

# Input to the new language policy

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A committee led by Professor Helge Jordheim has proposed a new language policy for the University of Oslo. You can read more about [the work leading up to the proposal on this page](#).

The deadline for providing input is 11 October. All responses will be published on [www.uio.no](http://www.uio.no).

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My role

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## Provide your input to the new language policy for UiO

Before offering my criticism of a current situation, I want to make several points clear, and I although I can't speak on behalf of all international staff, I think I speak on behalf of many.

- 1) Norwegian students have the right to receive education in their native language, that is most comfortable to them. Researchers making suggestions about their own usage of English in a workplace are not trying to undermine students' right in any way.
- 2) We're grateful that DFØ can be used in English, as well as communication with administration can be done in English, as legal things are often exclusively in local languages in many countries. This is not taken for granted.

However, I have two main criticisms.

- 1) If UiO wants new international hires to learn Norwegian, help them! People have already uprooted their whole lives to move to another country, they are already trying their best in absorbing new culture, building a new community from scratch, while also working a full time job. Make a step forward to them. Offer free high quality language courses. Current 8 weeks courses are barely effective. Restructure them in a way that even if people never continue learning, they can at least read and communicate in some way when they're done. Make them 2 x 1.5h a week instead of current 1 x 3h. Make them intense but USEFUL. And regarding long semester courses, note that they are inaccessible to many employees as people don't fit into language requirements for UiO students. Rethink it?  
Courses fees should always be covered by department or UiO.

- 2) Remember that for many international employees English is not their first language too. They are in the same positions as Norwegians, talking in their non-native language, making an effort for an opportunity to work in UiO. Have grace for people.

You can upload a document here

Ikke besvart