

ISU Norway Platform 2007

Passed by the ISU Norway National Assembly, 22 april 2007

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

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

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

ISU considers international students as potential ambassadors for Norway after the compilation for their studies.

Against Tuition fees for international students in public institutions

If Norway is to maintain its competitive edge in international education, then it is the opinion of ISU that tuition fees for international students should not be introduced in Norway.

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

ISU believes that international students should have the same access to information surrounding their education in Norway as Norwegian students have.

Since all international students are required to know English to be accepted for studies in Norway, they have the right to have the information directed towards all students also available in English, for example: information directly related to their courses, health care, samskipnaden (student welfare organization), cafeteria, school signs, doctors office, rent contracts, lanekassen (student loan fund).

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

Improved Access to Norwegian Courses

ISU believes in improved access to Norwegian courses for international students.

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

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

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

This also gives international students a wider range of courses to choose from at their institution.
Improved access to Norwegian courses for international students increases the overall quality of the international student's stay in Norway.

54 **Quality Education in English**

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

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

60 International students should not turn up to find lectures they cannot understand.

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

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

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67 Competence in academic English should be a requirement when hiring academic staff to teach
68 courses in English.

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

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72 *ISU believes that **cooperation/samarbeid** with NSU, StL and other student representative*
73 *organizations, nationally and locally, is important since many representatives in ISU may not*
74 *speak Norwegian or have had the experience working with the administration of their*
75 *educational institution or the Norwegian government.*

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77 NSU (Norwegian Student Union) and StL (National Union of Students) are the two national
78 organizations that represent all students in Norway, including international students.

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

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

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

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

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

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96 **Action Plans**

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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).

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

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105 **Medical Services and Emergency Situations**

106 ISU wants the relevant institutions to jointly implement plans and procedures to handle the
107 problems of international students during predefined emergency situation

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

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111 Unreasonable waiting for times for medical examination and appointment with doctor can lead to
112 psychological stress for international students.

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114 **Housing for International Students**

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

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118 They should have enough information about these options that they can make a good decision
119 before arriving to Norway.

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121 The information should include realistic information on proximity and travel costs to campus and
122 city centre as well as transport, shopping distances and sharing kitchen.

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124 Housing contract arrangements need to be flexible and equal to that of the Norwegian student
125 body.

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127 **National ID number and Bank Account**

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

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

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135 Opening a Bank account requires to have a national ID number. Opening an account at the
136 Banks itself takes long time and needs to be accelerated.

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138 **UDI**

139 UDI has introduced tough visa regulations to international students (outside EU) who want to
140 invite their partners/family to visit them while they are in Norway. These introduce unnecessary
141 hardship for international students.

142 **Work for International Students**

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

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