

Student Union Malmö's Language policy

Introduction

Malmö university strives towards being a more internationally recognised university, which reflects upon and within the Student Union Malmö. Because of this we also see an increased amount of international students who does not have Swedish as their first language. The following document is created with the goal of giving the Student Union Malmö a continuity and stability in the formal and everyday language uses, both to help international students bridge the gap between them and the Swedish University but also make sure that we as the Student Union are equipped, and capable, of representing and engage our international members.

The Student Union Malmö has the praxis of operating mostly in English. This means, for example, that the Unions council meetings has been held primarily in English. The following document is developed with this in mind and wants to create a unified stance towards how the Student Union uses two languages, Swedish and English, in a Swedish workplace, where the official working language, as it is declared by the Higher Education Act, is Swedish.

The Student Union Malmö declares...

- A student that wants to get engaged within the Student Union will find, as far as it is possible, that their language not being Swedish will not encumber this goal.
 - To get engaged means the following organs; the board, the council, associations and events organised by the union.
- The documentation that is done of union activities will be available in both English and Swedish.
- Symbiotic language use of two languages, English and Swedish, will be encouraged so that each student can talk in the language they are most comfortable in.
 - When bilingualism is not possible, Swedish will be used. In that case, a English translator should be provided if possible.
- Our communication with the students will be primarily bilingual
- That the Student Union Malmö, as far as it is possible, will provide help and support for international students that wants to engage themselves in regional and national organs.
- That the language used in Student Union Malmö is as accessible as possible, meaning that the content of the topic will be easily understood regardless of knowledge in the topic itself

Since the working language at the university is Swedish, and probably will continue to be so, the Student Union Malmö needs to keep working towards an acceptance of bilingualism at University level as well. We should, however, be aware of the difficulty it would entail, both for the university and for the student, if a student representative is not comfortable in working in Swedish.