

# 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

Academic staff at UiO

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

I have a couple of concerns about the language policy, partly for the requirements for new permanent employees attaining B2 level within three years (Ansettelsesforhold). Practically, many "permanent" positions, such as researcher and postdoctoral fellows are temporary, 3-4 years at most, which is often difficult when a competitive academic career is being pursued. The six hours of extra work on weeknights in addition to the tasks a researcher must take on during their employment that they are practically gives an extra burden to non-Norwegian speakers that could hinder their future academic career. I would like it clarified in the policy whether those who have failed to reach B2 could be fired for this. If so, I believe it is necessary for the university to cover all costs associated with language learning and testing.

Secondly, the "Arbeidsmiljø, demokrati og inkludering" specifically requires Norwegian to be the language for instute board meetings: "På møter i instituttstyrer, fakultets- og museumsstyrer og i universitetsstyret er språket norsk. Å stille til valg til disse styrene forutsetter tilstrekkelige norskkunnskaper." Temporary employees, including master's students and PhD students, are expected to serve on these boards, and this requirement effectively leaves non-Norwegian speakers out of the decision-making process. Since most Norwegians can speak English at a level higher than B2-equivalent, I believe that local institute boards should be allowed to choose to have meetings in English for the benefit of their international temporary employees who will not have time to learn Norwegian at the B2 level.

## You can upload a document here

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