

# Student Union Malmö's Operational Plan 18/19

## § 1 Introduction

During the operational year 2017/2018 Malmö University became an university and the Student union work with student politics has been largely characterized by this. The next council and board has a year ahead of them with continuing efforts to define and clarify the role and future of Student Union Malmö. This operational plan follows a different model than the previous years and is a response to feedback received from both the previous board and student council regarding a clearer strategy for working with the operational plan.

The operational plan's structure starts in the Student Union's daily work, from regular activities to recruitment to study social. This will be supplemented by focus areas, where Student Union Malmö's future work in student political questions is defined and put into goals. The various sections of the operational plan have been written by different authors but have one editor, but the slight differences in the text have been preserved so that the operational plan's varied background is clearly visible. It has been the authors' intention to hand over both concrete and abstract objectives to sidestep putting the Student Union Malmö in either a too narrow or too wide role.

The operational plan's final segment is a letter from the 17/18 board to the 18/19 student council.

## § 2 Focus areas

The focus areas selected for the operational plan have been made after an assessment by the 17/18 Board on the most important issues that came up during the year. These are, outside of the Student Union's daily work (*Regular activities, Recruitment and engagement, Study social*), the following;

- Housing
- Internationalization
- Digitalization
- Academic Literacy

### § 3 Regular operations

The Student Union's board structure has remained more or less unchanged for a number of years although the University has grown and changed. During the operational year 17/18 the Student Union began a **reorganization** with few changes in the daily office and within the board.

The purpose of these changes has been to **develop the Union's operation** and make the Union's work more effective in the long term, to reflect the University's development in the future. To ensure that the changes previously made are implemented within the organization, continuing work and development of the Union's structure should continue in the coming operational year. Part of the continued work with the regular operation should include the development of the relationship between the **Student Union Council (FUM)** and the board.

A large part of the Union's regular activities is regarding the Union house's future. It's unsure were and in which form our future Union house will be, which influences both the Union's and their **associations'** ability to plan for the future. It is off utmost importance that the work to find a new suitable building for the Student Union Malmö's current and future operation is both continued and prioritized.

This is mostly internal work to be done by the Student Union Malmö's board, council and office.

#### Goals for § 3 Regular activities

#### How to

The Student Union Malmö should develop a dynamic and functioning structure within the board that gives the opportunity for more effective work towards their students and Malmö University.

- Make a long-term strategy for the board's structure that takes both its possibilities and limits into account.
- Look over the tasks and areas of responsibilities within the board.
- Have an active dialogue with Malmö University regarding the new police academy and how the Student Union should work with it.

The Student Union Malmö should ensure that the Union and its associations can continue their activities in the best possible way in the future.

- Keep updated regarding the situation with the current Union house.
- Actively look for the possibility of a new Union house.
- Keep an active discussion with Malmö University and Malmö Stad regarding the future of the Union house.

The Student Union Malmö shall develop and work with the student council and its role as the union's highest decision-making organ.

- Explore the possibilities of expanding the council's independence.
- Increase the visibility of the council and its activities so that the students better know of FUM and their function.
- Do an evaluation of the FUM-meeting structure and quality to explore how these things can be developed.

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## § 4 Recruitment and Engagement

Student engagement has an important role in the Student Union Malmö's daily work. To ensure that the Student Union keeps its **relevance as a union**, we must create stable recruitment and well-implemented routines in regards to how student engagement is encouraged and rewarded. To do this, we must continuously update and create strategies for student engagement. Both **study political** and **study social** aspects are crucial for the Student Union Malmö's continued development. The former aspect secures stronger student influence within Malmö University and develops the students' knowledge and competence. The latter aspect enriches the students' social life and cultural experience.

The Student Union Malmö has created a good network and works together with many partners on different levels. These include **Malmö University** our **associations**, in particular **Festmesteriet**. To strengthen these bonds is vital for the Student Union Malmö's continuous growth.

Goals for §4 Recruitment and Engagement	How to
The Student Union Malmö will work for a better image of what it means to be involved in the Student Union's work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation and promotion, in order to give more transparency and visibility to the Union's work.</li> <li>• Better communication about the student council's engagement.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö will establish methods and order for continuity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased faculty time to give the student ombuds the ability to work closer to the students.</li> <li>• Increased openness and better welcome of new students, to show more of the Union's study political and study social work.</li> <li>• Develop a merit system to reward students for their student engagement within study political matters, both within the Student Union and Malmö University.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö should lessen the step for and make it easier for the students to be active in different ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand the work we do in communicating on social media.</li> <li>• Increased physical presence by being present on campus.</li> <li>• Find and develop both old and new collaborations with local, national and international partners and organizations.</li> </ul>

The Student Union should work continuously with making the election process better.

- Work so that the electoral board gets the opportunity to start working with the union elections earlier.
- Give the ombuds the task to work on their contact with their student representatives and encourage them to engage in the union.
- Create an event that uplifts the student council and gives the students a possibility to meet their representatives and understand their work.

## § 5 Study social

The Student Union Malmö chooses to focus its study social work on **student health**, conditions for **social life** and the possibilities to have **rewarding leisure time**. The study social work that is done by the Student Union Malmö shall be inclusive and welcoming and has the purpose to create a feeling of community for the students of Malmö.

The Student Union Malmö's collaborators in this question are **Malmö Stad, Student Health, Malmö University Byggnadsavdelning, International Office, the associations and Festmesteriet**.

Goals for § 5 Study Social	How to
The Student Union Malmö shall work for the students' possibility to live well.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spread information and knowledge regarding the Student Health and their services.</li> <li>• Work to ensure an accessible and good study environment within the university.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö shall keep updated regarding the students' health and give the board the tools to work proactively and reactively for a better student health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work so that a statistical overview of student health is done on campus.</li> <li>• Take part in educational lectures and workshops regarding work- and study environment as well as in other skills that can be needed.</li> <li>• When it is possible, take part of conferences where mental health is discussed to acquire knowledge through others experience.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö shall strengthens the students' possibilities of having a social life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spread information regarding Kölsvinet as a good place to meet other students.</li> <li>• Work so that Malmö Stad creates meeting places for students where they can meet outside of their studies.</li> <li>• Be present and work with both Introduction Weeks and Insparken so that they are inclusive events that create bonds and a sense of community between students.</li> </ul>

The Student Union Malmö shall help students to find a rewarding way to spend their leisure time.

- Offer the students a variation of different study social activities on campus.
- Work for an open and inclusive environment within our own organization and associations so that students feel welcome to both come and stay.

## § 6 Housing

Since Malmö Stad is growing there also must exist more housing for students. One of the basic principles of succeeding with your studies is to have a **safe place to live**. The housing question is a major factor in **study choice, cancellation of studies** and **mental health**. To keep the heterogenous quality of our student group the housing problem needs to be taken seriously. Students which are capital weak and international students are a risk group for an unsafe housing situation. There is also a more varied group of students, where some of them are parents for example, and any new student housing project should reflect that. By doing this, we work to create an environment where a heterogenous group of students have the possibility to study and create a sustainable societal development.

Collaborators in this are **Malmö University, Malmö stad, Swedens Joint Student Unions (SFS)** and the **Union of Rental Housing**.

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### Goals for § 6 Housing

The Student Union Malmö commits to working with questions that regard students' housing situation on a local and regional level.

### How to

- By collecting and presenting qualitative and quantitative data regarding students' housing situation in Malmö.
- By creating and maintaining dialogues with the university's leadership, Malmö Stad and other policy makers.

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The Student Union Malmö commits to strengthen their position in the housing question on local, regional and national level.

- Creating activities whose purpose is to acknowledge the problem with housing in Malmö.
- By working together with other Student Unions and organizations.
- Actively work with the question within and towards SFS.
- As it is possible, shine a light upon the housing issue in media (debate articles, interviews, press releases).

## § 7 Internationalization

The word internationalization can be defined in several ways. Part of this is **multilingualism**, which gives the opportunity for national and international students to be part of **study social** and **study political** activities. Another side of internationalization is to represent Malmö students at international conferences that work with student related questions like education politics, equality and pedagogy. Yet another aspect of internationalization is **knowledge exchange**, like visits from national or international student unions.

Our collaborators are mostly our own associations, such as **ESN** and **UF**, but also **International Office** at Malmö University.

### Goals for § 7 Internationalization

### How to

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The Student Union Malmö commits towards promoting multilingualism, but still respecting that Swedish is the Student union's working language.

- Yearly update the Student Union's language policy.
- Work towards the university to update their language policy.

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The Student Union will establish more connections and exchanges with other student unions from Europe.

- Actively seek out other student unions, both national and international, and try to establish a meeting.

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The Student Union Malmö commits to promoting possibilities to take part of international conferences both as student representatives and union representatives, and to encourage the university to create a more heterogenous group of their teachers.

- Encourage the university to create incentives and a merit system for students that participate in the work with internationalization.
- Encourage the board and FUM to visit international events.
- Remind the faculties about the possibilities to invite external international lecturers to both university wide and faculty specific events.

## § 8 Digitalization

Digitalization is a continuously active question for higher education. Digitalization means everything from being an individual in an increasingly **digital society** to creating **digital meeting places** to a **digital campus** where student active learning is in the center.

As per our task of being monitoring higher education it is important that the Student Union Malmö takes a stance and works with the topic of digitalization, both in how we protect students' interests in an increasingly digital education and our own place on a digital campus.

Our collaborator in this question is **Malmö University**.

Goals for § 8 Digitalization	How to
The Student Union Malmö monitors the discussion around digitalization and its relationship with students' education and learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify the Union's stance regarding digitalization.</li> <li>• Have a student representative in relevant meetings and constellations.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö will create digital meeting places for students, both for information and study social activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the webpage so it is more user friendly on most digital platforms.</li> <li>• Develop our page on Canvas.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö will encourage the university to create digital meeting places for students, both within courses and programs but also to allow them to work internationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part of the community that exists both nationally and internationally regarding digitalization for higher education.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö commits to keeping themselves updated in the question regarding digitalization and its relationship with higher education.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor relevant national and international investigations within the topic.</li> </ul>
The Student Union Malmö wants their students to be able to choose their own level of participation in the digital society.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards the student card companies so that they keep all the student discounts on their physical cards.</li> <li>• Work so that the Student Union Malmö stays approachable and available on campus.</li> </ul>

## § 9 Academic literacy

The concept of **academic literacy** has its basis in the different factors that creates the possibilities for students to follow through with their education. Academic literacy means that students get help to develop their **academic language**, which means that they can read, understand and express themselves scientifically in speech and writing. It is also about the university giving the students tools so that they can reflect and analyze arguments within **different disciplines**. **Critical thinking** is a central part of academic literacy. This means that an individual can regard several perspectives and then understand, interpret and challenge your own beliefs and why one acts as they do.

Collaborators in this topic is **Studentcentrum, AKL** and **the University Library**.

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### Goals for § 9 Academic Literacy

### How to

The Student Union Malmö commits to working so that the students have the ability to better their own academic competence.

- Together with Studentcentrum, AKL and the library work to increase the supportive operation for students which will provide mentors, language and math workshops and lectures about study techniques.

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The Student Union Malmö commits to working with the topic of students' rights to equal education.

- To continue the discussion with the university about the teachers' /mentors' responsibility to create a possibility for students to develop their academic literacy continuously throughout their education. An example is to work with developing higher education pedagogics, encourage feedback and work with tutorial operations.
- To spread knowledge and work with the question of widened participation and why it is important for a society that values knowledge and transparency.

## § 10 Final words

Dear Student Union council of operational year 2018/2019,

Our operational year has been full of challenges, warmth and solidarity. Some times have been more difficult than others, but our engagement, drive and ambition has been constant. We have done both small and large changes, reflected around our place in a world of lower engagement and in an increasingly global world, where we have to be brave enough to look beyond our borders. We have fought, mediated and cooperated with Malmö University, Malmö City and a plethora of associations and organizations. Student influence is, in its most basic form, what makes us continue. Through us at the Student Union Malmö the students get help, support, empathy and friendship.

We, in the board of 17/18, want to give you this operational plan, written with love, for your consideration and we hope that it gives you inspiration and guidance in your coming work, and that we have given you stable ground to stand on.

We hope that you will have a fantastic year like us, and we wish you the warmest of luck.

Forward, for knowledge, warmth and hope!

Best regards,

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President 17/18

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