



Stúdentaráð Háskóla Íslands

International Policy of the Student Council 2023-2024

The position of International Officer was created in order for the Student Council (SHÍ) to actively work towards increased inclusivity within the University and further the University's international work.

This policy details how the International Committee aims to work towards these goals in 2023-24 and should be revised on a yearly basis.

International students should be seen as an asset to the University's community and both the learning environment and social life within the University should be accessible to them. The International Officer is their confidant and must make themselves available to assist them with problems falling within the remit of the Student Council. With that as a guiding principle the International Officer and the International Committee's goals for the coming year are as follows.

Support

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Means</i>
<i>Collaboration between the International Officer, International Committee, and International Division of the University of Iceland.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>At the beginning of each semester the International Officer and International Division decide on regular meetings and division of responsibilities</i>
<i>Accessibility for international students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>The International Officer should make sure that all published content on the Student Council website (student.is) is published in both Icelandic and English</i>● <i>The International Officer should lobby that the entire University website (hi.is) be made available in English and that there is no divide in the information offered depending on which language the website is viewed in</i>● <i>The International Officer oversees translations of minutes during meetings of the Student Council where such a translation is requested by a student. The International Officer is permitted to delegate this task</i>● <i>The International Officer should have regular office hours for international students at the office of the Student Council</i>● <i>The International Committee should increase its social media presence to ensure that international students</i>

	<p>are aware of its work and the International Officer, so they know where to find support and advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The International Officer introduces themselves and the Student Council during Orientation Days ● The International Officer will ensure that incoming international students are invited to a Facebook group created for them each year/semester ● The International Committee should increase awareness of services for students with Icelandic as a second language at the centre for writing (Ritver)
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Good mentorship

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Means</i>
<i>Recruitment of mentors and accurate pairings of exchange students (mentees) and mentors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The International Officer will make certain that a sufficient number of mentors are recruited timely by advertising the opportunity widely, accompanied with an explanation of the mentor system and its benefits ● The International Officer will read through the application forms for prospective mentors and mentees and suggest improvements to the International Division ● The International Committee is responsible for pairing mentors and mentees
<i>Ensure commitment of the mentors and encourage engagement of mentors and mentees</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The International Committee will (in cooperation with the International Division) host introduction meetings for mentors, which will include a specification of what constitutes appropriate and inappropriate conduct from both the mentor and mentee side and suggestions of activities for the mentor groups ● All mentors and mentees should be aware of the email address internationalcommittee@hi.is and should be encouraged to reach out to the International Officer, if an issue arises within their mentor group ● The International Committee should check in with mentors periodically to see how the semester is going and whether the mentor requires any assistance ● At the end of each semester the International Committee should send out forms to all mentors and mentees asking how their experience was and what aspects of the mentor system could be improved upon
<i>Organise Mentor Mingle</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The International Committee will organise and oversee the first meeting between mentors and their groups during Orientation Days (Mentor Mingle) ● The International Committee will, throughout this first meeting, encourage mentor groups to attend other

	<p>events together (pub quiz, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The meeting should include a game (set of challenges) that allows mentor groups to get to know each other as they explore the campus and city centre</i>
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Accessibility of teaching and international students' rights

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Means</i>
<i>Ensure that international students are informed of their rights</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The International Officer and Committee should collaborate with the International Division to ensure that international students are informed of their rights, as well as making sure that teachers are aware of those same rights</i> ● <i>The International Officer and Committee should produce a written overview about student rights that can be distributed physically and electronically among international students during International Days and before exam periods</i> ● <i>The International Officer is, alongside the Student Interest Representative, responsible for handling comments and complaints and solving any problems that may arise on the side of international students</i>
<i>Accessibility of teaching and exams for students who are not native Icelandic speakers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>The International Officer should encourage the University of Iceland to offer a wide variety of courses and programs taught in English in all academic fields/schools. To a certain extent, the same applies to courses taught in languages other than Icelandic or English</i> ● <i>The International Officer and Committee should reach out to the different Schools to discuss how to make their programs more accessible to students who are not native Icelandic speakers</i> ● <i>If courses that are listed as English-taught courses in the course catalogue are not actually taught in English to the disadvantage of international students, the International Officer should work to correct this</i> ● <i>If international students are sitting a course, or if the course is listed as English-taught, all emails and messages from the teachers should also be in English</i> ● <i>The International Officer should work towards having standardised guidelines / statutes for teachers to follow in the case of students with Icelandic as a second language and negotiate this with the Division of Academic Affairs and Rector</i> ● <i>The International Officer should work towards having the rights of students who are not native Icelandic</i>

	<i>speakers, as determined by the language policy, written into the rules of procedure on good working practice in teaching and examination</i>
<i>Option for new Icelandic speakers to use a dictionary in exams (plus extra testing time)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The International Committee and International Officer should work towards allowing international students to use dictionaries and/or sit exams in English over the full course of their studies and have extra testing time as agreed by the Student Council in February 2023</i> • <i>The International Officer and Committee should collaborate with SHÍ members in the school councils (sviðsráð) and the Academic Affairs Committee, to uncover how to best incorporate standards for the use of bilingual dictionaries during exams</i> • <i>The International Officer should work towards extra testing time due to dictionary use becoming an option within the special measures that students can apply for at the Student Counselling and Career Centre</i>

Equality

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Means</i>
<i>Support for immigrants and refugees</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The International Officer should work alongside Sprettur on their support to immigrant students</i> • <i>Where required, the International Officer takes part in developing the mentor system of Sprettur, dedicated to the university career of immigrant students</i> • <i>The International Officer and Committee will explore the possibilities of collaborating with Student Refugees Iceland</i>
<i>Ensure equality for international students</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The International Committee should be conscious of intersectional issues and work alongside other committees such as the Equal Rights Committee to solve them</i> • <i>The International Officer will work to ensure that the interests of international students are included in the Equality Action Plan for the University of Iceland</i> • <i>The International Committee should encourage representation of international students in school and student bodies as well as participation in student life and organizations</i>

Collaboration

The University of Iceland is an active member of the international university network AURORA, that

offers further opportunities for students.

The International Committee works on reviving the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in Iceland. A new board has been elected and has begun work in the spring of 2023.

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Means</i>
<i>ESN</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The International Officer will support the revival of ESN Iceland and make it a visible student network for incoming international students and local students seeking international experiences (exchange).</i> • <i>The International Officer should make sure board members of ESN elect new board members before the current ones finish their studies or exchange period</i>
<i>AURORA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The International Officer is automatically a member of the Aurora Student Council. A second student representative is elected by the Student Council</i> • <i>The International Officer should participate in the AURORA Network and Alliance, and convey information and policies to the Student Council of the University of Iceland</i> • <i>The International Officer and Committee should increase the visibility and participation of other students in AURORA by hosting introduction meetings and advertising opportunities (AURORA courses/summer school, Student Schemes, etc.) on social media</i> • <i>The International Officer should ensure that student representation and collaboration is promoted across AURORA member universities, as well as locally</i>
<i>Increase support for student exchange and create opportunities for students to take part in international work/activities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The international Committee shall lobby for diverse and international opportunities for students of the University of Iceland to gather multidisciplinary knowledge and skills</i> • <i>The International Officer and Committee must advocate for increased internationalisation of the University at every point and every level of study to achieve better accessibility of international experiences in all faculties</i>

Social Events

<i>Goal</i>	<i>Means</i>
<i>Increase international students' involvement in social events</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The International Officer should encourage student associations at the University of Iceland to welcome international students as their members and give them</i>

	<p><i>the opportunity to participate actively in the social life</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● <i>The International Committee will organise several events, both during Orientation Days and throughout the academic year, meant to provide a social setting that allows people to form connections both within the international student community at the University and outside of it</i>● <i>The International Committee, in collaboration with the International Division, should plan events such as hikes and day trips that allow international students the opportunity to explore the country outside of the city limits</i>
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