

Dear Fellow Delegates and International Students,

as a current president of ISU Tromsø board, I intend to continue contributing to ISU Norway and, therefore, with this statement of purpose I would like to express my desire and interest in applying for the position of Union Development Officer for the year 2018/2019. I became involved with ISU when I was elected as a president of the Tromsø board, and over the course of the current study year, my team and I managed not only to keep the student atmosphere at its top and involve students in our recreational activities, but also stay in close contact and collaborate with other entities on campus such as SAIH and our International Office. In fact, we are going to organize an awareness seminar with the focus on mental health and how to fight stress during exam period together with the Student Counselling Center.

Among my numerous areas of ongoing professional and educational engagement, I have developed a particular interest and gained knowledge in the fields of student and youth politics, cross-cultural/interpersonal communication, international cooperation and relations, education, languages, immigration, multiculturalism and organizational leadership. In addition, I believe I possess key soft skills such as communication, management, teamwork and personal skills such as strategic planning, critical thinking and emotional resilience that are also crucial to succeed in the workplace. Besides, I currently volunteer at Tromsø Red Cross where I help refugees and immigrants learn and practice Norwegian, which gave me an insight into other people's everyday life and mindsets.

To me, one of the major obstacles that our diverse student community constantly faces is communication issues - not only language barriers, but different preconceptions, stereotypes and sometimes unwillingness to find compromises in certain situations sometimes get in the way of establishing stronger bonds among students and between the students and the official bodies. The person who is eligible for running for this position must have an ability to serve as a committed intermediate and a representative of the main values and principles of internalization and inclusiveness that ISU stands for. Thus, I am confident that I have what it takes to be one - not perfect, yet willing to strive for perfection, learn by mistakes, be an attentive and far-sighted devotee.

The driving force behind my decisions and actions has always been the desire for self-improvement and the urge to achieve something meaningful that would not only enrich my own life, but contribute to the society's development and the student community in particular. On that account, I strongly believe that had I become part of the Executive board, I would be able to utilize my experience and knowledge for the noble cause of improving the quality of student life, ensure effective communication between all the parties and maintain our constant presence on the student arena. More than that, I have spent my best three years of my life here filled with memorable trips, activities, outstanding nature, admirable people and fond memories to cherish, and so I want others students to experience the same and make them feel like Norway is their second home.

Taking all this into consideration, I see no better way than to pursue this opportunity. I am thrilled at the possibility of contesting in the elections and seeing what other candidates have to offer. I strongly believe that my experience, desire and passion to work in interests of international students for the progress and growth of ISU Norway would be taken into account.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request. I eagerly anticipate your response and the future opportunity to become a part of the ISU executive board and its exceptional atmosphere.

Kindest regards,

Nikolai Shulgin

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EDUCATION

- AUG 2015 – D.D. **UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ**
BA English Language and Literature (German as minor)
- has necessary language and linguistic experience required in a variety of settings;
 - has an ability to orient himself in literary and scientific contexts, as well as analyze, interpret and translate linguistic and/or literary text material;
- SEP 2014 – MAI 2015 **KONGSBAKKEN HIGH SCHOOL**
Languages, social studies and economics

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- AUG 2017 – D.D. **THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' UNION OF NORWAY**
President for ISU Tromsø
- represents international students' interests at the university and other arenas;
 - arranges different recreational events;
- APR 2017 – D.D. **NORWEGIAN RED CROSS**
Language teacher (volunteer)
- helping refugees and immigrants practice Norwegian
- MAR 2016 – JAN 2017 **UTROPIA STUDENT MAGAZINE (MIDNATTSOLPOSTEN)**
Copyeditor/proofreader
- OKT 2015 – DES 2016 **STUDENTSAMFUNNET DRIV**
Bar and coffee employee (volunteer)

LANGUAGES

NORWEGIAN B2, ENGLISH C1-C2
GERMAN B1
RUSSIAN C2