



INFORMATION PACKAGE ON GROUP TRUSTEE ACTIVITIES (VIP)

Karelia University of Applied Sciences performs so called VIP activities, in English group trustee activities. The Finnish abbreviation VIP comes from the term *atmosphere of caring*. VIP students, i.e. group trustees, are responsible for taking care of their own student groups making sure no one is left alone and aiming at maintaining an atmosphere of caring.

Confidential post as a group trustee includes the following duties

- acting as a trustee of one's own student group and supporting fellow students
- observing and intervening different types of social and mental difficulties faced by single students and the entire student group as a community
- promoting the communal spirit of the group
- participating in monthly meetings and trainings with other group trustees

The duties of group trustees include sensing the atmosphere of the group, making observations of the well-being of single students and the entire student group, and perceiving potential problems appearing among the students (e.g. harassment, inappropriate behaviour, bullying). The objective of group trustee activities is to enhance the atmosphere of caring at Karelia UAS as part of early support activities (VARTU model). Group trustee activities are part of the official study welfare work of Karelia UAS.

Each student group selects two group trustees among its members at an early stage of studies. Group trustees are selected for one year at a time. Group trustees can earn three credits by performing the duties assigned for them.

Group trustee activities are organised by a coordination group, which arranges monthly trainings, events and recreation for group trustees and monitors student groups' atmosphere with an electronic tool. Besides the coordination group, the closest supervisor of group trustees is the tutor teacher of the student group who monitors and supports the smooth progress of studies among the group.

Coordination group:

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