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**International Students Union of Norway (ISU)**  
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## **ISU Plan for 2005**

### **Establishment of new ISU branches**

ISU's expansion program is continuing. Our new branches in Oslo, Narvik and Stavanger are doing well, giving us a total of eight functioning, sustainable branches. We are now in the process of incorporating Norges Handels Høyskole (NHH) into the ISU family, and given sufficient resources, several other University Colleges are in our plans for this year. This process is done in coordination with the International Officers of Studentenes Landsforbund (StL), and Norsk Student Union (NSU) who are our initial links to the target institutions.

### **Newsletter**

Now that we have an independent national website, the ISU National considers publishing a monthly newsletter on the web. This would include a monthly report from the National Coordinator at the end of each month for the members of ISU to see what is going on at the national level. Any news that the local branches would like to share can also be sent to the National Secretary, who will add this to the site. A monthly deadline will be set for this.

### **Financial independence**

ISU continues to work for financial independence. Our vision is to become totally independent from NSU by receiving sufficient funding directly from the Ministry of Higher Education and Research, as well as from other sources. In the meantime, our existence relies on NSU support.

### **Extension of the post of the National Secretary**

ISU aims at expanding the post of National Secretary (NS) gradually to a 100%. The NS plays an administrative role in ISU that is vital for the stability of the organization. While the elected ISU members are in their posts for only one term or one year at a time, the National Secretary is hired to stay in the post as long as possible. He/she provides the continuity of the organization; the NS is the prime source of knowledge regarding general procedures and policies, accounting, fund applications and correspondence with the authorities in Norwegian on behalf of the international students.

Currently the NS is officially hired for a 25% position, but usually works many more unpaid hours (especially in the time leading up to the National Assembly). If this situation continues, ISU will be unable to keep any secretary for a long period and the organization will face set backs.

### **Continue working politically**

When ISU was first established in the 70s its main aim was to protect the rights of international students. While ISU has continuously represented International students socially and academically, it has also over the past two years revived its work on political issues. This is highly prioritized, as we believe it to be important that international students have their voice heard on matters concerning them. Recently, ISU has been working on cases which directly affect international students – like changes in the rules for student visa renewal, the suggested raise in visa application fees, travel expenses, work permit fees and a case concerning the Police Security Service. ISU is increasing its visibility to the Norwegian authorities and is needed to continue representing international student interests on a national level.

### **Marketing ISU**

We find it important that cooperation continues to improve between ISU and the student parliaments and organizations at the various colleges and universities. This ensures that the rights of international students are well protected, also at the local level. Last year, ISU focused on marketing itself, and one of the steps was producing ISU posters which were distributed at the Universities. ISU at the local level markets its own branch by different means, such as ISU t-shirts and open arrangements. In this way they make themselves more visible to Norwegian students, and further integration for the benefit and interest of all.

### **In short**

Our plan is to strategically make ISU more visible. This will include information campaigns, and active involvement in political life, both at the local and at the national level. Thus, we aim at representing international students in Norway in the best possible way.