

## **Sak 5 (30/2022) Språk i undervisning og eksamensbesvarelser**

### **Discussion points:**

The issue was raised last year that examinations at the master level should use English only, since our master programme is an international, English language programme. It was also suggested that a similar practice could apply for courses taught in English-taught at the bachelor level as well.

Examination answers in human geography at the bachelor and master level have until now been able to be answered in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English. Questions are given in the same language of the course, either English or Norwegian.

- This is the most common practice for examinations at UiO across faculties and programmes.
- This is part of an overall commitment and responsibility to maintain and develop Norwegian as an academic language.

The following needs to be taken into consideration:

- Between 2/3 or up to 80 per cent of our students at the master programme have Norwegian background.
- Many students still write their master thesis in Norwegian and opt to conduct the oral examination in Norwegian.

Highlights from the "Report: Survey of students on the language situation at ISS":

- The vast majority of respondents took the Norwegian version of the survey (90.2 percent). 20 respondents took the English survey. In total, 204 respondents completed the survey, representing a wide spread of study programs at both the bachelor's and master's levels. (p1)
- Writing English is the skill with which students are least comfortable, with 16.67 expressing that they are at most only slightly comfortable. (p 3)
- Almost 60% of students find difficult completing written assignments in English. (p 5)
- Even with relatively high levels of support for education in English, most students surveyed also want to keep Norwegian as an academic language at universities. The vast majority, nearly 9 of 10 students, say that it is at least moderately important to preserve the status of Norwegian. (p 9)

Based on the above, the Programme Council invites to a discussion aiming to settle the issue of language use for examinations at our programmes. The preferred option is to continue the current practice: Examinations can be answered in Norwegian, Swedish, Danish or English.