



THE NEW CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OULU

Open international architectural competition

COMPETITION BRIEF

Stage 1: 25 May–2 October 2026

Stage 2: 1–4/2027

Oulu, Finland



SAFA



Figure 1. Edited oblique aerial image of the competition area.

Publication name

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Competition brief
Oulu, Finland

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**Table of contents**

1. Call for competition	6
1.1. Organisers and purpose of the competition	8
1.2. Competition format	8
1.3. Competition language	8
1.4. Eligibility	8
1.5. Prizes	9
1.6. Jury	9
1.7. Competition rules and approval of the competition brief	10
2. Technical information for the competition	11
2.1. Competition website	11
2.2. Competition materials and their distribution	11
2.3. Competition schedule	12
2.4. Questions concerning the competition	12
2.5. Adjudication of the competition, publication of results and display of entries	12
2.6. Further actions following the competition	12
2.7. Competition copyrights, rights of use and publication rights	13
3. Description of the competition area and environs	15
3.1. General description of Kontinkangas	15
3.2. History and development of the area	15
3.3. Competition and study area	19
3.4. Traffic and parking	21
3.5. Plans	22
3.6. Cityscape and architecture	26
3.7. Landscape and the environment	32
3.8. Soil and foundation conditions	35
4. Background and objectives	37
4.1. Background and bases of the competition	37
4.2. Objectives	37
5. Design guidelines	41
5.1. Cityscape and architectural principles	41
5.2. Facilities and functions to be located in the competition area	41
5.3. Traffic arrangements and accessibility	45
5.4. Landscape and environmental solutions	46
5.5. Sustainable development perspectives	46
5.6. Phasing and feasibility	47
5.7. Techno-economic feasibility	47
6. Evaluation criteria for competition entries	49
7. Guidelines for competition entries	50
7.1. Required competition documents, Stage 1	50
7.2. Required competition documents, Stage 2	52
7.3. Competition secrecy	52
7.4. Submission of competition entries	52

1. Call for competition

At the University of Oulu, northern determination meets global ambition. Our mission is to produce new information and educate future trendsetters to build a more sustainable, intelligent, and humane world.

Founded in 1958, the University of Oulu is an international science university, which has served as a source of education, high expertise and innovations in northern Finland in particular for close to seven decades. Now it is time for the university to prepare for the coming decades by taking an historic step. We will be concentrating university operations in a continuous campus area in Kontinkangas, Oulu. This solution brings new opportunities not only to the everyday life of the university, but also to the urban structure and cityscape of Oulu.

In line with its strategy, the university aims to become an internationally recognised pioneer in interdisciplinary and socially impactful research. Indeed, the core of the new campus is synergy: when all faculties coexist within the same environment, interaction and collaboration between disciplines occur organically. The campus is a space for learning and a growth platform for new ideas, in which experts, students and partners from different fields meet. This sense of community is supported by adaptable and accessible facilities and outdoor areas, which are an essential part of the campus environment.

In our vision, the new campus is a seamless part of the developing city, and the university is an essential part of the city's life. Research and education will be closer to companies and partners operating in different fields. The location also creates new opportunities for Oulu as a conference destination. The new campus will help university students feel more closely connected as part of the vibrant ecosystem of Oulu.

The new campus will have adaptable, ecologically responsible facilities designed for future needs that encourage everyday physical activity and more sustainable transport options throughout the city. The campus experience will be a harmonious blend of learning and working, moving and living.

This investment by the university will generate new interest and trust in the developing urban area of Oulu and strengthen Oulu's position as a centre for higher education, research and innovation. The change strengthens Oulu as an attractive city, where people want to study, work and live. For city residents, the university move is reflected in new, carefully planned public spaces and a diversification of local commercial offerings.

Through this architectural competition, the University of Oulu and Student Housing Foundation of Northern Finland (PSOAS), in cooperation with the City of Oulu, the Wellbeing Services County of North Ostrobothnia (Pohde) and the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA), invite designers from all over the world to take part in the realisation of our vision.

We are looking for bold, sustainable and human-centred solutions that combine high-quality architecture with functionality, adaptability and long-term responsibility. We seek entries that understand the unique features of the northern environment and make the campus an inspirational place to learn, explore and work. A campus where science, urban life and northern vitality meet.

We very much look forward to building the future campus environment in Oulu.

Arto Maaninen,
Rector of the University of Oulu,
Jury chair

Oulu, 2026

1.1. Organisers and purpose of the competition

The University of Oulu and Student Housing Foundation of Northern Finland (PSOAS) are holding an open international architectural competition in cooperation with the City of Oulu, the Wellbeing Services County of North Ostrobothnia (Pohde) and the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA). The purpose of the competition is to create a long-term urban and architectural vision for the new university campus and to support changes to the local detailed plan for the project.

The competition seeks an attractive, architecturally outstanding, highly functional and comprehensive phased solution. Created to be an integral part of the University of Oulu and the wider urban structure, the solution must be environmentally responsible, healthy and economically sustainable. The entries must reflect the university's values (*Creating new, Taking responsibility and Succeeding together*), support its strategic objectives and strengthen the campus profile in the field of science and research. The campus is also expected to support the urban structure objectives and identity of the city.

The competition will be held in connection with Oulu's year as *European Capital of Culture 2026* and the 150th anniversary of Finnish architectural competitions, which emphasises the significance and international exposure of the project. By Oulu standards, the competition and related campus project are exceptional, as similar architectural competitions are rarely held in northern Finland. The competition offers a unique opportunity to participate in building the future identity of Oulu and the University of Oulu as an attractive, internationally oriented and architecturally ambitious whole.

This is a design competition, which is held in accordance with the Finnish Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts, and a contract notice has been published. In addition, the competition has been announced on the competition calendar and other communication channels of the Finnish Association of Architects website.

1.2. Competition format

The competition is being held in an open, international two-stage architectural competition format in accordance with the Competition Rules of the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA).

The first stage will be held in May-October 2026. The aim of the first stage of the competition is to produce a comprehensive urban and architectural solution for the new university campus. The competition committee will select 3–5 of the most promising entries for further development in the second stage of the competition.

The second stage of the competition will be held in January-April 2027. In the second stage of the competition, the task is to develop and further refine the plans based on the feedback and design instructions provided by the jury. Jury feedback and further development instructions will be given to the entries selected to move on to the second stage after the first phase.

1.3. Competition language

The languages used in the competition are Finnish and English. The Finnish version shall be binding in the event of any conflicts in translation.

1.4. Eligibility

Individuals and working groups are eligible to participate in the competition. A design team participating in the competition must have at least one person who is a licensed architect in their home country or in the country where they have earned their degree or work.

Natural or legal persons subject to EU or UN sanctions (including rules of ownership and control) are not eligible to participate in the competition. By participating in the competition, the entrant assures that they are not subject to sanctions nor are they acting on behalf or under the control of a party subject to sanctions.

It is recommended that design teams possess expertise in new learning environments, service and innovation environments, urban planning and building design, landscape architecture, transport planning and ecologically and economically sustainable solutions.

At the beginning of the second stage of the competition, entrants may supplement their design teams and consider which technical and/or financial experts they would like to use in preparing their entries (e.g. structure, building utilities, climate, techno-economic implementation, etc.).

By no later than the start of any separately commissioned implementation planning, the design team must have the competence and readiness to carry out a commission for further development based on the competition entry.

Members of the jury, their partners or their close relatives are not eligible to participate in the competition. A person who has participated in the preparation of a competition project to the extent that he or she has a significant baseline advantage over other entrants is also ineligible.

1.5. Prizes

A total of EUR 290,000.00 in prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st Prize: EUR 80,000.00

2nd Prize: EUR 50,000.00

3rd Prize: EUR 25,000.00

4th Prize: EUR 20,000.00

5th Prize: EUR 15,000.00

and EUR 20,000.00 will be awarded to entrants selected for further consideration.

A tax exemption for the prize money has been sought for 2027.

By unanimous decision, the jury may otherwise award the prize amount as required by the Competition Rules of the Finnish Association of Architects. In addition, the jury may award honourable mentions.

The prizes are paid through the Finnish Association of Architects (SAFA). In accordance with its Competition Rules, SAFA receives 7% of the value of the prizes.

1.6. Jury

The competition entries are evaluated by a jury. Composition of the competition jury:

Appointed by the competition organiser

University of Oulu representatives

Arto Maaninen, Rector, Chair
(Substitute *Mirja Illikainen*, Vice Rector for Education)

Johanna Bluemink, Development Director

Maria Frick, University Lecturer (PhD), Docent

Jonne Haapala, Chair of the Board,
Student Union of the University of Oulu

Vesa-Heikki Kemppainen, Real Estate Director

Janne Pihlajaniemi,
Director of the Oulu School of Architecture,
Architect SAFA

PSOAS representatives

Ville Isoherranen, PSOAS CEO,
D.Sc. (Tech.), Docent

Anu Soikkeli, Member of the PSOAS Board,
Architect (D.Sc. (Tech.), (PhD)

City of Oulu representatives

Antti Määttä, Urban planner

Kari Nykänen, City Planning Director,
Architect SAFA

Sanna Pääkkönen, City Architect,
Building construction supervision,
Architect SAFA

Wellbeing Services County of North Ostrobothnia representatives

Ilkka Luoma, Wellbeing Services County Director
(Substitute *Jouko Luukkonen*,
Senior Vice President, Group Services)

Appointed by the Association of Finnish Architects

Aaro Artto, Architect SAFA

Jenni Reuter, Professor, Architect SAFA

The jury is chaired by the Rector. Architect Hanna-Kaisa Karppinen serves as the jury secretary.

The members of the competition jury who are professionals in a relevant field have a majority of the votes in accordance with the Competition Rules of SAFA, with 1.1 votes each, whereas the other members have 1.0 votes. When evaluating the entries, the jury may consult experts it deems necessary. Experts may attend jury meetings. Experts from outside the competition jury and the competition secretary do not participate in the evaluation process and do not have the right to participate in the competition.

1.7. Competition rules and approval of the competition brief

The competition is organised in accordance with Finnish law, this competition brief and the Competition Rules of the Finnish Association of Architects. The competition brief and its appendices have been approved by the competition organiser, the jury and the competition steering group of the Finnish Association of Architects.

In the event of any conflicts, the following order of priority shall apply:

1. Finnish law
2. This competition brief
3. Competition Rules of the Finnish Association of Architects

Competition Rules of the Finnish Association of Architects:
https://www.safa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/2021_SAFA_competition_rules-ENG.pdf

2. Technical information for the competition

2.1. Competition website

The competition is held on the electronic *Competition Cloud* platform, which serves as the official platform for the competition. All material related to the competition, entrant questions and answers and submission of competition entries are handled through the platform. Any supplements and press releases will also be published on the competition website during the competition.

Competition website:
<https://cc.tietoa.fi/c/oulunyo-uk>

Maps and templates

- Appendix 1: Base map extract with competition and study area boundaries (dwg)
- Appendix 2: Local detailed plan extract with competition and study area boundaries (dwg)
- Appendix 3: 3D model
- Appendix 4: Relief model (laz)

Photographs and oblique aerial views

- Appendix 5: *OYS Masterplan* – oblique aerial view from the southeast (jpg)
- Appendix 6: Aerial images of the competition and study area and its environs (jp2)

Reports and plans

- Appendix 7: Master plan and thematic maps (pdf, dwg)
- Appendix 8: Schedule of accommodation (xlsx)
- Appendix 9: Space concepts (pdf)
- Appendix 10: Hospital façade drawings for Building C (pdf)
- Appendix 11: PSOAS: *Näkökulmat opiskelija-asumiseen arkkitehtuurikilpailussa (Perspectives on student housing in the architectural competition)* (pdf)
- Appendix 12: City of Oulu's green structure report and master plan (pdf)
- Appendix 13: Aviation restrictions of the OYS helipad (pdf)
- Appendix 14: Summary of the University of Oulu *Look and feel* workshop (pdf)
- Appendix 15: Green Factor guidelines (pdf)
- Appendix 16: Building feasibility study and categories of the competition area (pdf)
- Appendix 17: Model template (pdf)
- Appendix 18: *Our Northern Handprint is Global* - Strategy of the University of Oulu towards 2030 (pdf)
- Appendix 19: Reference plan 15 April 2026 (pdf)
- Appendix 20: City of Oulu Baana Cycle Network Plan (pdf)
- Appendix 21: OYS, current situation and buildings to be demolished (pdf)

2.2. Competition materials and their distribution

The competition brief and materials can be downloaded in their entirety from the competition website.

Entrants are entitled to use the competition brief and appendix materials only for preparation of the competition entry. Even partial use of the materials for any other purposes or forwarding them to a third party are expressly prohibited.

The competition brief documents are this competition brief (pdf) and its appendices.

2.3. Competition schedule

25 May 2026	Opening of the competition
18 June 2026	Submission of competition questions by 4:00 p.m. (Finnish time)
30 June 2026	Responses to the competition questions
2 October 2026	First stage submission by 4:00 p.m. (Finnish time)
12/2026	Entrants notified of their selection for the second stage
1/2027	Second stage of the competition begins
4/2027	Submission of entries for the second stage of the competition by 4:00 p.m. (Finnish time)
6/2027	Announcement of the competition results and winning entry

More detailed instructions for further development are sent to the entrants selected for the second stage.

More detailed dates will be announced later.

Possible exhibitions and their schedules will be announced later.

2.4. Questions concerning the competition

Entrants are afforded an opportunity to ask questions about the competition brief during the first and second stages of the competition. For the first stage, questions must be submitted in either of the competition languages by 4:00 p.m. on 18 June 2026 (Finnish time) via the competition website. For the second stage, the authors of entries selected for further development are notified of questions concerning the competition.

Questions submitted by the deadline and the responses given to them by the competition organiser and the jury will be published on the competition website according to the schedule specified in the competition brief by 30 June.

2.5. Adjudication of the competition, publication of results and display of entries

The contact persons of the design teams selected for the second stage of the competition will be informed of their selection as soon as possible after the jury has made its decision.

Competition results are immediately sent to the winning authors and any authors receiving an honourable mention confidentially. At the same time, entrants will be informed of the date of the awards ceremony.

The competition results will be announced at a separate awards ceremony, whose date will be published on the competition website.

The results of the competition, jury report and information on the authors of the winning entries will be published on the competition website. In addition, the results of the competition will be published on the websites of the University of Oulu, PSOAS and SAFA, along with other information channels.

2.6. Further actions following the competition

The jury makes recommendations on further actions to be taken based on the results of the competition. The competition organiser decides separately on further development commissions. The aim is that further and implementation development will be launched on the basis of the winning entry or, if necessary, winning entries in 2027, and the first phase of the campus will be completed by approximately 2032.

2.7. Competition copyrights, rights of use and publication rights

The authors of the competition entry retain the copyright. The competition organisers retain ownership of the materials of the award-winning competition entries.

The organisers of the competition and those entrusted with the further planning of the campus project have the right to use the winning competition entries and the ideas, principles and solutions presented in them for the design, further development, implementation and communications of the competition project without separate compensation, in accordance with the Copyright Act.

The competition organisers and SAFA have the right to publish the materials of the entries free of charge. The names of the entry authors, with the exception of entries submitted anonymously during the competition period, must be provided in publications.

Competition materials may be used for research, educational, publication, and exhibition purposes within the limits permitted by copyright legislation and without separate compensation. The competition materials will be archived in the competition archive of the Museum of Architecture and Design.



Figure 2. Aerial image of the Kontinkangas district, with competition and study area boundaries. Aerial image: City of Oulu 2025.

3. Description of the competition area and environs

3.1. General description of Kontinkangas

Kontinkangas is centrally located within the urban structure of Oulu, approximately two kilometres east of the city centre. The area is bordered in the west by Raksila, in the north by Peltola, in the east by Oulunsuu and in the south by the Kaupunginoja park zone and Kaukovainio.

Kontinkangas is one of the most important centres of expertise and services in the City of Oulu, with an exceptionally compact concentration of health care, research and education activities within the city. The area has a strong professional and academic identity and is profiled as a hub for health care and well-being services, education, research and jobs. The focus areas are medicine, science and well-being.

In 2026, Kontinkangas is estimated to have about 10,000 jobs, the majority of which are in the public sector. The largest actors in the area are the Wellbeing Services County of North Ostrobothnia (Pohde) and the University of Oulu. The area is home to, among others, the Oulu University Hospital (OYS) and the University of Oulu Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine and Biocenter Oulu. Close cooperation between actors creates a research-oriented and innovative atmosphere in the area.

There are fewer than 700 permanent residents in the district. Housing is primarily composed of apartment blocks and household-dwellings are small in size. Its close proximity to the city centre makes Kontinkangas easily accessible and connects it naturally to the broader expertise and service structure of Oulu.

3.2. History and development of the area

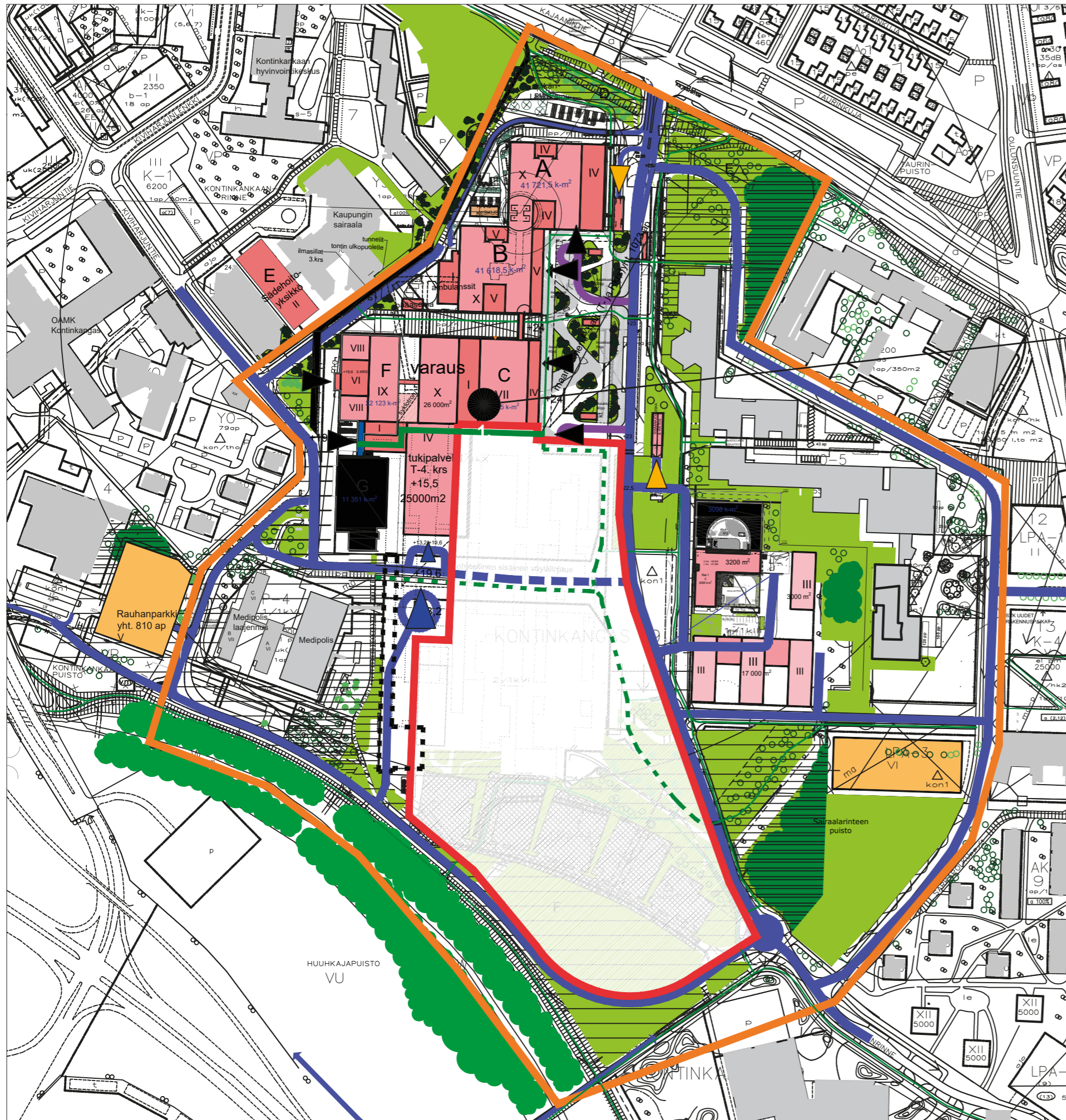
In terms of cultural history, Kontinkangas is not one of the oldest districts in Oulu, but the history of its evolution is multilayered and significant. Kontinkangas primarily consisted of forests and fields until the middle of the 20th century, when health care and educational facilities began to rise in the area on a large scale. Since then, the area has developed into a hub for health care, education and research, whose history has shaped the identity and urban structure of the area to this day.

Development of the area began with construction of the provincial hospital in the 1930s and 1940s. Designed by Uno Ullberg, the former provincial hospital is an example of Functionalist architecture. The hospital is perched atop the highest point of Mäntykangas and forms the oldest building layer of Kontinkangas, making it a cultural-historically important site protected by a zoning ordinance.

In the 1950s and 1970s, Kontinkangas grew considerably with the construction of an extensive hospital and teaching facility in the area. Completed in the 1970s, the Oulu University Hospital, Children's Hospital and Faculty of Medicine are based on architect Reino Koivula's winning competition entry 'Where the little birds sing' (1965). The founding of the University of Oulu and commencement of medical education established Kontinkangas as an operating environment for health care and research shared by the University and the hospital.

In the 21st century, the urban structure of the area has deepened further, with the centralisation of services and well-being functions. The most recent development phase is the extensive OYS 2030 renewal programme, whose aim is to update the current hospital infrastructure in phases from 2019 to 2030. A majority of the building stock from the 1970s, which is located in the south and east sections of the




hospital site, will be demolished. The oblique aerial image shown in Appendix 21 (*OYS, current situation and buildings to be demolished*) shows the current situation, along with the buildings to be preserved and demolished. The demolition and new construction will significantly change the urban structure of Kontinkangas, freeing up space to build a new university campus. The new university campus is linked to the historical continuum of the region and forms the next stage in the development of Kontinkangas towards a more integrated and forward-looking campus and hospital environment.



MASTER PLAN

Traffic routes:

- roads 
- light traffic routes 
- escort traffic 
- driveway to Kuuraparkki 
- logistics 
- passenger traffic 
- physical connection to the hospital 

- Hospital buildings 
- STUDY AREA BOUNDARY 
- COMPETITION AREA BOUNDARY 

To be noted in the competition entry:

- Vertical traffic at the east edge of the area to remain throughout the area; horizontal traffic shown here in accordance with the plan
- Physical connection to the hospital in the area Pohde facilities T. ground floor. University facilities - Floors 1-3 Restaurant, conference and research premises in university facilities
- Joint escort traffic at the physical connection between the hospital and university
- Driveway to Kuuraparkki (current hospital underground parking garage) from the indicative internal traffic alignment possible. Joint use of Kuuraparkki a possible solution. Underground entrances from Kuuraparkki are possible.

3.3. Competition and study area

The competition and study areas are marked on the map. The scope of the study area is 402,282 m², of which the scope of the competition area is 88,099 m². The building stock currently in the competition area will be demolished. The study area is demarcated as an area that must be taken into account when adapting the design solution to its environment and that may be affected by the proposed construction and placement of functions within the competition area. If desired, entrants may present motifs and ideas in support of their design solutions for the study area.

Entrants are not bound by the current local detailed plan, which is to be amended. In other words, entrants are not bound by building area boundaries, indicative internal traffic alignments, parking, green zones, etc.

Figure 3. OYS Master plan.

3.4. Traffic and parking

Kontinkangas is situated at the nexus of busy regional arteries. Pohjantie (Highway 4) to the west of the area and Kainuuntie (Highway 22) to the south ensure good accessibility from all directions. Professorinväylä directs traffic from the arteries into the inner street network of Kontinkangas. Kiviharjuntie is a key feeder street in the area, and it accounts for a significant share of the internal traffic within the hospital and campus area. Kajaanintie serves as the primary route for emergency vehicles. The main internal traffic axis of the hospital area is the main entrance and bus route that passes through the site. In places, the internal traffic network of Kontinkangas is winding and has a low capacity, and construction projects in the hospital area make it difficult to move about the Kontinkangas area.

Public transport in Oulu is based on bus transport. The city does not have any commuter train, metro or light rail traffic. Instead, the system consists of a comprehensive bus network that connects the city centre, districts and different areas of the region. It serves both internal and regional mobility, and the main routes primarily follow the arteries of the city. Public transport will be actively developed as part of the city's growth and densification of the urban structure. In the future, development will involve an efficient public transport solution, which may be realised as a light rail line or superbus.

Kontinkangas is one of the most important public transport destinations in the region. Bus traffic runs on arteries in the area and through the hospital site. There are several stops in the area, and on weekdays there are frequent runs made from early morning to late evening. There is an abundant public transport offering on Kajaanintie, and the area also has good public transport connections via Kainuuntie and Kiviharjuntie.

Oulu is the most bicycle-oriented city in Finland and the internationally renowned capital of winter cycling. Cycling in the city is a year-round activity and a central part of everyday mobility, used as a mode of transportation more than anywhere else in Finland. A large percentage of the students and staff at the University of Oulu are cyclists. Approximately

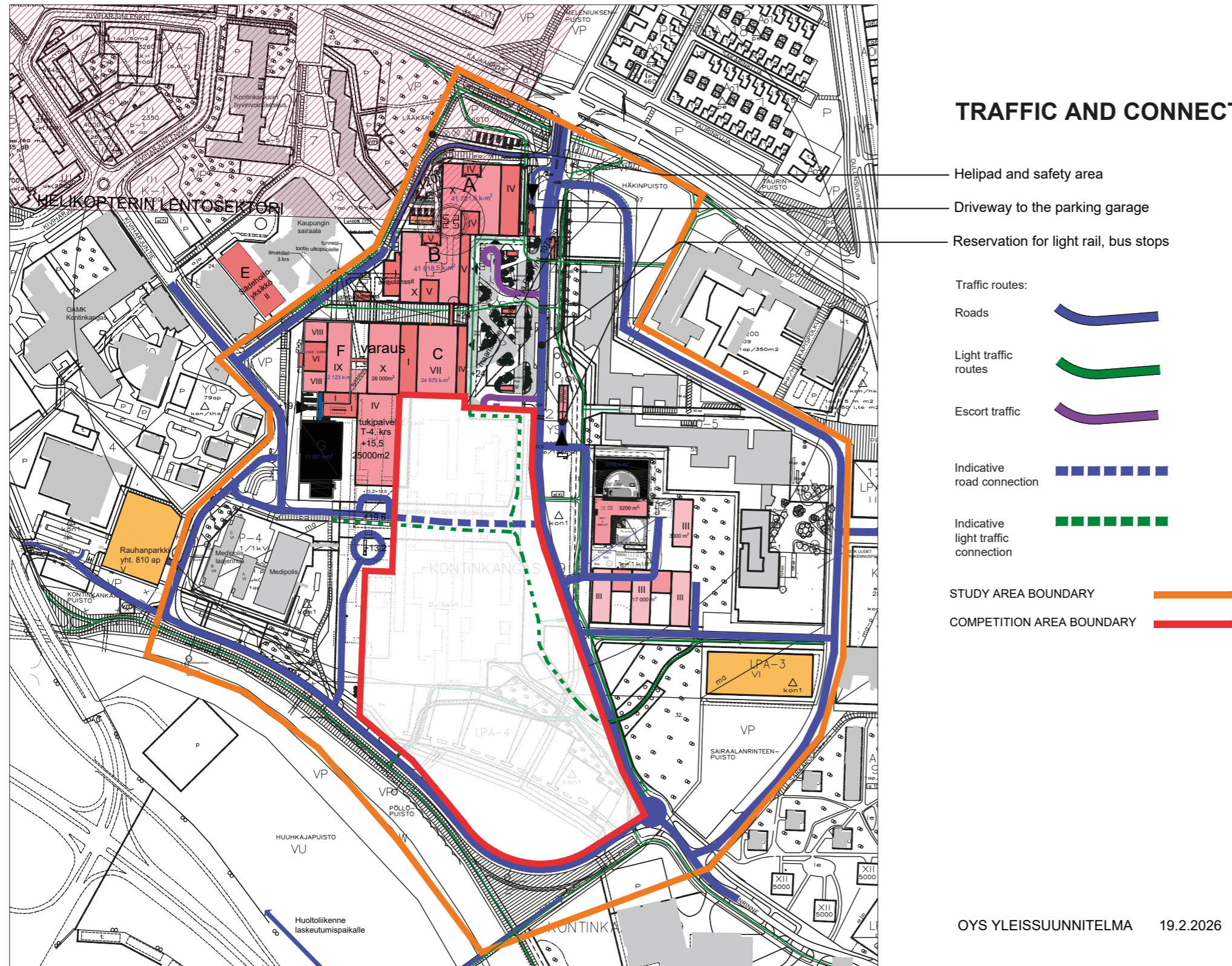


Figure 4. OYS Master plan - Traffic and road connections.

one fifth of all trips made in Oulu are by bicycle, with the percentage of trips made by bicycle being even higher among students. The most important cycling route in Kontinkangas is the artery that runs next to Kaupunginoja, 'Maikkubaana' (Plaajanojanpolku). The City of Oulu Baana Cycle Network Plan is presented in greater detail in appendix 20 (*City of Oulu Baana Cycle Network Plan*). The area will also be accessible through underpasses below the main roads from other directions. Pedestrian and cycling connections within Kontinkangas and to neighbouring areas are primarily good, but there is a need for connections and development, especially in the middle of the district. There are plenty of bike parking spaces, but their current location and quality do not fully meet the needs of users.

Kontinkangas has a considerable need for parking due to the hospital and campus activities. Parking arrangements have now been made in the form of structural parking solutions (the Rauhaparkki parking garage and an underground parking facility in the north section of the hospital site at Kajaanintie 50) and surface parking solutions (parking lots along the main hospital entrance route and in the Kaupunginoja valley). Hospital customer parking is concentrated in the Kuuraparkki facility in the north, while staff parking is mainly located in the south section of the area in the parking lots along Kontinkankaantie road.

The competition area is affected by hospital helicopter traffic, whose flight paths impose aviation restrictions on planning of the area. Helipad flight paths are presented in greater detail in competition brief appendix 13 (*OYS Helipad aviation restrictions*).

Further information:
Transport System Plan in the Oulu Region 2040
<https://www.ouka.fi/en/oulu-region/transport-system-plan-oulu-region-2040>

3.5. Plans

3.5.1. Master plan

In the current master plan, the Kontinkangas area is identified as a mixed-use area of services and jobs and an innovation hub. According to the master plan ordinance, the area is reserved for a variety of public and private services and related business activities, such as health care and well-being services, education and research.

The most important green connection in the centre of Oulu is found in the south section of the area: the Kaupunginoja park zone, with its cycling and recreational paths and trails.

The new Oulu master plan shows a development corridor for efficient public transport from the city centre through Raksila and Kontinkangas to Kaukovainio. Strengthening this corridor is a key objective of the City of Oulu. The aim of the development corridor is to densify and diversify land use as well as implement efficient public transport. Efficient public transport planning is underway, and the solution may take the form of light rail or superbuses. The location of the alignment will be specified as further development progresses.

The master plan is currently being updated, but the objectives described above still apply.

Valid New Oulu master plan, Plan map 2 can be found at:
<https://www.ouka.fi/suunnitelmat-ja-hankkeet/uuden-oulun-yleiskaava>

The currently valid master plan can be found at:
<https://www.ouka.fi/keskeisen-kaupunkialueen-yleiskaava>

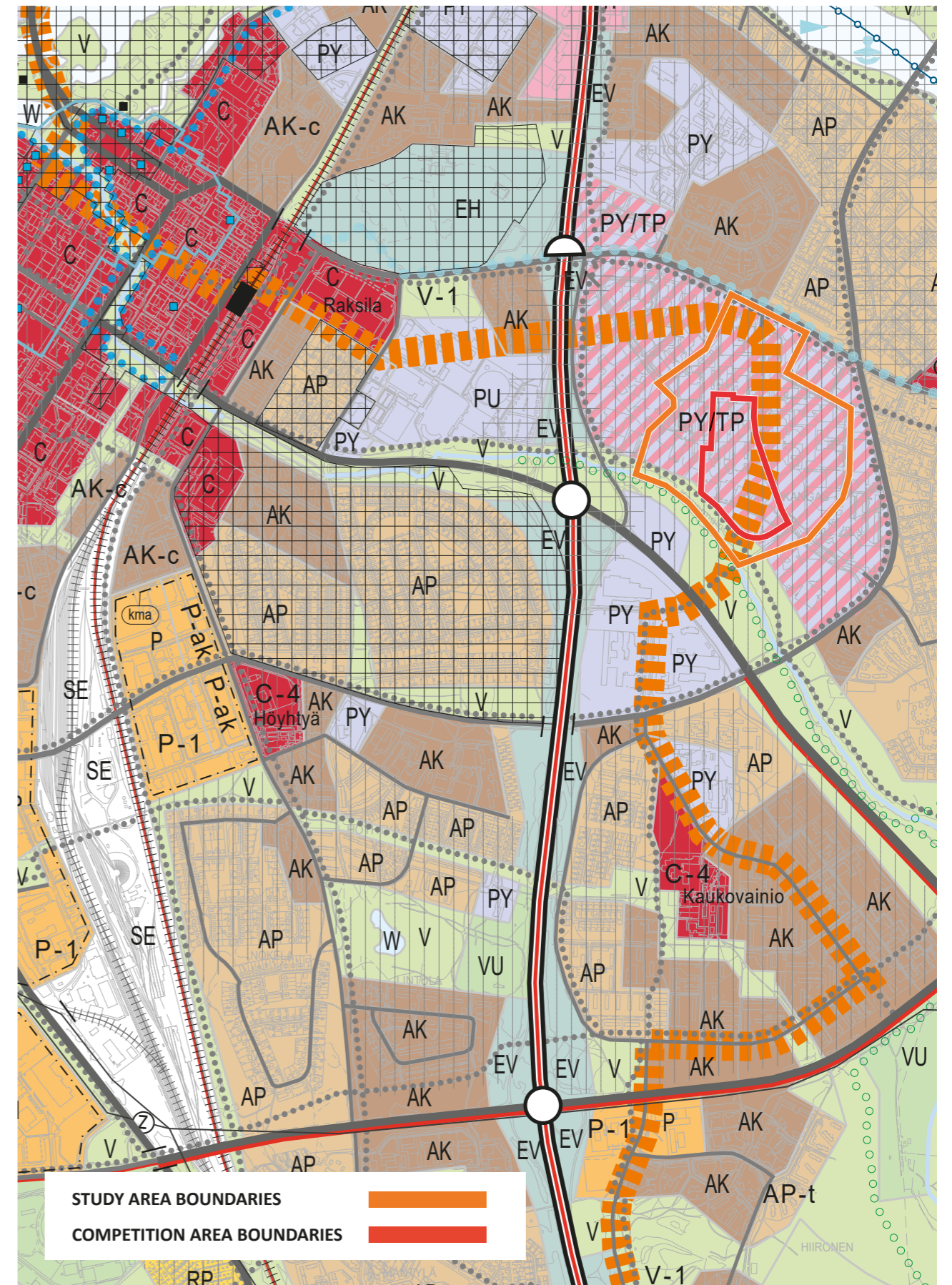


Figure 5. Extract from the New Oulu master plan, Plan map 2, with competition and study area boundaries.

3.6. Cityscape and architecture

The city district is bordered by four major transport routes, which emphasises the role that peripheral areas play in the cityscape. Large-scale buildings are visible in the landscape from several directions, while they are surrounded by preserved pine heaths, old-growth pine trees and green areas, creating a soft, natural transition to the surrounding neighbourhoods. Buildings are grouped into uniform entities according to their functions, which is also reflected in the outdoor spaces. Yards and traffic areas mainly serve medical, education and service functions.

The cityscape of Kontinkangas consists of several periods and functional layers. The building stock represents the institutional construction of a modern welfare society, in which large building entities

play a key role in health care, education and research. The cityscape is dominated by extensive hospital and campus buildings, the scale and location of which reflect the nationally significant service task of the region.

The motif in the area building façades is the use of burnt red and light-coloured bricks and roof tiles, which are complemented by light-coloured exterior plastering. In newer buildings, the material palette expands to include metal surfaces, glass and various sheet materials.

Kontinkangas is currently undergoing significant changes. Large-scale hospital updates are under way in the area, thus effecting changes in its building stock and cityscape. These changes are particularly visible in the scale and modelling of buildings.

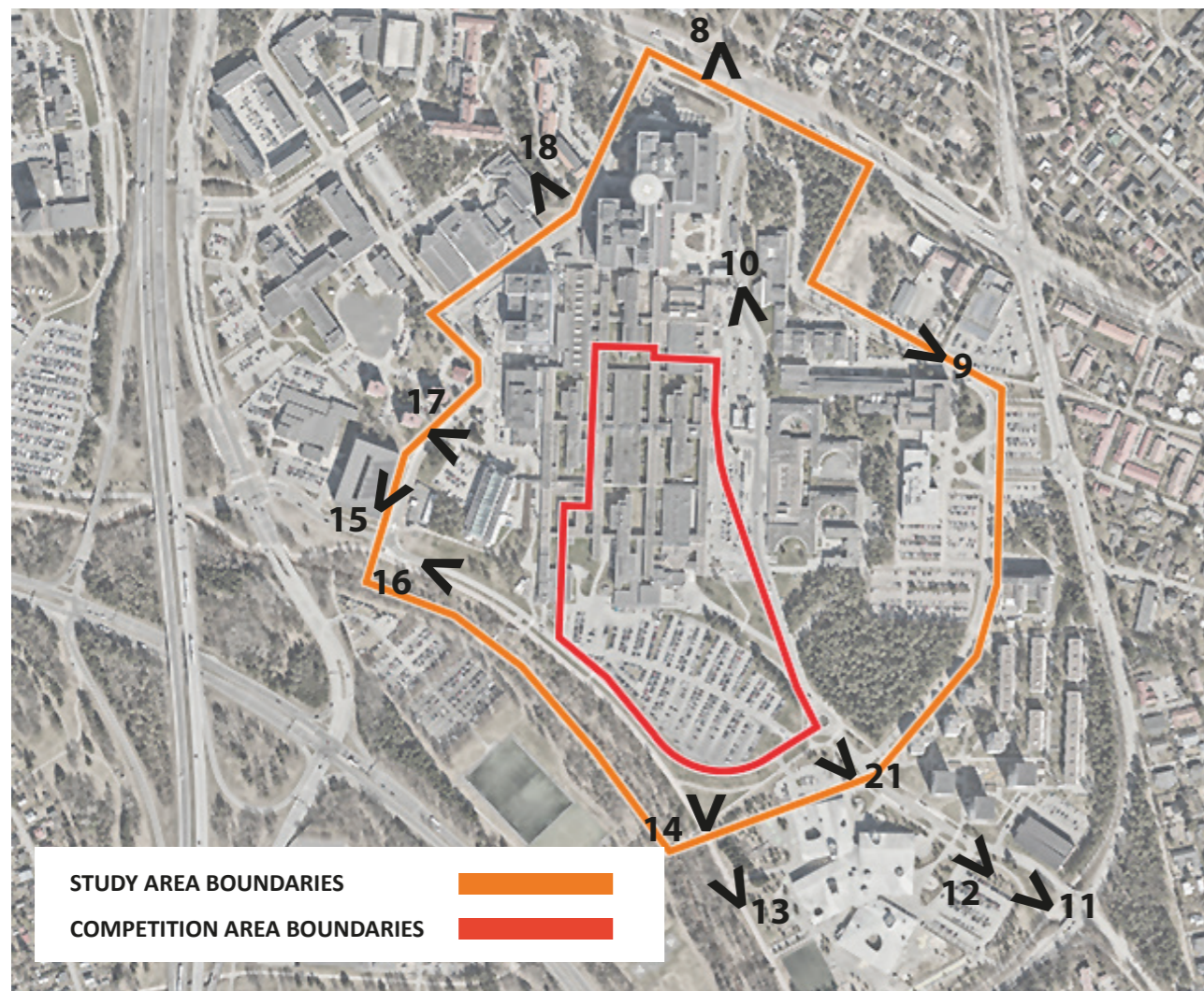


Figure 7. Map showing the locations of photographs and directions from which they were taken.



Figure 8. View from Kajaanintie to the south.



Figure 9. View from Aapistie to the northwest.



Figure 10. View of the road passing through the OYS site.



Figure 12. View from Sairaalanrinne to the northwest.



Figure 11. View from Sairaalanrinne to the northwest.



Figure 13. View from Maikkubaana to the northwest.



Figure 14. View from Maikkubaana to the north.



Figure 15. View from Kiviharjuntie to the northeast.



Figure 16. View from Maikkubaana to the southeast.



Figure 17. View from Kiviharjuntie to the southeast.



Figure 18. View from Kiviharjunkuja to the southeast.

3.7. Landscape and the environment

3.7.1. Natural conditions of the far north

Oulu is located in Northern Finland near the coast of the Bay of Bothnia at high latitudes in Northern Europe. Oulu's northern location has a significant impact on the climate and natural conditions in the area. Clearly defined seasonal changes and wide variations in the amount of natural light are typical of Oulu.

The climate is cool and seasonal contrasts are distinct. In the winter, daylight is scarce and the sun shines at a low angle; in mid-winter, there is only around 3–4 hours of daylight in Oulu. The period of darkness and low light is long in the autumn and winter, and the lack of natural light is an essential part of the daily living environment. In Oulu, summers are short, but exceptionally bright. The sun only sets slightly below the horizon at midsummer. As a result, nights are constantly light from May to July, with hardly any darkness falling. In August, the nights gradually begin to darken. Northern conditions also include the presence of snow and ice,

variable weather and the windiness typical of Oulu's coastal environment. Winters are often snowy and freezing periods can last a long time.

In Finland, changing seasons affect the appearance, use and experience of the environment on many levels, both physically, functionally and experientially. In the future, extreme weather phenomena, such as storms, heavy rainfall, heatwaves and high winds, are expected to increase as a result of climate change.

3.7.2. Natural environment

The natural environment of Kontinkangas is based on an extensive moraine ridge, which was originally a somewhat dry heath forest. The pine trees typical of the area, the knolled terrain and the ridge-like features form the most recognisable landscape aspect of Kontinkangas. Indeed, the district was named for the geographical feature 'kangas', or 'heath'. Several valuable forest areas and tree stands have been preserved in the area, particularly in Sairaalanrinne Park, at the northern end of Aapistie and along the Kaupuninoja park zone. Some of the



Figure 19. Winter cycling in Kontinkangas. Image: Sanna Krook (2021).

trees in the area are over 100 years old, with some even more than 200 years old, which makes them exceptional in the Oulu area.

Like Oulu itself, the terrain is varied. The terrain in the north section slopes northeast towards the Oulujoki River, while the terrain in the central and south sections slopes southwest towards Kaupuninoja. A clearly visible slope can be seen at the southern edge of the ridge, below which the valley landscape of Kaupuninoja opens out. The Kaupuninoja valley is a significant part of the landscape in the Kontinkangas area. The open landscapes of the valley, the buffer zone dominated by deciduous trees, the mature pine forests and tree stands, which have been preserved along the Kaupuninoja park zone, are a central part of the Kontinkangas landscape structure.

Recreational and outdoor recreational facilities along the Kaupuninoja park zone are a vital part of the current use of Kontinkangas. Kaupuninoja forms the central blue-green structure and recreational connection in Oulu, extending from the Oulujoki River through the city centre all the way to the sea. In addition, Kontinkangas also retains other important parts of the green structure, such as the Lääkäripuisto Park, Häkinpuisto Park and Sairaalanrinne Park. The green corridor between Kaupuninoja and Oulujoki River, which includes Kontinkangaspuisto Park and the Kontinkangaspolku trail, complements the whole and strengthens the green connection throughout the area.

City of Oulu Green Infrastructure Survey and Master Plan - Recommendations for land use in nature and the landscape: <https://www.ouka.fi/media/15038/download>

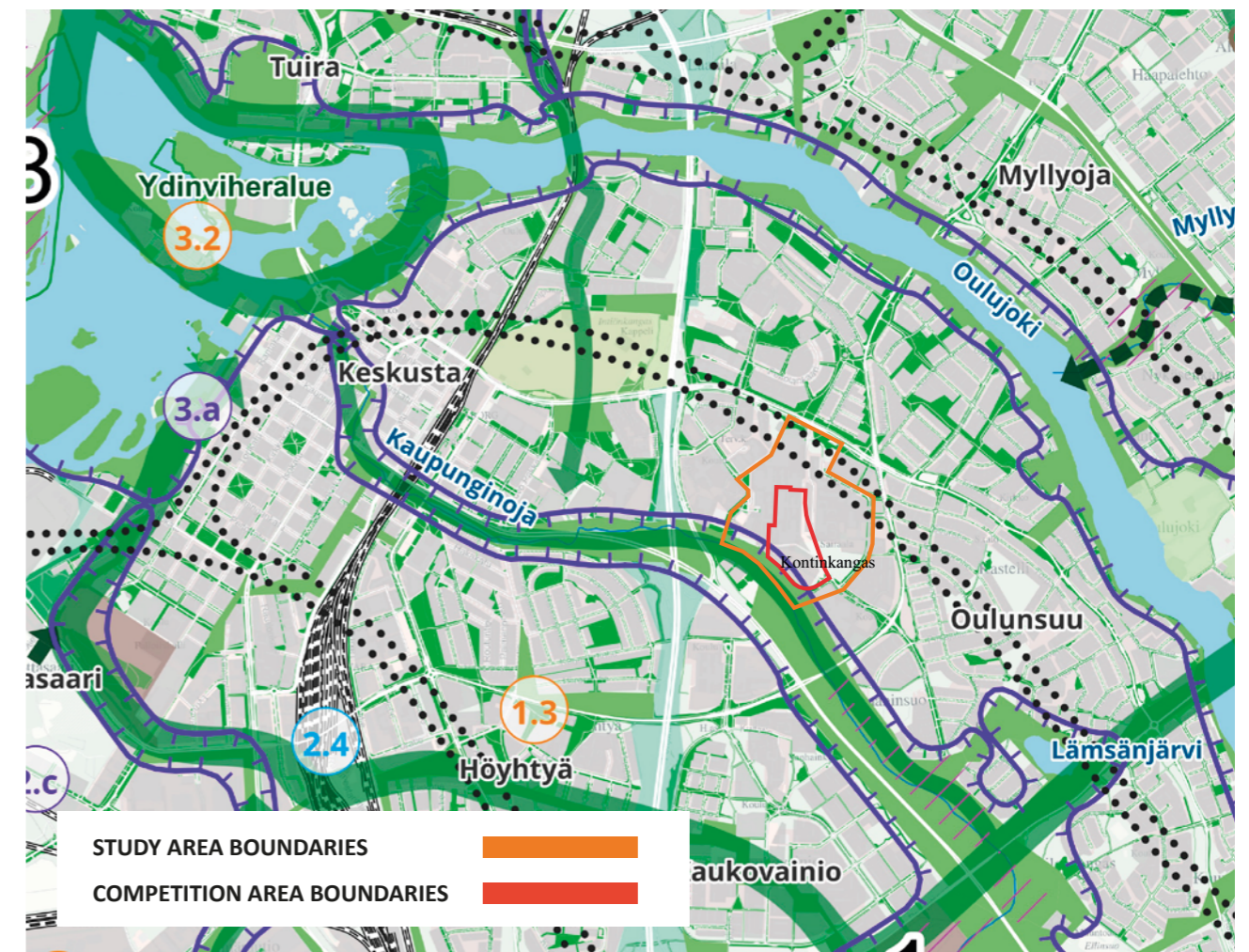


Figure 20. Extract from "City of Oulu Green Infrastructure Survey and Master Plan - Recommendations for land use in nature and the landscape", with the competition and study area boundaries.

3.7.3. Built cultural environment

Several reports on the built cultural environment, landscape and nature have been drafted on the Kontinkangas area. According to these reports, the buildings of the old Oulu University Hospital and the extensive open green zone located south of them formed an impressive whole.

In an inventory conducted in 2015, the former Oulu University Hospital, the campus of the Faculty of Medicine and the former provincial hospital and its dormitories were designated as built cultural heritage sites of national significance. The hospital area, which was realised based on a design competition, and its residential buildings formed a uniform, representative and considered entity, was considered significant. The buildings were located north of the Kaupuninoja park zone on a gentle slope, where low, light-coloured building masses were skilfully placed to follow the contours of the terrain. The open landscape of the valley and the buildings bordering it framed each other, creating a strong contrast. An

extensive green zone south of the hospital buildings was also an essential part of the whole. The design of the area was guided by a functionalist mindset, in which nature, landscape and light were thought to promote the healing and well-being of patients. Nature was not merely an environment - it also extended to the courtyards of the hospital, reinforcing the perception of the hospital as part of the landscape, not a separate facility.

Although the old hospital area in Kontinkangas represented a built cultural heritage site of significance, the requirements for hospital operations have changed considerably over time. The development of treatment methods, technology and operational needs posed challenges to the building stock from the 1970s, which is already at the end of its useful life and no longer able to meet these needs. This is the starting point for the OYS 2030 project, whose aim is to update the hospital environment to meet the current and future needs of specialised medical care.

Figure 21. Image looking from Sairaalanrinne to the northwest.



3.8. Soil and foundation conditions

The competition area is mainly located in a built hospital and traffic environment, where a large percentage of the ground surface is paved and partly green. The current hospital buildings in the area will be demolished. The competition area is not located in a classified groundwater area.

The grade descends from north to south in the competition area. In the north section of the area, the grade is +22 m – +23 m, in the central section +15 m – +20 m and in the south section +13 m – +15 m. The groundwater level in the north section of the area is +12 m – +14 m and in the central south section +10 m – +12 m. The groundwater level usually varies by ± 0.3 m – 0.5 m depending on the precipitation and season. In the Kaupuninoja park zone, the water level is below +9 m.

The general soil conditions are as follows: In traffic areas, surface soils consist of structural layer fill (sand, crushed aggregate) approximately 1–1.5 m thick. In the south and east sections of the area, there is a 2 m – >3 m thick layer of fill soil, under which there is a thin peat-humus layer in some parts of the area. In the south and west sections, there

are loose sandy and moraine deposits 1 m to 5–6 m thick under the surface soils, with compact basal till underneath. In the north section, there is medium density, frost-susceptible sand and sandy moraine under the surface. Loose sand and moraine deposits occur in places at a depth of 2.5 m – >3 m. These are old excavations and fill. Solid bedrock is estimated to be located at a level of +0.7 m – +5 m.

No indications of soil contamination have been found in the area and, based on historical data, no activities have been carried out in the area that would make soil contamination likely.

Due to the poor water permeability of the subsoil, it is not suitable as such for absorbing stormwater. The groundwater level must be taken into account for any structures that allow absorption in order to ensure that the bottom surface of the structures is well above the highest measured groundwater level. This will prevent groundwater from rising into the stormwater detention structure.

Further information:

Appendix 16, Competition area building feasibility study and categories.



4. Background and objectives

4.1. Background and bases of the competition

Oulu is the largest city in Northern Finland and the regional centre of North Ostrobothnia, which focuses its growth on sustainable urban development, high-quality education and future expertise. According to the city strategy, Oulu aims to be a humane, safe city with a high quality of life, where the effortlessness of everyday life, northern nature, culture and cooperation form a strong foundation for development. It is Oulu's mission to grow in a way that reinforces human well-being and the surrounding nature

The University of Oulu is a multidisciplinary and internationally recognised higher education institution that is ranked in the top 3% of universities in the world. The university has approximately 14,800 students in eight faculties and has a staff of approximately 4,300 employees. University operations are currently divided between the Linnanmaa and Kontinkangas campus areas. The Faculty of Humanities, Faculty of Education and Psychology, Faculty of Science, Oulu Business School, Faculty of Technology and Faculty of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering are located on the Linnanmaa campus, while the Faculty of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine and the Faculty of Medicine are located in Kontinkangas. A university that is dispersed over a wide area significantly reduces the opportunities for everyday encounters, complicates cross-disciplinary cooperation and compromises its efficient use of space.

In the Kontinkangas area, university operations are closely linked to the hospital environment. The Wellbeing Services County of North Ostrobothnia (Pohde) and Oulu University Hospital (OYS) are key actors in the region and play an important role in the entire region of Northern Finland. The Wellbeing Services County of North Ostrobothnia is responsible for hospital operations and, more broadly, the provision of social welfare and health care services in the region. OYS serves as a university

central hospital, whose operations are closely linked to teaching, research and development. Pohde has preliminary plans to concentrate operations currently located elsewhere in Kontinkangas.

The campus project as a whole is one of the most significant urban development investments in Oulu. Several development projects are under way between Kontinkangas and the Oulu city centre, such as the renewing the Oulu Station Centre and experience arena project as well as the new Oulu Water Sport Centre, which will densify the urban structure and improve accessibility between areas. These development projects will link Kontinkangas more closely with the functional entity of the Oulu city centre and Raksila, thus strengthening its position as an accessible, multidisciplinary and naturally interconnected campus and hospital zone.

Learn more about City of Oulu development projects: <https://www.ouka.fi/en/spearhead-projects>

4.2. Objectives

“In line with our long-term campus vision, we aim to gradually build a new, cohesive campus area for the activities of the University of Oulu in Oulu over the next 25 years. The new campus of the future will provide an inviting and enjoyable framework for education, interdisciplinary collaboration, and societal interaction.

Encompassing activities from all faculties, the campus will seamlessly integrate with public transportation, city services, and student housing, thereby ensuring wide accessibility. The new campus is carbon-neutral and modern. The campus experience is a harmonious blend of learning and working, moving, and living.”
(University of Oulu 2024)

University of Oulu strategy for the 2030s, 2024: <https://www oulu.fi/en/university/strategy>

4.2.1. Campus Centre as part of the city's centre of expertise and innovation

The values of the City of Oulu

BOLDNESS
FAIRNESS
RESPONSIBILITY

Oulu is known as a pioneer of high-quality competence, learning and education, and Kontinkangas is one of the city's key functional cores. The attractiveness of the area is based on extensive health care, research and educational operations, excellent accessibility and a clear identity. In accordance with the master plan, the City of Oulu is developing Kontinkangas as an innovation hub and an area for services and business activities in which a wide range of operations is encouraged and the conditions for growth are promoted. The city promotes the national and international growth of companies by committing to the acceleration of research and development and playing an active role in the area's innovation ecosystem.

The new university campus in Kontinkangas is the future core area of the University of Oulu, which will deepen the academic profile of the area and strengthen Kontinkangas' position as a key centre of expertise, research and education in Oulu. The new campus is linked to the city's innovation ecosystem and supports multidisciplinary activities at the university and cooperation with companies and other actors in the area. The aim is to strengthen Oulu's attractiveness as a student city and to support higher education entrepreneurship and business cooperation.

Oulu City Strategy 2035:
<https://www.ouka.fi/en/media/18648/download>

4.2.2. Future Campus Centre

The values of the University of Oulu

CREATING NEW
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY
SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

The new campus will become the future Campus Centre of the University of Oulu, where education, research, innovation activities and student housing will be combined to form an attractive and vibrant entity. The identity of the Campus Centre is based on the values and long-term goals of the City of Oulu and the University of Oulu. The aim of the campus is to strengthen the position of the university as an open, communal and internationally-oriented scientific community.

The aim of the future campus is to be environmentally responsible and promote well-being, combining spatial efficiency, operational flexibility, an architectural identity and a high-profile cityscape. The campus supports multidisciplinary encounters, interdisciplinary cooperation and different ways of working and learning. The campus enables different forms of study, such as lectures, exercises and laboratory work as well as hybrid and remote teaching. Education is provided and research is conducted both in small groups and independently, and students will also use the facilities for independent and group studies. In the spring of 2026, the university's property working group held a *Look & Feel* workshop facilitated by Arco Oy to come up with ideas for the new campus. The results of the workshop are summarised in Appendix 14 (*University of Oulu Look and Feel workshop summary*).

Kontinkangas' location enables exceptionally close cooperation with the Oulu University Hospital and other local actors in the health care and well-being sector. This cooperation will be manifested in the natural connections, services and functions between the campus and the hospital as well as in the architectural and overall functional idea of the campus.

The campus must be linked to the operations of Oulu University Hospital so that patient work, research and teaching support each other seamlessly in everyday life.

University values:
<https://www oulu.fi/en/university/university-values>

4.2.3. Student housing as part of the campus centre (PSOAS)

PSOAS values

RESIDENT-CENTRED APPROACH
SUSTAINABILITY
COOPERATION

The Northern Finland Student Housing Foundation sr. (PSOAS) is a key provider of student housing in Oulu and acts as a university partner in the design of the new campus as well as in entities involving student housing and related services. PSOAS offers affordable and high-quality residences for degree students as well as housing for exchange students and researcher exchanges. The foundation currently manages approximately 3,300 apartments, offering approximately 5,600 housing places for students in close proximity to the city centre of Oulu, good transport connections and the university campus.

Student housing is an essential part of a functional, attractive and living university campus. Housing is not a discrete element, but an integral part of everyday campus life, communality and the cityscape. Student housing must be naturally linked to campus activities, routes and public spaces, and it must support effortless daily living and interaction. Housing must form a highly functional and clearly perceived living environment that promotes well-being, safety and comfort. The solutions must enable both peaceful living and private life as well as communal campus life in order to foster a sense of community through natural everyday encounters and functional arrangements.

PSOAS values:
<https://www.psoas.fi/en/general-information/the-values-of-psoas/>



5. Design guidelines

5.1. Cityscape and architectural principles

- **Strengthening the development corridor and urbanity**
- **Taking the cultural environment and landscape into account**
- **Recognisable new layer that can stand the test of time**
- **Architectural quality and connection to the environment**
- **Student housing as part of the campus, with its own nature**

Design solutions strengthen the development corridor between the city centre, Raksila, Kontinkangas and Kaukovainio and promote the formation of an urban environment. The aim is to enhance the cityscape and the quality of the environment through renewal, with the aim being a pleasant, world-class urban space. The solutions serve to clarify the fragmented formation of space and block structure of the area. High-quality and organic public and semi-public indoor and outdoor spaces must be created for the campus to support both campus and hospital operations.

The new solutions will be harmonised with the cultural-historical, urban and landscape values of the area, making use of the studies done for it. The cultural environment of Kontinkangas and the special features of the landscape form the basis for the cityscape identity of the campus. The Kaupunginoja valley and green areas of Kontinkangas are features typical of the area, whose significance is emphasised as part of the campus environment. The new campus is expected to be naturally connected to the

layered built environment and natural environment of Kontinkangas as well as to create a modern layer with a high standard for architecture and cityscape in the area. The solutions must be subtly manifested in their environment in both the local and distant landscapes, thus creating a positive and recognisable identity in the area.

The architecture must support the university's identity and strengthen Kontinkangas' position as a centre of education and research. The campus must constitute a natural solution together with the OYS 2030 renewal programme in order to ensure the operating conditions of the hospital environment. The scale, modelling and appearance of student housing must be a natural part of the campus as a whole, but without obscuring the unique nature of housing. The solutions must create a personal identity for student housing as part of the campus and support the functioning of daily life.

5.2. Facilities and functions to be located in the competition area

- **A modern campus that can be scaled to meet future needs**
- **Effortless student life as an integral part of the campus**
- **Joint university and hospital service hub**
- **Campus entity and other functions supplementing the innovation ecosystem**
- **Structural and functional parking entity, including bike parking**

In the spring of 2026, the competition organiser commissioned a reference plan examining the adequacy of the competition area with respect to the planned building rights and parking needs. The reference plan is presented in competition brief appendix 19 (*Reference plan 15 April 2026*). The scope of the university's facilities presented in the reference plan differs from the target scope of this competition programme. The competition entries must comply with the dimensioning of the university facilities presented in this brief (floor area of approximately 80,000 m²).

A total of 180,000 m² in floor area will be placed within the 88,099 m² competition area. The floor area is divided into university facilities, student housing, facilities designated for campus hotels and service centres, and facilities to be used for other purposes (e.g. those located in the area or similar) in remaining facilities. The study area is only planned for connections that serve these needs.

Entrants are tasked with drafting a master plan for the competition area in accordance with these starting points. The preliminary idea is that (1) university facilities, (2) student housing, (3) a service centre with a campus hotel and (4) other functions in the area will each be located on their own sites, thus helping to simplify project feasibility. If justified, it is also possible for entrants to present other solution models.

The technical facilities, service arrangements, logistics and civil defence shelters required for buildings must also be taken into account in the design. These will be specified in greater detail in the second stage of the competition.

5.2.1. University facilities (approximately 80,000 m² in floor area)

Based on the space requirement study prepared in 2025, the space concepts for university facilities (working environments, learning and teaching environments, and laboratory and research environments) have been defined, thus forming a functionality concept. Space concepts developed based on user needs and the key principles of these

concepts are described in greater detail in appendix 9 (*Space concepts*). The functionality concept has been adapted to the Kontinkangas area based on the information available at that time. However, the concept is not binding upon the entrants, and the environmental and site layout presented in the concept deviates from the starting points of this competition. The competition entries must comply with the area proposed in the competition brief.

A key starting point for the new campus is to: consolidate and centralise university operations into a single campus entity; strengthen the synergies between education, research and innovation; and modernise spaces and scale them to meet future needs. The consolidation of operations facilitates higher quality, more efficient and more flexible learning and working spaces as well as a transition to a modern use of space.

The space requirements study conducted in 2025 identified the following key principles to be taken into account in the design of the university campus:

- One clearly defined main entrance to an open and easily perceived lobby space with student and staff services
- Adaptability of spaces in terms of purpose and surface area (e.g. adaptability between office and teaching spaces, conversion of laboratory spaces into office and teaching spaces, easily adaptable partitioning solutions)
- A modular building structure that allows the scope of the entity to be adjusted over a long period of time by increasing or decreasing building elements according to more specific space needs in each construction phase
- Taking into account the possibility of leasing in space layout, transport connections and adaptable floor solutions
- Clear defined space structure public, semi-public and private zones and planning of access control to support this hierarchy (e.g. main lobby and attendant services, joint conference, teaching and group facilities for students

Schedule of accommodation for university facilities (htm² = floor area)

Working environments 3,844 persons	Space mapping (floor area m ²)
Workstations (2,690 ws, 7 m ² /ws)	17,460
Meeting facilities	3,200
Copy rooms and auxiliary spaces	290
Break rooms	1,250
Total work environments	22,200

Laboratory environments	Space mapping (floor area m ²)
Laboratories with light and normal equipment	6,300
Specialised laboratories	1,540
Workshops	1,890
Chemistry laboratories	420
Clean rooms	380
Test animal facilities	210
Medical patient rooms and procedure rooms	550
Climate rooms	560
Chemical storage	220
Other storage, auxiliary facilities	360
Total laboratories	12,430

Service and support facilities	Space mapping (floor area m ²)
Toilets	810
Dressing rooms and washrooms (1,176 lockers)	450
Cleaning facilities	140
Waste management and loading	180
Storage and archive facilities	2,520
Library storage	790
Car and machine shelters	-
Civil defence shelter (unspecified)	-
Total support facilities	4,890

Learning environments	Space mapping (floor area m ²)
Auditorium, 600 seats (1)	520
Auditoriums, 200-400 seats (2)	540
Teaching facilities, 100-200 seats (9)	1,650
Teaching facilities, 70-100 seats (5)	590
Teaching facilities, 50-70 seats (9)	840
Teaching facilities, 30-50 seats (11)	710
Teaching facilities, 20-30 seats (20)	1,060
Group work lounges	860
Group facilities, 10-20 seats (9)	320
Group facilities, 5-10 seats (20)	240
Group facilities, 2-3 seats (30)	220
IT teaching facilities (12)	1,210
Faculty teaching facilities (Economics and Business Administration)	1,780
Faculty teaching facilities (Faculty of Technology)	1,040
Faculty teaching facilities (other)	810
Guild rooms (20)	480
Total learning environments	12,870

Common spaces	Space mapping (floor area m ²)
Main lobby	1,170
Cloakrooms	50
Dining halls	2,190
Kitchens	840
Library	5,070
Visitor centre	170
Gym	150
Corridors (main lobby section not included in the number of corridors)	11,380
Total common spaces	21,020

Total scope	73,410 m²
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and staff, staff facilities, and research and laboratory facilities)

The design of the new campus requires operational contact with Oulu University Hospital. A physical, heated indoor connection between the campus and the hospital area must be made to the first and third floors of OYS building C from the south side as permitted by the hospital plans.

5.2.2. Student housing (30,000 m² in floor area)

The aim is to place approximately 30,000 m² in student housing in the area (approximately 600–1,000 apartments). The entries must take into account the special features of student housing and the practical needs of students for daily living. Housing solutions must be based on clearly defined, efficient and functional housing models that facilitate the daily life of students and provide an appropriate setting for different life situations. Student housing on the campus must be suitable for a wide range of users – single persons, couples and international students – and it must also flexibly meet the needs of different housing times. Although the competition does not require detailed housing designs, a key aspect of student housing entries is to present an overall idea in principle and show the relationship between housing and the campus in terms of function and cityscape.

Shared spaces must be versatile, easily accessible and support a sense of community in everyday life. Housing solutions must be accessible and socially adaptable in a way that facilities and solutions enable the equal participation of different user groups in campus activities.

The functionality of student housing is based on providing seamless and safe solutions for daily life. Housing must be easily accessible, especially with regard to walking and cycling. Route arrangements must promote the use and attractiveness of cycling and public transport. Sufficient and easy-to-use bike parking arrangements and highly functional service, waste management and logistics promote a seamless daily life.

5.2.3. Campus hotel (approx. 15,000 m² in floor area) and service centre (approx. 20,000 m² in floor area)

A building owned by a third party is planned for placement in close proximity to hospital Building C, with an indoor connection, thus bringing together functions serving both the university and the hospital. The building serves as a joint service hub and provides services that support the campus and hospital environment, such as office spaces, a congress centre, a restaurant complex, campus hotel and various everyday services. The facilities to be built in connection with the hotel provide a foundation on which to strengthen the research, innovation and development ecosystem in the Oulu region. The primary operational role of the hotel is to serve the needs of the Oulu University Hospital, but it is also intended to flexibly meet the needs of the university campus.

The south façade of hospital Building C forms the boundary of the design area and serves as a central interface for services and the indoor connection between the campus and the hospital area. The façade of Building C and related interface information are presented in greater detail in appendix 10 of the competition brief (*Hospital façade drawings for Building C*).

5.2.4. Any other functions to be located within the area (approx. 35,000 m² in floor area)

In addition to the services provided by the university, student housing and the campus hotel and service centre, 35,000 m² in floor area must be allocated to the competition area for other purposes. The area to be developed can be considered interesting, for example, with regard to a variety of facilities. Entrants may present ideas on the use and placement of the remaining 35,000 m² in building rights within the area.

5.2.5. Parking arrangements

Additional construction and densification of the area will increase road traffic and the need for parking spaces. A total of 2,150 parking spaces must be placed within the area, which includes the 900 existing spaces in the competition area. When placing parking spaces, smooth connections to different functions must be taken into account, but their distribution between different functions does not need to be shown in the first stage of the competition.

Parking should be placed primarily in parking facilities. The surface area of parking facilities is not calculated in the floor area, but parking arrangements can be made in addition to other construction without reducing the building rights.

When dimensioning bike parking, the university must prepare for at least 1,600 bike places. For other functions, the dimensioning for bike parking is 1 bike place/120 m² in floor area. The bike parking dimensioning for student housing is 1 bike place/resident. According to parking standards, at least 30% of the bike places must be of high quality.

5.3. Traffic arrangements and accessibility

- A safe and functional overall transport solution
- Public transport and an efficient public transport route
- Cycling, pedestrian and micromobility routes
- Vehicle traffic management
- Unimpeded operation of the hospital and accessibility for emergency services traffic

Traffic arrangements are expected to provide a smooth, safe and year-round overall solution that ensures the accessibility of the campus and hospital area to different user groups by all modes of transport and improves traffic safety throughout the area. The competition entries may critically examine the street network and the traffic network formed by site traffic routes, provided that the solutions can be implemented at a reasonable cost.

The routes must form a logical and easily understood entity between the hospital, campus area and local services. The mobility of staff, students, researchers, patients and visitors must be smooth and clearly defined. Hospital service, escort and other logistical traffic must be able to operate in the vicinity of the campus without disruption. Customer and ambulance traffic must primarily be directed to the north sections of the hospital, and emergency vehicles must have unimpeded access from Kajaanintie. The campus must not impede flight operations at the hospital helipad.

The promotion of sustainable and low-emission modes of transport and a natural connection between the campus and the Oulu public transport system are key starting points for design. The public transport route is expected to remain intersecting the hospital site, and preparations must be made for the development of public transport on the north-south and east-west axes. An efficient public transport route is a key part of the connection between the campus and the city centre, and its schematic alignment and functional solution must be presented in the first stage of the competition.

The functionality of main traffic routes and intersections as well as the controlled distribution of traffic load between different access routes must be ensured in the arrangements for passenger car traffic and parking. Parking must be easily accessible from the entrance routes, and it must not increase unnecessary traffic within the area. The existing traffic ramps of Kuuraparkki located outside the competition area can be utilised as part of parking and traffic connections.

Bicycle, pedestrian and micromobility connections must be safely integrated into the street and yard

areas of the campus and connected naturally to the surrounding pedestrian and cycling network. Traffic planning must also take into account taxi operations and service and distribution traffic, including the needs of food delivery drivers and other logistics. Traffic on Sairaalanrinne should be calmed, especially with regard to the traffic safety of schoolchildren in the Kastelli Community Centre. Professorinväylä must serve as the main route for heavy goods vehicles.

5.4. Landscape and environmental solutions

- Taking into account and utilising the characteristics of the cultural environment and landscape
- Maintaining the Kaupunginoja valley, green areas and recreational connections
- Green areas, Green Factor and stormwater management

The strengths of the Kontinkangas cultural environment and landscape must be utilised in the design. Elevation differences in the area must be carefully taken into account, both in the design of the environment and the design of buildings. The interaction between buildings and the environment must be taken into account to ensure the emphasis of open landscape spaces as well as older pine forests and tree stands. In particular, the values and landscape of the Kaupunginoja valley are to be emphasised in the design solution.

Every effort should be made to preserve the green areas within Kontinkangas. The green areas along the Kaupunginoja park zone, Pöllöpuisto Park and Huuhkajapuisto Park as well as the Sairaalarinne Park must be preserved in their current state. The preservation of small forest areas and the most valuable trees and tree stands must be taken into account

in the design as far as is possible. Recreational and outdoor connections on both sides of the city should be preserved, and the green corridor between the Kaupunginoja park zone and Oulujoki River should be restored and improved as far as is possible. A high Green Factor must be achieved in the area in accordance with the guidelines of the City of Oulu.

In water management, it must be ensured that the load on the Kaupunginoja park zone does not increase. The area must have sufficient stormwater detention volume and make maximum use of ground-level green areas, permeable surfaces, planting of coverage areas and green roofs. Qualitative stormwater management is important, and stormwater in parking areas must be treated before putting the water back into circulation.

5.5. Sustainable development perspectives

5.5.1. Sustainability as the basis for design

Design solutions for the new campus must be based on the principles of sustainable development with respect to ecological, social, cultural and economic sustainability perspectives. The design must support a carbon-neutral, long-lasting and environmentally responsible campus environment that meets both current and future sustainability requirements and serves as an example of low-emission and energy-efficient campus construction. Sustainability is seen as a comprehensive basis for design that extends from the climate and environmental impacts of the campus environment to the usability, accessibility, maintenance and long-term operational functionality of the facilities. The aim is to create a campus with an internationally high degree of sustainability, and the principles aimed at achieving a *BREEAM Outstanding* rating are considered the bases for design.

5.5.2. Lifecycle, adaptability and material choices

The entire lifecycle of buildings and the environment must be taken into account in designing the entity. The solutions must form an adaptable and appropriately maintained entity that enables the development of operations and changes over the long term without making extensive structural changes. Material selections and technical solutions emphasise healthiness, sustainability, energy efficiency and the principles of the circular economy.

5.5.3. Social sustainability, accessibility and usability

As a rule, all functional spaces must be designed to be accessible. The routes available to persons with reduced mobility must be taken into account in the design. Accessibility and equality must be provided for not only through physical, but also psychological and social accessibility.

5.6. Phasing and feasibility

The entity must be realised in phases in order to ensure that the core solution, orientation and functional logic of the campus are preserved in all phases. The solutions must take into account the long transition cycle of university operations and ensure the smooth running of daily campus life as well as the functional coexistence of the campus and hospital environment throughout the project. The entity must be realistic and manageable with regard to construction, service and traffic. The student housing solutions directly connected to the university campus must be reproducible in principle.

In the first phase, the functions of medicine and biochemistry and molecular medicine will be transferred to the new campus. In subsequent phases, the campus will be joined by the faculties, units and support functions to be transferred from Linnanmaa in accordance with the phasing and schedule to be specified later.

The campus hotel and service centre, which brings together joint university and hospital services, will be implemented by a third party in the first phase. As far as is possible, the design solution must enable implementation of the service entity on a schedule independent of other campus construction.

5.7. Techno-economic feasibility

The objective of the competition is to find a solution that is forward-looking, architecturally high-quality and feasible in terms of budget and schedule. The entries are expected to be cost-conscious and realistic. The competition organiser will commission cost estimates of the entries selected for the second stage of the competition, which will be taken into account as part of the second stage evaluation. Entries will be given guidance regarding costs in the second stage of the competition.

PSOAS operations are based on affordable rent and high-quality housing. The competition values high-quality and innovative design. At the same time, the solutions must be feasible and based on realistic starting points for construction and maintenance. When it comes to student housing, this means paying particular attention to affordability, lifecycle sustainability and the efficient use of space. In addition, solutions must support low lifecycle costs throughout the service life of the building.



6. Evaluation criteria for competition entries

In the evaluation of both stages, attention must be given to the following points (not in order of importance):

- **Overall architectural solution: high quality and strong identity of the overall cityscape, spatial and functional solution for the campus area**
- **Functional quality of the entry, wealth of ideas and synergies between different functions**
- **Efficient use of space and techno-economic feasibility**
- **Sustainability considerations, such as ecology, lifecycle sustainability and low carbon**
- **Integration of the green environment with the overall solution and its high quality standards**
- **Flexibility of the overall solution and feasibility of a phased implementation**
- **Quality of traffic and parking solutions**

The competition entry as a whole, its quality, wealth of ideas and the functionality as well as the developmental capacity of the solution are more important than the flawlessness of the details.

The jury may reject any entries it considers incomplete.

If necessary, the evaluation criteria for the second stage will be specified at the commencement of the second stage.

7. Guidelines for competition entries

7.1. Required competition documents, Stage 1

All materials are to be presented on horizontal A1 (594 x 841) presentation boards (max. 6 boards) in a single PDF file. The material must be presented in accordance with the model given in the competition brief. The maximum file size is approximately 30 Mb. All identifying information pertaining to the author must be removed from all files.

All text in the documents must be written in Finnish or English. The jury does not take into account any extra presentation boards in its evaluation. The jury may reject entries that are incomplete or do not meet the requirements set out in this competition brief.

Presentation of the material on the presentation boards:

- **Master plan 1:2000**
- **Area façade east 1:2000**
- **Area cross-section 1:2000**
- **Floor plans 1:600**
 - Presentation of a floor plan for a ground floor + 1 typical upper floor
- **Façades (3) 1:600**
 - East, south and west façades
- **Cross-sections min. (2) 1:600**
- **Oblique aerial image inlay**
- **Conceptual renderings**
 - No more than 1 interior perspective visualisation and 2 exterior perspective visualisations. Entrants may also present, for example, vignette-like sketches and images, within the given number of presentation boards.
- **Description 1–3 x A4 sheet**
 - A report on the main cityscape, architectural, functional and technical principles is included in the description, along with a scope calculation. The scope includes the gross area (brm²) and volume (m³) of the building.
- **Schematic phasing plan**
 - The plan describes the coherent continuity of key campus and student housing solutions in different construction phases as well as the functionality of the area as a whole during execution of the project alongside the hospital environment
- **Other material**
 - Other material may be presented only on presentation board no. 6 (max. 1 presentation board)!

Model template for submitting the required documents

Downloadable A1 model template: *Appendix 17 Model template.*



7.2. Required competition documents, Stage 2

The documents for the second stage of the competition will be similar to those required for the first stage. The material requirements for the second stage are illustrative and may be specified at the beginning of the second stage.

All text in the documents must be written in Finnish or English. The jury does not take into account any extra presentation boards in its evaluation. The jury may reject entries that are incomplete or do not meet the requirements set out in this competition brief.

Preliminary presentation of the material on the presentation boards:

- Master plan 1:1000
- Floor drawings/plans 1:200 / 1:500 (larger scale ratio for key areas, otherwise 1:500)
- Façades and cross-sections 1:200 / 1:500 (larger scale ratio for key areas, otherwise 1:500)
- Conceptual renderings
- Description
- 3D mass model

7.3. Competition secrecy

The competition is secret. Each document in the competition entry must be furnished with a pseudonym. The entry pseudonym must be included in the file names. No markings that indicate, directly or indirectly, the author of the entry or the designers of the site may be used in the documents. The entrant

must ensure that the name of the author is not saved in the metadata of the files. The competition organiser is responsible for maintaining the secrecy of the competition when handling the entries to ensure that no information concerning the sender, etc. is disclosed to the jury. If the secrecy of the entry is deliberately compromised, the jury will reject the entry.

Each competition entry must be accompanied by the author's details in a separate PDF file, which must contain the following information:

- pseudonym of the entry author
- the names of the designers responsible for drafting the competition entry (copyright holders) and other members of the working group
- contact details of the contact person (one postal address, telephone number, email address)

The author information file is named: pseudonym_names.pdf, in which the pseudonym of the entry is placed where the word 'pseudonym' is in the file name.

The competition secretary is only responsible for opening the name files once the outcome of the competition has been decided.

7.4. Submission of competition entries

The competition period for the first stage of the competition ends on **Friday, 2 October 2026 at 4:00 p.m.** (Finnish time).

The competition entry is submitted using an anonymous entry-specific code, which is created in accordance with the instructions on the submission page and allows the content to be supplemented and edited until the deadline. It is advisable to submit (save) the first version of the entry in good time. This version may be supplemented up to the deadline. The entry is automatically stamped as submitted when the deadline expires. The pseudonym and one email address per entry should also be provided

with the submitted entry. Competition secrecy is maintained when receiving competition work.

Entrants bear responsibility for the submission of their entries. When downloading files, entrants must take into account the time required for downloading; after the stated deadline, the downloading system will close. The entrant will receive confirmation of a successful submission. Entries received after the deadline will be rejected.

The pseudonyms of the received entries will be published on the competition website.

Entrants are asked to keep the original competition entry files.

Oulu, 18 May 2026

Competition jury



SAFA