

ISU Norway Platform 2007

Passed by the ISU Norway National Assembly, October 2007

3

4The International Students Union of Norway (ISU) Platform expresses the views and position of the
5ISU Norway on those issues that affect international students.

6

7It reflects principles important to our organization and will be used by future ISU national and local
8representatives when representing ISU.

9

10International students should enjoy equal opportunity regardless their race, religion, gender or social
11background.

12

13ISU considers international students as potential ambassadors for Norway after the completion of their
14studies.

15

16Against Tuition fees for international students in public institutions

17

18ISU believes that, if Norway is to maintain its competitive edge in international education, tuition fees
19for international students should not be introduced in Norway.

20

21Better Equality (Likestilling) in our learning environment (Læringsmiljø)

22

23ISU believes that international students should have equal access to information surrounding their
24education in Norway as Norwegian students have.

25

26Since all international students are required to know English to be accepted for studies in Norway,
27they have the right to have the information that is vital to their situation as a student in Norway also
28available in English, for example: information directly related to their courses, health care/doctors
29office, Samskipnaden (student welfare organization), cafeteria, school signs, rent contracts,
30Lånekassen (student loan fund), bank loans.

31

32ISU notes that there is a substantial lack of information available in English on student related
33websites.

34

35Improved Access to Norwegian Courses

36

37ISU believes in guaranteed improved quality and improved access to Norwegian courses for all
38international students.

39

40Improved access to Norwegian courses for all international students is an important part of the
41internationalization process of higher education in Norway.

42

43ISU believes that the ability to speak and understand Norwegian increases integration between
44international and Norwegian students.

45

46This increases the opportunity for international and Norwegian students to learn more about each
47other's culture and values.

48

49This also gives international students a wider range of courses to choose from at their institution.

50

51Improved access to Norwegian courses for international students increases the overall quality of the
52international student's stay in Norway. Competency in Norwegian will enable international students
53to contribute to economic activity in Norway.

54

55 **Quality Education in English**

56

57 ISU believes that the education offered to international students in English should be of the same
58 quality as the education offered in Norwegian.

59

60 If courses or lectures are promised in English, they should be given in academic English.

61

62 Receiving notes in English from the lecturer of a sub-standard quality and at a delayed time
63 disadvantages the international students.

64

65 Instructors of courses taught in English should be offered professional courses in academic
66 English so that they can instruct with confidence.

67

68 Competence in academic English should be a requirement when hiring academic staff to teach courses
69 in English. Other lecturers will be offered courses in English to promote their academic English.

70

71 **Samarbeid/Cooperation with NSU, StL and other student representative organizations**

72

73 Norsk Studentunion (NSU) and Studentenes Landsforbund (StL) are the two national organizations
74 that represent all students in Norway, including international students.

75

76 ISU believes that cooperation/samarbeid with NSU, StL and other student representative
77 organizations, nationally and locally, is important since many representatives in ISU may not speak
78 Norwegian or have had the experience working with the administration of their educational institution
79 or the Norwegian government (both locally and nationally).

80

81 Local student governments at universities/høyskoler represent all students at that institution, including
82 international students.

83

84 ISU strongly encourages local and national officers in NSU and StL to attend the ISU National
85 Assembly.

86

87 The presence of a representative from Norwegian student politics within the local ISU board will
88 increase the effectiveness of that local ISU board in representing international students.

89

90 The presence of representatives from ISU in the local student government will increase the
91 effectiveness of that student government in representing international students.

92

93 ISU believes cooperation/samarbeid with NSU, StL and other student organizations is an important
94 and effective way to reach its goals of representing the interests of international students in Norway.

95

96 **Action Plans**

97

98 ISU wants to see Action Plans for Integration between international and Norwegian students
99 developed between local ISU boards, the local student government and the local student
100 Samskipnaden (student welfare society).

101

102 The aims of these Action Plans for Integration are to increase the overall quality of the international
103 students' stay in Norway.

104

105Public services, Legal communication and Emergency Situations

106

107ISU wants the relevant institutions to jointly implement plans and procedures to handle the potential
108problems experienced by international students during emergency situations.

109

110Access to medical services needs to be improved for international students.

111

112Housing for International Students

113

114International students should have a wide range of options for where to live.

115

116They should have enough information about these options that they can make a good decision before
117arriving in Norway.

118

119The information should include realistic information on proximity and travel costs to campus and city
120centre as well as types and options for transport, shopping distances and arrangements for sharing
121kitchen facilities.

122

123Housing contract arrangements for international students need to be flexible and address the specific
124needs of those students. Every student should have the opportunity to reserve and have guaranteed
125accommodations from one study year to the next.

126

127National ID number and Bank Account

128

129A national ID number or functional substitute should be guaranteed to all international students as
130soon as possible, and no later than 3 weeks after arrival.

131

132Representatives from the immigration police should be sent to the universities at the beginning of the
133semester to process student residence permits.

134

135In order to open a bank account it is required to have a national ID number. The process of opening a
136bank account takes a long time and needs to be accelerated.

137

138UDI

139

140Utlendingsdirektoratet or The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has introduced tough visa
141regulations to international students (outside EU) who want to invite their partners/family to visit them
142while they are in Norway. These introduce unnecessary hardship for international students. ISU
143wants UDI to make this process easier.

144

145Work for International Students

146

147ISU believes that it is important for international students to be able to supplement their finances
148during their stay in Norway through part time work.

149

150ISU believes that international students should be encouraged to gain practical experience related to
151their education, during and after completion of their studies in Norway.