

Innspill til ny språkpolitikk

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En arbeidsgruppe ledet av professor Helge Jordheim har utarbeidet et forslag til ny språkpolitikk for Universitetet i Oslo. Du kan lese mer om [arbeidet fram til utkastet her](#) og [videre prosess her](#).

Frist for å gi innspill er 11. oktober. Alle svar vil bli publisert på www.uio.no.

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Jeg svarer som

Annet på UiO (velg denne om ingen av alternativene over passer)

Spesifiser her

Ansatt, Masterstudent og tidligere stipendiat

Legg inn dine innspill til forslaget her.

The current proposal should clarify how language competencies shall be documented. Currently, UiO relies on commercial parties to document language competency, which has a particularly negative effect for international students.

To illustrate my claim, I'll share my own experience when applying for an English-speaking Master's degree at UiO. Previously, I was or have been an employee, exchange student, as well as a PhD student at UiO. In all of these settings, English language competence was required, but I wasn't required to deliver formal documentation. However, I was not able to apply for a Master's programme taught in English language. That's because UiO's [English proficiency requirements](<https://www.uio.no/english/studies/admission/master/english-proficiency-master.html>) are primarily based on language tests conducted by the commercial providers TOEFL, IELTS and Pearson. These tests are really time-consuming and expensive, and I would have had to cover the cost myself. Note that all of these requirements are set up before the applicant even has received any feedback regarding their application, that means there is a probability that a lot of effort and money is spent for nothing. Additionally, a passed test only has a very limited period of validity, such that an applicant only can reuse a result in the following year.

I'd like to point out that the mentioned commercial providers are by no means neutral. Some of them also sell preparatory material and courses, which gives them incentives to have more students fail.

UiO complements these rather strict requirements with an apparently arbitrary list of exemptions: These include applicants who have completed their entire upper secondary education in a list of countries inside and outside of Europe. They also include applicants who have completed 60 ECTS worth of courses taught in English language in, for example, Finland.

At the same time, upper secondary education from my home country is not part of this list. UiO also doesn't accept a C1 certificate with reference to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR), issued by the University of Potsdam, Germany.

I have a hard time seeing how these practices don't violate likestillings- og diskrimineringsloven that requires that any differential treatments are necessary to achieve an objective purpose, and do not have a disproportionate negative impact on the person or persons subject to the differential treatment. The current rules appear to be an inconsistent mix of very strict and formal, and some rather ambiguous requirements, to the disadvantage of those who were unlucky enough to receive their education from the wrong country.

I therefore strongly propose include the following in the updated language policy:

1. UiO refrains from relying on commercial test providers to document language skills
2. Where formally documented language competency is necessary, language skills should be documented with respect to open international standards like CEFR
3. Applicants that lack such documentation shall still have the opportunity to apply for study programs or jobs. They may submit necessary documentation after a preliminary acceptance. UiO provides a test center at no cost to the applicant.

Point 1. and 2. are important in order to fulfill the requirements set out by likestillings- og diskrimineringsloven as well as the upcoming Interoperable Europe Act. Point 3. would further simplify the application process for international applicants and would harmonize with the concept of "betinget opptak/betinget tilbud" that is practiced by UiO. Here, applicants who lack documentation or need to finish required courses can hand in the required documentation at a date between application and start of studies.

Du kan laste opp vedlegg her.

Ikke besvart