



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION OF NORWAY

ARTICLE / PRESS RELEASE

Application and Tuition fees for International Students are NOT welcome – ISU Norway

In recent times, the press has carried reports about alleged proposals to introduce tuition fees and application charges on International Students intending to study in Norwegian Universities. This has been mainly due to the fact that, Sweden has introduced tuition fees for international students from 2011; a development to which the Vice-Chairman of the Swedish Student Union, Sveriges förenade studentkårer (SFS), Robin Moberg, stated the following, *“We are upset. This is a step backwards for welfare, and it also dents the viewpoint that Scandinavia consists of knowledge nations where every person has the same opportunities and rights to educate themselves”*.

The events in Sweden have triggered agitation among political parties and a minority of notable student organisations for Norway to follow the example of Sweden. Some have actually gone to the extent of proposing the introduction of student application fees for international students! According to an article published at www.newsinenglish.no on May 5th 2011, *“.....there has been some debate in Norway over proposals to finally impose tuition charges on students, not least to help fund needed expansion and improvements at university campuses around the country. Around 5,000 undergraduates were turned away last year because of space shortages...”*

Furthermore, Newspaper *Aftenposten* as quoted by *news in English* reported last fall that the Conservative Party is open to proposals calling for tuition charges of, for example, NOK 30,000 a year (USD 5,000, and modest by US standards), but Tora Aasland, who is the Minister of Research and Higher Education in Norway rejected the idea. Her party prides itself on support for education, and no tuition will be imposed *“as long as this government is sitting”* she said.

The International Students' Union of Norway takes a particular exception to this development. We would therefore like to add our voices to that of the SFS Vice President and the Minister of Research and Higher Education, that, not only does it dent the equal opportunities and rights to education policy, but it's also very discriminatory, given that Norway is hailed world-wide as custodians of human rights and free education.

The International Students' Union therefore calls on all Student Organisations, Partners and stake holders to support them to strongly oppose this move without compromise.

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