



Stop Tuition Fees

The government of Norway wants to put an end to the free education principle. On the 8th of October the government proposed an introduction of tuition fees for international students from outside the EU/EEA and Switzerland. The proposal has direct budgetary consequences in that 80.5 million NOK will be pulled out of the financing of higher education institutions for half of 2015. The total cut for a whole year will therefore be as high as 160 million NOK in 2016. The government will, as a consequence, propose a change in the regulations. The change will make it possible for institutions, if they want to, to take tuition fees in order to cover the cut.

This is a direct threat against the principle of free education, which is a foundation stone of Norwegian higher education.

Last year the government proposed the introduction of tuition fees for international students, but the Parliament rejected that. The fact that the government is now taking up the fight again is, in addition to go against the principle, driving right over their own Parliament. This is unacceptable.

Student organizations of Nordisk Ordførande Møte supports the Norwegian students and their fight against the proposal. We hope and believe that the Liberal Party and the Christian Democratic Party will again, as they did last year, ensure that the principle of free education will be protected in the budget handling process in Parliament.

Signed by:

SYL, The National Union of University Students in Finland
SAMOK, Union of Students in Finnish Universities of Applied Sciences
DSF, the National Union of Students in Denmark
SHI, Student Council at the University of Iceland
EÜL, Federation of Estonian student Unions
LSA, The Student Union of Latvia
LSS, Lithuanian National Union of Students
SFS, The Swedish National Union of Students
NSO, The National Union of Students in Norway