

Input to the new language policy

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A committee led by Professor Helge Jordheim has proposed a new language policy for the University of Oslo. You can read more about [the work leading up to the proposal on this page](#).

The deadline for providing input is 11 October. All responses will be published on www.uio.no.

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My role

Academic staff at UiO

Provide your input to the new language policy for UiO

Making the policy more lenient is a good start.

Keeping in mind that UiO wants to be competitive and at the forefront in the international scientific arena, working and studying at UiO must be attractive. Now that the salaries are no longer a strong compelling argument, strict language knowledge requirements may become a decisive barrier.

From potential student's (MSc) perspective: strong candidates from abroad are an asset, especially if they continue studying or working in Norway. If Norwegian language is mandatory, at least I would not even consider studying at UiO. Check how University of Copenhagen does this - it is a perfect example of a strong international university.

From PhD / postdoc / researcher perspective - same, language demands are a barrier. At least now with this proposed policy it would not be mandatory. However, PhD students usually have teaching obligations. Ideal option - TA in masters courses, if they would be given in english. For postdoc career development teaching and supervision is critical in these days. BUT: no person will learn a new language to a high level just to study or work for 2-3 years and move elsewhere. It is just not practical. There is a restriction, that a person can have just one postdoc in the same place, so after 3 or so years they would have to move on to somewhere else.

From Assoc Prof. perspective: fair enough, but learning the language should be included in the working hours and covered by university - learning national language is not always required in other top tier universities (one of the reasons why they are top tier?). If it is a permanent position more often than not the person in question will want to learn the language regardless - just for the everyday life and social needs.

You can upload a document here

Ikke besvart