

Policy for student associations



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How to Obtain Student Association Status at Linnaeus University

- The association must be democratically structured and governed, and it must respect the equal rights and value of all individuals.
- A student association must be for students, by students, and its operational area must be Linnaeus University.
- The student association must not act against the purpose, values, or operational area of Linnaeus Union.
- The student association must have its own statutes, and the current statutes as well as contact information must always be updated with Linnaeus Union.
- The student association must send a representative to the four member meetings that Linnaeus Union holds during an operational year.
- The student association must send a representative from its board to the chair forum that Linnaeus Union organizes regularly.
- If the association is part of a larger organization that exists regionally or centrally, it can be approved as a student association provided it has its own local statutes and its own operations aimed at students at Linnaeus University.
- The decision on student association status is made by the board of Linnaeus Union during a board meeting.

If the requirements are not met for two consecutive operational years, the student association status will automatically lapse. Linnaeus Union also has the right to revoke previously granted student association status in case of severe violations.

There are also other requirements, but these relate to student associations that are already established and are thus specified in the cooperation agreement between the union and each approved student association

What the Cooperation Between Linnaeus Union and Associations Entails

By granting an association the status of a student association, Linnaeus Union initiates a collaboration with the association and offers support, training, and assistance to it. The student associations and Linnaeus Union work together to enhance students' academic life. Student associations approved by Linnaeus Union are the union's most important partners. The cooperation must always be based primarily on respect, consideration, and understanding of each other's situations.

The cooperation means that the student association:

- Is allowed to conduct activities at Linnaeus University.
- Can book university facilities free of charge.
- Can request funding from the Linnaeus Union for its activities.

- Gains access to training for members and the board.
- Educational associations can organize introductions for new students.
- Can promote itself in Linnaeus University's facilities (notice boards, etc.) and through the union's channels.

In Case of Conflict

Since Linnaeus Union considers student associations to be such important partners, it is crucial for the Union that both parties feel a mutual benefit from an association's status as a student association. Being a student association with Linnaeus Union must hold significance.

Therefore, there must also be clear guidelines for how Linnaeus Union should deal with a student association that does not adhere to the Union's values, governing documents, and cooperation agreements.

If a conflict arises between Linnaeus Union and one of its approved student associations, or if a situation arises within the student association that could be considered a breach of the Union's values, governing documents, or cooperation agreement, Linnaeus Union must work towards resolving the conflict in the best possible way for all parties involved.

The first step is always communication and dialogue in an effort to jointly resolve the situation. Linnaeus Union's contact person for student associations is primarily responsible for conducting these conversations and reporting the progress back to the Union's board.

If an Agreement Has Been Breached

If the discussions reveal that the student association has violated Linnaeus Union's values, governing documents, or cooperation agreement, the Union must decide whether it is appropriate to impose a consequence on the student association. The Union's contact person for student associations will then present the case and the discussions that have taken place to the Union board, which will decide on any potential consequences at a board meeting.

At such a board meeting, the Union board must always consider the severity of the breach, but primarily the cooperation between the student association and Linnaeus Union in the aftermath when attempting to resolve the situation. It is important that a student association should never hesitate to turn to Linnaeus Union out of fear of consequences; instead, the discussions should focus on jointly resolving difficult situations in the best possible way.

Possible Consequences

Creating a list of possible consequences for student associations is difficult and problematic because Linnaeus Union primarily wants to advocate for cooperation with the student associations. If a situation arises, the follow-up work should mainly focus on understanding the situation and how all parties can prevent a similar situation from occurring in the future. Possible consequences for a student association may include temporarily or permanently removing some of the benefits that are available to Linnaeus Union's student associations.

Examples of Other Possible Consequences:

- **Lack of Education and Knowledge:** If the situation arose due to insufficient education and knowledge, potential training opportunities should be discussed.
- **Educational Association Evaluation:** If the association is an educational association but has not performed educational oversight, there should be a discussion about whether the association should become an interest association. Unique to educational associations is their right to organize introductions at the start of the semester and have a special connection with the university's faculties.
- **Termination of Cooperation Agreement:** In severe cases, the cooperation agreement may be terminated.