

## Motionens nummer 25

### Motion till SULF:s kongress 2021

## SULF's position on immigration-law reforms

In recent years, nationalistic anti-immigrant positions have been steadily gaining ground within the Swedish public debate. Less than one year away from the 2022 Riksdag election, we are now in front of the prospect that the next administration may be one of the most anti-immigrant in recent Swedish history. This political climate has reflected itself in changes to Swedish immigration law, which include extra financial requirements for residence permits and language tests for permanent residence and citizenship.

The aforementioned changes in immigration law and regulations affect the lives of many doctoral students, teachers and researchers with an international background. Aside from the considerable human cost, these changes will also have a dire effect on the quality of research and education offered at Swedish universities.

Over the past months, SULF's förbundsordförande Mats Ericson wrote opinion articles in Svenska Dagbladet outlining the impact of the proposed changes on the Swedish academic system.<sup>1</sup> While prof. Ericson's and SULF's position is commendable, SULF as an organization needs to work more systematically to oppose current and future proposals which would further restrict Swedish immigration law and to promote within the Swedish public debate the values of openness and diversity that are integral to the academic community as well as SULF's mission.

### SULF/Uppsala therefore proposes:

- that the Congress decide that SULF should work to highlight in the public debate the many contributions made by people with an immigrant background to Swedish society, with particular focus on the ones within the academic sector.
- that the Congress decide that SULF should continue opposing the introduction of language tests for permanent residence and citizenship and, if their introduction cannot be averted, work so that the required level is A2 as opposed to B1 or B2 according to CEFR standards.
- that the Congress decide that SULF should work together with Saco-S to ensure that doctoral students, teachers and researchers that chose to do so have augmented possibilities to learn Swedish during their paid work time.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.svd.se/nya-migrationskrav-skapar-kompetensflykt> and <https://www.svd.se/nya-migrationsregler-kan-orsaka-forskarflykt>. The latter article is written in collaboration with SULF/DCA's ordförande Jenny lao-Jørgensen.

För SULF/Uppsala  
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