

Emergency Preparedness for Students

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Background

Norway and the world are facing a more unpredictable security situation than before, related to climate change, digital vulnerability, and geopolitical tensions. The *Total Preparedness Report (2024–2025)* highlights the need for the entire society—including individuals, educational institutions, and municipalities—to be prepared for potential crises through their own emergency preparedness. In this context, students are a vulnerable group.

The Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB) has found that young adults aged 18–29 are the least prepared for crisis situations, and that many students lack both the knowledge and resources to follow government recommendations for emergency preparedness. Students often live in shared housing with limited storage space, making it difficult to keep supplies such as water and food. Many also live in homes without an oven, in buildings where many students are concentrated in one place, and often far from their hometowns.

As of autumn 2025, Ås Municipality has no specific emergency plan targeting students, and it is unclear who holds responsibility for students in Ås should a crisis occur. Ås Municipality, SiÅs (the Student Welfare Organization), and NMBU (the Norwegian University of Life Sciences) all play important roles in disseminating information about and facilitating student preparedness. However, none of these actors currently provide accessible or detailed information or solutions related to student emergency preparedness.

There is therefore a need for increased focus on emergency preparedness for students at NMBU.

The Student Parliament believes that:

- Students must be included as a group in local emergency preparedness strategies and plans, with specific measures to ensure students have access to information and resources for self-preparedness. These plans must consider both students living in student housing and those living in private accommodation.
- Ås Municipality, NMBU, and SiÅs must actively disseminate information about self-preparedness and other emergency solutions to students—especially to international students.
- Ås Municipality, NMBU, and SiÅs must facilitate practical and economical solutions for student self-preparedness, such as shared storage spaces for water and equipment in student housing.