

Student Union Malmö opinion document on usage of camera in digital education

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought about a major change in the world of higher education. All higher education institutions, including Malmö University, have switched to digital education. The campus-based education has been happening restrictively in order to ensure the quality of certain educational elements. The digital transformation of the education has affected the students' situation in many different ways. Issues of legal security and invasion of privacy in connection with digital examination have been discussed continuously during the pandemic. Malmö University and the Student Union Malmö agree that digital examinations should be designed, as far as possible, in a way that makes the least intrusion on students' privacy.

There are many factors in the students' private lives that need to be taken into account in relation to legal security and privacy breach issues (work environment at home, psychosocial aspects, socio-economic questions etc.)

Student Union Malmö therefore thinks that:

Digital teaching

- purpose and usage of webcam in teaching should first and foremost be discussed between teachers and students in all close to the education environments
- all students should be encouraged to participate, as much as it's possible, in the education with webcam on
- to have a webcam on should never be a requirement to participate in an obligatory element of the education
- teachers should ensure that the digital participation in the education works for all students

Digital examination

- teachers should, as much as it's possible, shape the digital examinations in such a way that they don't require camera surveillance during the examination time, meaning to choose examination forms that have the least breach of privacy.
- examination with webcam on should mean one (1) camera from the front
- oral digital examination with a webcam on should be allowed
- decision on written digital examination with a webcam at home environment should be taken restrictively solely by a dean and always in consultation with Student ombud
- decision on examination of practical and skill training elements (which can be carried out digitally) with camera surveillance is encouraged but should be taken solely by a dean and always in consultation with Student ombud
- identification of students at digital examination should always happen in a legally-secure way and in accordance with GDPR
- video recording of digital examination that is saved and stored with a surveillance purpose should not happen
- students shouldn't have to show their home surroundings to examiner or anyone else
- students should be visible and facing the camera but shouldn't have to stare into the camera for example.
- external programs for control of examination, such as AI, programs with facial recognition or fingerprints and similar should never be used at digital examination
- university should always ensure that there is a sufficient amount of technical equipment to lend out that meets the students' needs