

Support Letter to SHI

Armenian National Students' Association (ANSA) express worry and protest against the raise in progress requirements for Icelandic students.

The government representatives of Iceland, who have majority, despite protests from the student representatives present, approved a proposal to raise the progress requirements from 18 ECTS's per semester to 22 ECTS's.

ANSA stands in solidarity with SHI and all other Icelandic student unions are fighting against this change. This change means that students have to take at least 22 ECTS's to get any loans at all. This especially affects students that have children, students with learning disabilities and students from a lower socio economic background and restricts access to higher education.

This change does not take into account the course selection available to Icelandic students. For example, many academic programs only offer 10 ECTS courses and some even only offer 15 ECTS courses, which means that if you fail only one course you will not get your student loan at the end of the semester and that you will have a huge overdraft with your commercial bank.

This change is being implemented in such a rush that it leaves no room for students to adjust. Many students only have 18 or 20 ECTS's left of their studies and won't be able to finish within the timeframe they planned. If student's need to work more and study less to afford higher education they could also lose their rights to student housing. Students are the most assailable class of society and they are very sensitive to every change concerning their financing. Forming the main part of unemployment they cannot remain insensitive to almost 15% growth of tuition fees.

ANSA straightly believes that education is public good and as every public good it should be accessible for almost everyone and there can't be any discrimination for anyone.

Armenian National Students' Association

Sincerely

Sargis Asatryants,

Vice-chairperson of Armenian
National Students' Association (ANSA)