

Memo, 16 December 2019

Subject: Accessibility Assessment of Student House B (Ylioppilastalo B) 22 October 2019.

Present: Taru Luukkala, Kynnys ry Turku
Olli Norberg, Regional Secretary, Kynnys ry Turku
Paula Pietilä, Accessibility Planning Officer, University of Turku
Ville Ritola, Specialist in Social Affairs, Student Union of the University of Turku
Otto Elomäki, board member, Student Union of the University of Turku

Report

General

There is no guidance of any kind to the entrance of Student House B (Ylioppilastalo B). You need to get all the way to the door before seeing a lightly coloured metal sign. A dark letter B is printed on the sign. The sign stands out well from the door.

At the entrance there is a threshold with a height of about 6 cm. The metal is slightly detached from its base. The entrance door is heavy and has no automation. In the entrance hall there is narrow elevator for three people, but it is too small to enter with a wheelchair. For this reason, we have only assessed the organisation premises, the TYY Sauna and the Campus Chapel (Kampuskappeli).

Organisation premises / Osakuntasali ballroom

Entry to the organisation premises from Rehtorinpellonkatu is almost completely accessible. The entrance has a threshold of about 3 cm. The exterior door has no automation. You can move around reasonably well with assistive equipment in the organisation premises and Osakuntasali ballroom. There is no accessible toilet. We wondered if the two smaller toilets could be combined into a more spacious one, but that would be almost impossible due to the load-bearing walls.

TYY Sauna

There is a nearly vertical slope at the entrance, which poses a tripping hazard for people using assistive equipment as well as for any others who enter the room for the first time. The general lighting at the entrance is almost dark. The frame of the inner door is only about 190 cm high and you can easily bump your head on it.

There is a toilet on the premises, but it is too small to enter with a wheelchair or similar piece of equipment. The width of the door is a narrow 68 cm.

There are no support rails in the shower room or sauna. The shower room has good lighting and the shower areas are clearly marked with contrasting stripes. However, it is easy to bump into the bathroom and sauna doors, as they do not appropriately stand out from the background. The width of the sauna door is 70 cm.

Emergency exit

The emergency exit was locked at the time of assessment. Door width: 80 cm.

Campus Chapel (Kampuskappeli)

There is a gentle and relatively long ramp at the entrance of the Campus Chapel. There is no automation on the entrance door, and there is a small threshold under the door.

In the chapel toilet, the free space required for turning a wheelchair is slightly inadequate. There is 80 cm of free space to the right of the toilet seat. The seat is of normal height. A good toilet seat height in an accessible toilet is 46–48cm. The toilet door lacks a pull handle, and there is no device to enable calling for help.