

Revised resolution Free Education for International Students

Approved at Student Parliament 4, 16.09.2024

Norway has a long tradition of offering free higher education to all students through the "gratisprinsippet" (free principle). This has been a unique opportunity for both Norwegian and international students to obtain a quality education without paying tuition fees. This principle has contributed to making Norway an attractive destination for international students and increased diversity in higher education. Since spring 2023 are public universities in Norway obligated to charge tuition fees for international students from outside the EU/EEA and Switzerland

This policy shift has significant implications, to which we are already seeing a decline in numbers of incoming international students. The introduction of fees create a larger difference in access to higher education, especially when it comes to students from lower socio-economic levels. This has a negative impact in diversity and competence of higher education in Norway as a whole.

Free higher education benefits both individuals and society as a whole. It empowers individuals, fosters social mobility, and contributes to a more inclusive and prosperous country.

The future of free higher education in Norway hangs in the balance. Maintaining the "gratisprinsippet" for Norwegian students while ensuring sustainable funding requires further discussion. Exploring alternative funding models, analyzing the long-term consequences of tuition fees.

The Student Parliament at NMBU:

- Advocates and calls for unified action from students and stakeholders to challenge and reverse this decision, and for **reinstating** the "free principle" (gratisprinsippet) as a cornerstone of higher education in Norway.
- Opposes government's decision to introduce tuition fees for international students from non-EU countries.