervanta Pro-tip: There are so many cool hiking trails through the forest nearby Hervanta in almost all directions that are beautiful to explore throughout the year.

Totem Animal: Llama
Name: Sadra  
**Home City:** Tehran  
**Year of Study:** 1st year master’s student  
**Expectations from Tutoring:** I'm really interested in meeting new students to help them with their basic needs as soon as they arrive in Tampere.

**Best fuksi-year Memories:** I remember as soon as I got to Tampere, orientation week started, and it was full of exciting events for almost two weeks. Also, there were some nice moments when there were some team-works with other students for different projects.

**Hervanta Pro-tip:** Besides studying, there is a great chance of exploring and enjoying the incredible nature!

**Totem Animal:** The Owl!

**Greetings to new students:** It is really amazing that you have chosen Tampere University to pursue your studies, many different exciting moments are waiting for you!

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Name: Elina  
**Home City:** Tampere  
**Year of Study:** Starting my second year this autumn  
**Expectations from Tutoring:** Getting to know all...
of you and being able to help you to adjust after moving to a new country

**Best fuksi-year memories:** I’d say it was probably getting the teekkari cap:)  

**Hervanta pro-tip:** Suolijärvi is definitely the nicest lake to jog or walk around in Tampere

**Totem animal:** caique

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**Name:** Shayan Ahmad Khan  
**Home city:** Tampere  
**Year of study:** 2019-2021  
**Expectations from tutoring:** Looking forward to meet new students. Will love to socialize and learn new cultures.  
**Best fuksi-year memories:** International Food day, I enjoyed the food a lot And the late night party in the bunker.

**Hervanta pro-tip:** Do search for nearest hiking tracks there are a lot of ways to be close to nature. And be careful in going towards a frozen lake, the ice might be weak in some places.

**Totem animal:** The Lion

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**Name:** Vera Diaz  
**Home city:** Los Angeles  
**Year of study:** 2019-2021  
**Expectation from tutoring:** Meet bold people who came to Finland for their studies.  
**Best fuksi-year memories:** First sit sit at the bunker  
**Hervanta pro-tip:** There are lots of biking trails near by and Suolijärvi is great for an afternoon stroll.

**Totem animal:** Orca whale
Finnish tutors

The Finnish tutors are there to help all students of Bioner, even if the primary responsibility for the international students belongs to the international tutors.

Nina (above) and Ronja (below)

Emmi (above) and Aino (below)
Meet the Fuksi Team

Katriina

Master’s students tutor Karim

Erika (left) and Henna and Helka (above)
Hi new fuksi!

A big congratulations on your study place from me and TEK. You’re warmly welcome to the world’s best champagne gold bunch, Bioner! The best year of your life is ahead of you and you should make the most of it.

You might be confused about everything new in the beginning, but don’t worry, we’ve all been there. All the new things may feel stressful and exciting at first but you should remember that our champagne gold guild is always there for you. Along with the fuksiteam we academically older students will do our best to support you settling in among us. If during a school day you feel like you don’t know where to go or what to do it’s always a good option to come to the guild room to have a cup of coffee, study or socialize with old or new friends.

But what in the world is TEK?

Tekniikan Akateemiset or TEK in short is Finland’s largest organisation for academic engineers and architects and an advocacy group for us, the students of these fields. In other words, TEK is a national community of experts in technology and it looks after its’ members in the labor market and offers them great services and benefits.

You can notice TEK in many places during your studies and you should become a member already. With the membership you get all of our useful services from summer job application tips to salary counselling, lawyers and helpful trainings but also useful benefits, such as free magazines and discounts on insurances. TEK also supports many of the events organized on Hervanta campus and you can for instance find the undersigned serving you treats already on the orientation weeks.

To top it off student membership of TEK is completely free!

I work as the link between the guild and TEK. You’ll hear more about TEK on the orientation week at the TEKinfo but if you want to find out more about TEK before the orientation weeks you should visit TEK’s website https://www.tek.fi/en/membership-n/student-membership and become a member even before the info event.

You can also always contact the undersigned about everything regarding TEK (why not other things related to student life or anything else)! I would be glad to answer your questions, I’m here for you.

Enjoy the rest of the summer, see you in autumn!

Greatest summer greetings,

Julius Haapakoski
Bioner’s TEK-contact person
Telegram: @haaapis
TREY welcomes you to Tampere

Student Union of Tampere University, TREY, is the second largest student union in Finland. We students form TREY, which consists of 18,000 members. So also you, honored fuksi (first-year student), are a brand new member of TREY!

The most important goal of TREY is to bring students together and look after our rights. There are about 160 associations working under TREY. These associations include subject organizations and guilds (such as Bioner), vocational clubs and clubs specialized in different hobbies. Our wide variety of different associations ensures that you’ll find friends and a pastime that suits you as long as you try out different things! It is also worthwhile to participate in the different events organized by TREY. You might have already heard of Finland’s biggest Wappu, which TREY is organizing along with the Teekkari Union of Tampere.

You can turn to TREY in almost any situation that is troubling you. Our specialists provide students with counselling in questions regarding livelihood and problems with course arrangements, for example. TREY also has two harassment contact persons who will give advice and support for students who have faced harassment or discrimination.

TREY also provides students many member services of which the most visible one is probably the student card. A student card with an up-to-date annual registration sticker proves your eligibility for a discount from railway tickets, student restaurants and other cafes and restaurants, for example. From TREY you can borrow for instance a van (handy for moving), a set of kyykkä (you’ll learn what kyykkä is, don’t worry) or even board games!

The highest decision-making power in TREY belongs to the Council of Representatives, who are elected every two years in an election. You should stay tuned, because this year is an election year and every member of TREY can run for the council! In addition TREY has a 10-person board and about twenty people working as specialists or under the administration. TREY’s office is located on Hervanta campus on the first and second floors of the main building, so it’s very close to Bioner’s guild room. There are two service offices: one on the city centre campus and another one in Hervanta in the second floor of the office. At the service office you can pick up an annual registration sticker, board games or the keys to the van (provided you rented it), for example.

Once again congratulations for the study place and welcome to Tampere University!

Greetings,

Ella Meriläinen
TREY’s board member 2020
Oncoming events

24.-26.7.  Bioner’s summer meetup at the Kuhmalahden rantasauna
16.8.    Fuksi Head Start at the Front Yard of the campus
8.9.     NamiAppro

In all events we take care to abide by the current corona guidelines. The events may be cancelled or changed if the situation demands. We recommend you follow Bioner’s information channels for more info.

Read more about Bioner:

Our website
Facebook
Instagram  @bioteekkarikiltabioner