

## Quota Scheme Program Evaluation

In the State budget for 2016 a point under internationalization of Higher Education is to discontinue the quota scheme program. The quota scheme program is a sustainable development aid program for students from developing countries to get the opportunity to come and study in Norway with a scholarship from Lånekassen. The proposal is to discontinue the program and instead use the 18 million for internationalization in Higher education split for 2 purposes:

1. 9 million kroner will be distributed to institutions and used for cooperation with countries in the global South with focus on mobility.
2. 9 million will be put into working on a new strategy called Panorama with the goals of strengthening the ties to higher education and research in China, India, Russia, Brazil, Japan and South Africa.

In the first half, the money will focus on student's mobility and in the second half the focus is on what Norway can learn through cooperation with the 6 chosen countries. The Panorama program is an investment with focus on Norway's foreign affairs and business promotion in the selected countries.

### **No longer for development aid and students**

ISU Norway believes that this is an unfortunate development. The intention of the original Quota Scheme program is a sustainable development aid program. The 1100 students who every year comes to Norway to study on this program have gotten the chance of their life to gain a valuable education.

The quota scheme program gives an opportunity to study a high quality education for 1100 students who would not have the opportunity otherwise. The students also gain experience on how Norway is organized to take home with them. That experience is priceless for the development in their countries, for the individual students and has an important role in development of youth with international experience. Norway is also going to lose a considerable amount of international students outside of the EU and EEA area. That is a big step back for internationalization at home in Norway and especially for development studies that will lose the students perspectives and contribution in classes. If the possibility of



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applying for the scholarship is cancelled, the students from developing countries will not be able to afford to study in Norway.

## **ISU Norway states**

If the quota scheme program is to be changed and improved the focus has to continue to be on development, students and education:

- The focus on sustainable development aid and the students has to be maintained. The focus on internationalization should be second priority.
- The focus has to stay on improving the current program and idea so that students in general could still have the opportunity to come to Norway to study.
- There has to be maintained an investment in scholarships for at least 1100 students as is the level of the current quota scheme program.

ISU Norway stands strongly against changing the Quota Scheme Program from how it works today, if the change doesn't involve the focus described in the above points. The priorities should be to keep the intention of the Quota Scheme and development aid. The Panorama strategy is a different program with different priorities and aims. Panorama cannot replace the quota scheme as a development aid program