



The platform of the Union of Estonian Student Unions for the 2023

Riigikogu elections

Approved at the general meeting of the Union of Estonian Student Unions on 08.05.2022

[Explanation letter](#)

The Estonian Student Union (EÜL) is an umbrella organization of students whose purpose is to stand up for the rights, needs and interests of students at the national level and to support student councils in their work. Students have **three basic expectations for parliamentary power and the future government:**

1. **Free higher education** and adequate financing of higher education.

1.1. Every resident of Estonia must have the right to free Estonian for higher education in full-time level studies.

1.2. In order to achieve the aforementioned, higher education funding must rise to at least 1.5% of GDP, and in the future, higher education funding must rise at the same pace as the cost of living.

2. Sufficient **social guarantees** that allow students **to concentrate to learning.**

2.1. Study grants must help those who do not have sufficient other income to study, and **working while studying must be a choice, not an economic compulsion.** 2.2.

Study grants must be indexed to the cost of living so that

their effect and purpose would not be clouded.

2.3. In addition to need-based study grants, the performance scholarship fund must be strengthened so that the available amounts are truly motivating.

2.4. The state must create a mechanism to cancel student loans under certain conditions, reduce student loan interest to 0% and guarantee student loans for all students.

3. Supporting **students' mental health** and well-being.

3.1. We expect concrete action from the state to support the mental health of students, including the expansion and implementation of the planned strategy for young people for students as well.

3.2. We want targeted funding from the state to support higher education institutions, incl to provide psychological counseling.

3.3. Students with special needs must be guaranteed higher education in terms of organization, study content and support systems.

Expectations are explained in more detail in the accompanying explanatory note.