



ISU Norway Platform 2009

Passed by the ISU Norway National Assembly, April 2009

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 completion of their studies.

Against Tuition fees for international students in public institutions

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

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

International students should have equal access to information in English related to their education, health care Studentsamskipnaden (i.e. student welfare organization), cafeteria, school signs, rent contracts, Lånekassen (student loan fund), bank loans and residency permit extension.

International students should have equal access to information in English on student related websites; such as, student democracy issues and parliament papers.

Improved Access to Norwegian Courses

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

Improved access to Norwegian courses for all 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; enhances inclusion between international students and the Norwegian society, provides a wider range of educational courses at their relative institutions and opens the opportunity for international students to contribute to the Norwegian economy.

Quality Education in English

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

If courses or lectures are promised in English, they should be given in academic English, including notes and supporting documents.



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

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54 Competence in academic English should be a requirement when hiring academic staff to teach courses
55 in English. Current lecturers should be encouraged to take English courses to improve their level of
56 academic English.

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58 **Cooperation with NSU, StL, LNU, SAIH, Spire and other student organizations.**

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60 Norsk Studentunion (NSU) and Studentenes Landsforbund (StL) are the two national organizations
61 that represent all students in Norway, including international students. ISU has partnership agreement
62 with NSU and StL and has membership status with Studentenes og Akademikernes Internasjonale
63 Hjelpfond (SAIH) the *Norwegian students' and academics' fund focused on fostering education in the*
64 *developing world*, Landsrådet for Norges barne- og ungdomsorganisasjoner (LNU) the *umbrella*
65 *organization for youth in Norway* and Utviklingsfondets ungdom (Spire) *the youth organization for*
66 *the development fund*. ISU believes that working with and increase the number of partnerships would
67 strength the credibility and the representation of the organization in Norway.

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69 ISU has agreements to exchange representation as observers at NSU, StL, SAIH and Spire national
70 meetings. ISU encourages that this agreement would be disseminated at the local level.

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72 **Inclusion**

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74 ISU should have and should pursue strategic action plan to ensure the inclusion of the international
75 students within the Norwegian society. ISU believes that this would increase the quality of the
76 students' experience and stay in Norway.

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78 ISU should have a more cooperative role in student welfare organizations and the administrations of
79 institutions of higher education in Norway.

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81 ISU should work with NSU, StL, local institutions of higher education and other relevant student
82 organizations to set up programs in each Norwegian town and city that has an ISU branch to create
83 inclusion between international and Norwegian students.

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85 **Public services, Legal communication and Emergency Situations**

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

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

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92 **Housing for International Students**

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94 International students should have an accommodation guarantee from the student welfare
95 organizations at least for their first academic year in Norway.

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97 International students should be provided with a wide range of accommodation options by the
98 Studentsamskipnaden. They should have enough information about these options to be able to make a
99 good decision before arriving in Norway. The information should include proximity and travel costs



100 to campus and city centre as well as types and options for transport, shopping distances and
101 arrangements for sharing kitchen facilities.

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

106 **National ID number and Bank Account**

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

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

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

117 **Visa Regulations for Family Visit**

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120 Utlendingsdirektoratet (UDI) the *Norwegian Directorate of Immigration* has tough visa regulations for
121 international students (outside EU/EEC) that want to invite their partners/family to visit them while
122 they are in Norway. ISU should begin a dialogue with UDI to discuss ways to lessen the impact of
123 these regulations on students.

124 **Work for International Students**

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

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