

# Press Release

## Polyteknisk Forening: New Government Action Accelerates Danish Engineering Shortage

The government has today published a draft, in which the number of international students at the Danish Universities are being limited. Nationally, this means that the current 5000 international students are reduced by 1000. The Technical University of Denmark is not directly affected by these reductions, as DTU's graduates are not defined within the group of "poor employment". However, the number of international students at DTU will be limited to the current level and thus the opportunity to attract further international labour.

The president of Polyteknisk Forening, the student association at DTU, Lars Holm, is puzzled by the limitation and the government's proposal to exclude international students.

"Denmark is facing a huge challenge, in which the lack of skilled labour in the field of engineering is frightening. Therefore, the government's proposal is also in stark contrast to the government's other aspirations to attract highly qualified labour and their previous announcement that more efforts should be made to keep the international student in Denmark"

A prognosis from Engineer the Future, made in 2018, states that Denmark lacks 10.000 STEM graduates by the year of 2025 (STEM: Science, Tech, Engineering, Math). Therefore, Lars Holm believes that

" A solution the engineering shortage is therefore not exclusion, but the retention of international students. Therefore, this initiative has the wrong focus, as the government should instead focus on maintaining and expanding the number of STEM students."

Several studies conducted by, among other Danish Universities and the government itself, emphasize that international students are on average a profit for Denmark. The studies include costs for both education and SU.

" Therefore, the government's economic argument is also not sustainable, but it is symbolic policy. It would not help reduce the number of international students, because it would be the same percentage that would 'emigrate'. We can only win, if instead have more focus on keeping the internationals in Denmark. Positive work and living conditions for graduates would be a easier and better way of resolving the issue. The current Danish debate, which again and again tell the story of foreigners are a problem, will not make them stay here."

For more comments, contact



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