



GOOD PRACTICE FOR STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS FOR INVOLVING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The purpose of this document is to guide student councils to consider whether the events they organise, which should also be accessible to international students, fulfill all the points of actual accessibility, and whether and to what extent student councils have the potential to offer more opportunities for international students in the student councils and university life.

Have the student council statutes, student rights and other important documents been translated and found on the student council website in English?

The linguistic accessibility of the core documents of the student council is one of the prerequisites for international students to contribute to the student council equally with Estonian-speaking students.

Are international students expected to be members of the student council?

Does the student council encourage international students to join and expect them to contribute to the council?

Are there student representatives from among/of international students in the student council?

Is the student council able to hold meetings in English or offer an English translation for meetings held in Estonian?

Can the election process of the student council be monitored in English (including the announcement of elections, a description of the electoral process, CVs of candidates, etc.)?

Are student council elections separately communicated to international students to involve them as candidates and voters?

How and in what way is the work of the student councils communicated to international students?

For example, do the social media channels and the homepage of the council offer something for those who don't speak Estonian? Is any communication activity, such as a newsletter, directed specifically at international students?

Is there information in English about the events organised by the student council (including posters, descriptions, and postings)?

This does not mean that all the information in the council must be bilingual (e.g., for the events that are clearly held in Estonian only), but that information concerning foreign students must be available to them.

Is there any information available in English about the deadlines for students (including in email, newsletters, and postings)?

It also includes, for example, information on applying for study grants and other important tasks that councils fulfil.

Are there subtitles in English for videos produced by the student council and shared in social media?

Does the student council have a “language policy” (i.e., an understanding of the language in which information should be shared, what information should be available to all students, i.e., in English, etc.)?

The shared information includes daily information as well as, e.g., the homepage of the council, “About” descriptions of social media, etc. Have international students been provided with separate information list, where they receive only English-language information, without Estonian language messages which are not important for foreign students being sent to the list?

Are events held in English/with English interpretation when international students are invited/expected?

Can international students visiting the student council have the possibility of obtaining the necessary information in English on the spot? Is there a person in the student council team who can if necessary, perform interpretation/translation into English?

For example, if a student arrives at a representation who needs help with a problem in a subject or support services, can the people in the council actually help him / her?

Does the student council, for example, also offer non-alcoholic drinks at events organised by it and take into account possible dietary restrictions arising from religions?

As international students also include those whose cultural background differs significantly from that of local students, it is also necessary to take this into account when organising events.