



## INTEGRATION OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN NORWAY

NSO **believes** that international students should enjoy equal opportunity regardless of their race, religion, gender or social background.

NSO **considers** international students as potential ambassadors for Norway after the completion of their studies.

One of the most relevant issues for NSO is concerning tuition fees for international students, which is a recurring question among the political parties.

***If Norway is to maintain its competitive edge in international education, tuition fees for international students should not be introduced in Norway.***

Norway's involvement in, and firm commitment towards, a number of political processes has been implemented during the last decade in such a way as to result in an undeniable rise in the number of foreign students who choose Norway as educational destination.

Such increase, which is mainly attributed to short-term studying (3 to 12 months), boosted unexpectedly the need for (and thus, Higher Institutions' and Studentsamskipnadens' obligations towards) supplying study programmes, accommodation and language courses *towards a continuously renewable (and steadily increasing) international student body, without prioritising on quality when focusing on internationalisation of education.*

At the same time, Norwegian society and international students have not been provided with a fair chance of time in order to allow a reciprocally beneficial approach and exchange of cultures, resulting, thus, in poor integration of the latter – not only academically, but also socially as well as professionally – and an unfair (lack of) understanding and promotion of Norway's values and interests abroad.

***International students should be encouraged to gain practical experience related to their education, during and after completion of their studies in Norway. This would increase the quality of the students' experience and stay in Norway.***

- **Free tuition fees for all international students:** NSO's Leadership will continue its campaign for free higher education.
- **Sustainable internationalisation:** In this respect, NSO asks the support of the Leadership and its commitment in asking the Ministry of Education to:
- *Facilitate social integration* through more inclusive education of both Norwegian and international students, as well as better and more allocation of housing and language courses offered to the latter,

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- *Liberalise training and employment* policies and regulations to enable international students to maximize their exposure to Norwegian society and culture through internships and employment.

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