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## ISU and Embassy Partnership Guidelines

The International Students' Union of Norway (ISU) is a student organization representing the political, social, and academic rights of the 25,000 international students currently situated in Norway. ISU is an independent, democratic, non-profit, non-partisan organization run for and by international students. Currently, ISU has local member organizations at 29 different institutions of higher education in Norway, and the national office in Oslo that the National President coordinates.

ISU would like to establish long-term partnerships with Embassies and Diplomatic Missions that are currently present in Norway. The roles and responsibilities of Embassies are manifold which includes supporting their citizens abroad, act as trade representatives, enhance the visibility of their own respective country in Norway as well as act as a focal point for showcasing cultural and international solidarity that spans across nations.

Embassies in Norway can support international students in the country through active cooperation with ISU, and by no means will have political discussions. The objectives for such participation can include, but not limited to, the following:

- Providing capable candidates an opportunity to gain wholesome international experience
- Benefit from new and innovative perspectives from students representing a wide variety of countries
- Increasing chances to showcase the respective country with regards to bi/multilateral cooperative agreements
- Understand cultural dynamics of different countries which helps in knowledge sharing and enhancing research and innovation

The co-operation with the ISU can lead to the creation of opportunities for students which may include internships, consultancy assignments, research projects, etc both on a full or part-time basis (which can be discussed with the participating student). The partnership is aimed to be a co-operative, flexible and mutually beneficial relationship which would help in fostering and showcasing international solidarity and multi-cultural awareness. Another opportunity for the Embassies to cooperate with ISU, will be organize “meet the Embassies” as series of small talks from Diplomats who can share their experience of working in an Embassy, cultural and educational programs and events, internship opportunities, etc.

The following points are recommended, nonbinding guidelines for partnering with the International Students' Union of Norway.

- There shall be at least a meeting every semester between the Embassies/Diplomatic Missions and ISU. The dates/venue/timing of these meetings would be intimated in advance to the Embassies/Diplomatic Missions.
- Each Embassy/Diplomatic Mission will send at least 1 diplomat to represent their country. If a diplomat is not available, an alternate representative of equal responsibility from the embassy can be sent in his/her place.
- The semester meeting will serve 2 primary purposes:
  - First, to provide an information-sharing platform through which Embassies can share best practices and ideas of ways to support their international students.
  - Second, to discuss ideas of development of the partnership program and possible joint events.
- The partnership program is meant to improve the overall study environment for international students in Norway.
- The partnership will by no means include any political matters/discussions.
- The guidelines of the partnership are meant to encourage all Embassies/Diplomatic Missions to be active. Therefore, if there are guidelines or other issues that are an obstacle to an Embassy's participation, then the matter will be properly addressed to ensure the Embassy's participation.
- As this partnership program is a new initiative from ISU, the guidelines are subject to change. However, no changes will be made that discourage embassies from participating in the partnership. Any changes to these guidelines will be informed in advance.

In order for an embassy to establish a partnership with ISU, it is recommended that a letter be sent by the Ambassador or the Diplomat leading the mission. The letter should show an expressed interest in partnering with ISU to improve the educational environment for international students in Norway. A template of the letter can be found attached.

ISU recommends have a meeting between the Embassies/Diplomatic Missions and ISU National President to discuss cooperation together, including the Embassies cooperation project. Once the letter has been received, the ISU National President will get in touch with further details with regards to fortifying the partnership and facilitate in the selection of students for the right opportunity with the Embassies/Diplomatic Missions.

**December 2016. Document updated and presented to ISU Norway**

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