

19.11.2017



**Aalto Media Lab  
Student Association**

### **Special status application**

DADA is the only association representing New Media students specifically – i.e. students of New Media Design and Production, Sound in New Media and Game Design and Production. As a purely Master-level programme, New Media students only spend a couple of years at Aalto. Consequently, the concerns of the students which DADA represents are rather different from those of programmes where students study both their Bachelors and Masters at Aalto University.

As DADA, we take our duty to represent the department of Media and its students when meeting with Tokyo, AYY, other student bodies seriously. Through interaction with other student associations we show our interest and exemplify what the students of the Department of Media stand for. Throughout the past academic year, DADA has organised seven company visits, cross-disciplinary events from sound festivals to robotics workshops, casual get-togethers among members, as well as attended official student organisation meetings discussing student advocacy and matters of interest to our students.

DADA is interested in ensuring the real-world relevance of New Media students, in addition to the field of new media. This year the tutoring of new students in the Department of Media was mainly organised by DADA in collaboration with the official student coordinators and learning services. Further we aim to be present at all relevant events such as the opening of the academic year. For the upcoming move to Otaniemi, DADA is collaborating closely with TOKYO and will be a voice for all students' concerns related to the move of our department.

As a representative of the Department of Media we have taken it on ourselves to join tutor trainings and take responsibility for the integration of new students to the department at the beginning of their studies. Most of the student body consists of international students and therefore even the introduction to Finnish culture and norms at the beginning of the school year falls to us. Thus we have generally been the first physical contact for the new students when starting their school year. On top of arranging social events we try to bring unity among the different peer groups as well as other departments of the university. Promoting other student organisation events has also helped in bringing people from different communities together. We pride ourselves in trying to become as diverse and as open as possible in accepting members from any department and from any background.

For the upcoming move to Väre in the coming year, we believe a special status will be critical to support our purpose in representing our department and strengthening our student community within the school as well as within AYY.