

Resolution on Resident Permit Fees for International Students

Approved in Student Parliament 6, 12.11.2018

On January 1st 2018, the fee for international students applying for study permits in Norway rose 77%, from 3,000kr to 5,300kr. (This is an application fee that non-EU students have to pay every year to renew their residence permit.) This increase came as a result of the 2018 state budget approved of by the Parliament. This is significantly higher than the fees in other Nordic countries (approximately 2,700 DKK in Denmark, and approximately 917 SEK in Sweden.) Combined with other demanding requirements - such as having a minimum amount of 116,396kr in a Norwegian bank account all at once, even before arriving in Norway, and having to provide an overview of all bank transactions for the previous 6 months – this makes it even more difficult for international students to study in Norway.

This fall, we began to see the consequences of these increased prices. Several international students who were accepted to study at NMBU, especially students from the global south, had to decline their study offer as they could no longer afford to come to Norway, which has led to a decrease in diversity in classrooms. Therefore, this goes against the values outlined in NMBU's strategy for 2019-2023, as well as the NMBU Student Democracy's principle program. In these documents, NMBU and the Student Democracy outline the importance of a diverse and inclusive student environment, with equal opportunities for all NMBU students. The Student Parliament at NMBU believes that such high increases in student fees threatens these goals.

Therefore:

- The Student Parliament at NMBU is against increasing residence permit fees for international students.
- The Student Parliament at NMBU also stands behind initiatives that will make it more possible for international students to accept their offer to study at NMBU and move to Norway.