

The Student Union Malmö regarding the G8-building, also called Gäddan.

To whom it may concern,

This open letter is written by the presidium of the Student Union Malmö on behalf of our Fullmäktige. During several months, now closer to a year, problems with the G8 building has been raised by students, teachers and studentrepresentatives on all different levels of the University. It has been lifted on programråd, at faculty meetings and on central level. This problem is regarding the work and study environment at G8. According to arbetsmiljölagen, students are part of the workforce of the University, and are therefore included under those who have the right for a quality work environment. This is also repeated by the Students Rights and Obligations at Malmö University.

Following problems have been especially noted by the Student Union Malmö;

- Loud noises make it difficult to concentrate while taking an exam
- Discrimination issues in the case of inaccessible venues

The loud noises from construction can, according to Arbetsmiljöverket, result in “stress, tiredness and difficulties with concentration.” In the words of our students;

If students distract or in some other way prevents another student to take their exam, you are asked to immediately leave the room to keep order, which implicitly states that it's not okay to disturb your fellow students during writing. Why would it be different with activities outside?

Gäddan also has a problem with lack of accessibility; Students that have different kinds of disabilities has, several times, pointed out that some of the venues are too crowded to be comfortable, if they can even access it at all. Students have difficulty using the elevators, as they sometimes stop half a level above where they are supposed to go. Half a level might seem little, but for a student with a disability, this can mean that they have to take the elevator back to the first floor to find another elevator that hopefully will take them to their proper destination. Some venues, like the big ones on the ground floor, are simply inaccessible for disabled students.

We also want to lift the following problem that has arisen this year as an example; one of our deaf students noticed that there was no blinkalarm to alert deaf or hearing disabled students. They instead had to entrust themselves into the care of their classmates. When they commented on this to the University, the first response she received was that there was no plans for blinkalarms and that they just had to entrust themselves to their friends if it happened again. After push from us, we have received word that this will hopefully not be an issue for much longer, but the problem itself, and the Universities initial response to it, was dismal. This shows how G8 was, and is, a problem for many of our students.

Since we have pointed out these issues several times, we see the next step as putting in formal reports to the relevant external authorities.

We at the Student Union Malmö invites you to a conversation at our Niagara office the 26/3 at 10 to discuss these issues and eventual solutions further.