



# WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

*Summary of the*

*Student union*

*impact work 2019/2020*

# Are we spending your money the right way?

Every semester, you need to renew your membership in the union. We know that the mandatory membership sometimes raises questions. In this summary, we will do our best to explain how we have worked during the year to improve student life at Chalmers.

***This report is the short version. Full version here:***  
[www.chalmersstudentkar.se/documents](http://www.chalmersstudentkar.se/documents) (in Swedish only).

***Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions:***  
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***/Student Union Management Team of 2019/2020***





***"All members should thrive and develop during their entire time at Chalmers"***

*The vision of Chalmers student union*



# Introduction

*Chalmers Student Union is an independent organization, run democratically by its members and exists to represent, support, and provide opportunities for everyone that studies at Chalmers University of Technology.*

Every student is a mandatory member of the union and therefore entitled to get involved through volunteering, standing for elected positions, extra work offers, being a student rep or just having a fun night out at any of our events. Our member survey shows that approximately half of our members get involved in the union during their time at Chalmers. That is just amazing!

Our vision – all members should thrive and develop during their entire time at Chalmers – can be divided into 11 missions that aim to improve various parts of our members' lives as students at Chalmers.

# Our organisation

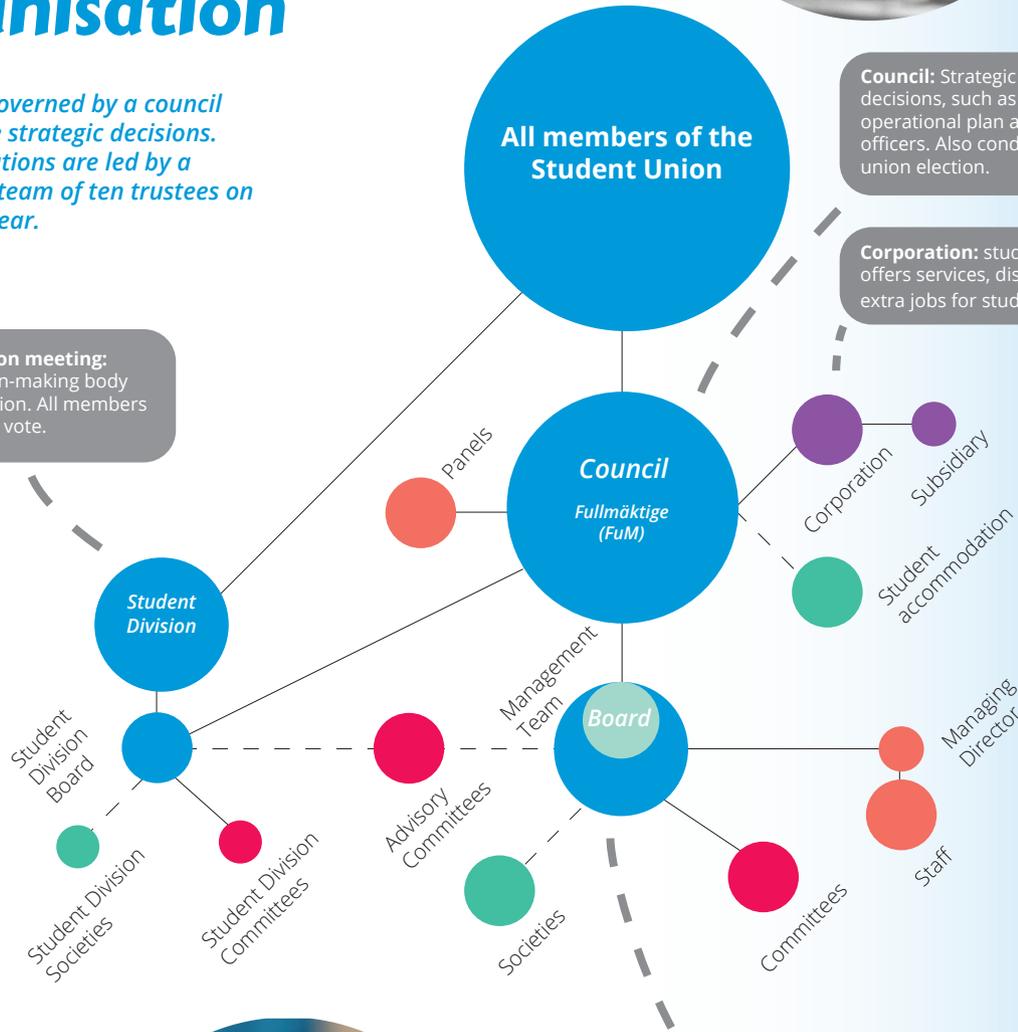
*The union is governed by a council making all the strategic decisions. Its daily operations are led by a management team of ten trustees on a sabbatical year.*



**Student division meeting:** highest decision-making body within the division. All members can attend and vote.

**Council:** Strategic long-term decisions, such as budget, operational plan and elected officers. Also conducts the annual union election.

**Corporation:** student owned and offers services, discounts and extra jobs for students.



**Management Team:** committee elections and daily operations, preparing matters for the council



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# I. Make the most of your education

# 2. Affect your education & study situation

## Quality during remote teaching

During study period 4, all teaching immediately had to be conducted remotely. We worked closely with the university to ensure that the courses maintained high quality despite current conditions. Additionally, we stressed the importance of investing long term in high quality equipment to prepare for future remote education.

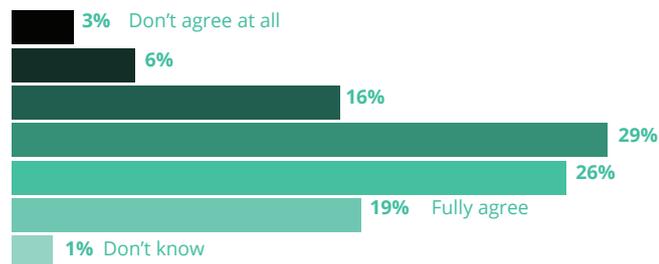
- **Our influence:** influenced the university on which courses needed extra attention in the conversion, initiated extra surveys to all students to evaluate remote exams.

## Reducing Chalmers deficit

In late 2019, the board of Chalmers University of Technology gave Chalmers president the mission to implement actions to reduce Chalmers economic deficit. He also needed input from employees at Chalmers to come up with suggestions how to reduce the costs within their areas of responsibility. In order to prioritize the suggestions, a panel was created.

- **Our influence:** Member of the panel, contributing with the student perspective.

### I know how I can influence my study environment



## Digital exams

When the exams for study period 3 and the whole study period 4 had to readjust to distance education, we asked for your opinion through a survey.

- **Our influence:** Ensuring the university knew how the students managed to adapt and what to monitor more closely.

## Re-exams, sports and housing

The Student Voice is an biannual event where you can have a say in various relevant topics. We asked for your opinion regarding sports at Chalmers and ecological sustainability. Your answers helped us make action plans and strategies for a more active and sustainable union in the future. During spring, the Student Voice went digital and your thoughts on re-exams, "plussning" and student housing have been directly forwarded to the university.

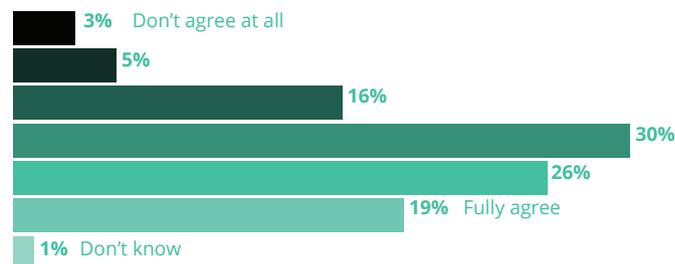
- **Our influence:** All your thoughts that were relevant for the university, we've forwarded and taken into consideration.

## Educational related stress

What causes educational related stress? Exams on weekends, high workload and lack of exercise we're some of your answers.

- **Our influence:** We have collaborated with both student divisions and the university to take actions in making your everyday life, while studying, a more stress-free experience.

### I know how I can influence my education



# 3. Feel safe

re·act  
...against inequality



## Reacting against inequality

During February, the equality committee JämK organized a week long event called REACT together with equality groups at the student divisions. The aim was to help students become aware of unwanted behaviours related to inequality and learn how to react.

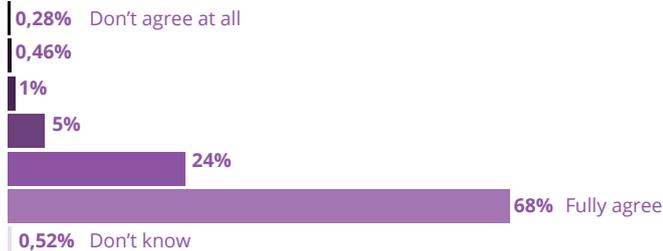
## Chalmers against sexism - the outcome

Chalmers against sexism's vision was to create a campus free from violence and harassments. The project ended this spring and have three main outcomes:

1. Created **chalmers.se/safe**, a webpage to report harassments and unwanted behaviour.
2. Improved process for handling harassment reports and unwanted behaviour.
3. Four mandatory pilot educations, one at each educational area, about violence prevention and being an active bystander.

Even though the project has ended, we will keep working towards our vision and keep developing Safe at Chalmers as well as the violence prevention education.

### I feel safe at Chalmers



From the Student Barometer 2019

## Creating a code of conduct

The Chalmers spirit is something that we cherish and want everyone at Chalmers to feel a part of. Therefore, the university and student union has created a code of conduct called the Chalmers spirit (Chalmersandan). It's about feeling safe and included and this code of conduct is to ensure that we treat each other right. It is based upon Chalmers's core values; quality, openness, participation, respect and diversity.

## Book a room for a nap

As of August 2020 and onwards, you will finally be able to book rooms where you can rest or take a nap at campus. Student's have requested this for a long time, and we are happy to finally announce it. There are four rooms, one at Lindholmen and three at Johanneberg. You can book them at the libraries' desks.

- **Our influence:** Raising the issue about these rooms to the highest body discussing work environment, the committee of work environment and equality.

## Gender neutral toilets

Due to a proposal in the student union council, we have now changed the toilet signs in the student union building to gender neutral signs. Hence, everyone regardless of gender are welcome to every toilet.

# 4. Being prepared for the future



## Entrepreneurship centre in Vasa

E-village is an initiative that aims to create an entrepreneurship centre at Chalmers Vasa. The idea is for scientists, students, companies, and society to have a place for collaborations, creating ideas, and exchanging knowledge.

- **Our influence:** Giving the members perspective in the project and making it a welcoming place where students want to go.

## New entrepreneurship strategy

A new strategy for integrating entrepreneurship in the education was passed. The goal is for all students at Chalmers to gain competence in the entrepreneurial approach, and being able to extend their knowledge further if desired.

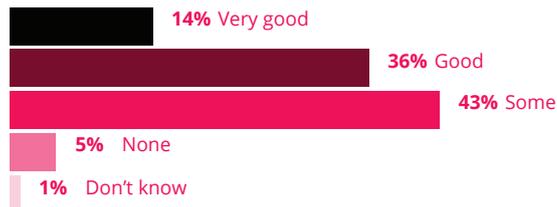
- **Our influence:** We have been part of making Chalmers a leading entrepreneurial university from the start. The strategy was formed with influence from the student union.

## New collaborations

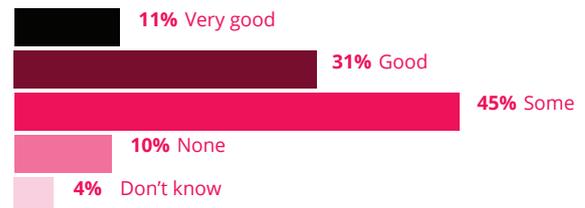
We have focused on connecting the student unions companies with Chalmers strategic partners. This has been done to offer an even broader portfolio to Chalmers strategic partners. The result is IKEA entering in a large collaboration with Chalmers Studentkår Rekrytering.



*How good knowledge do you think you have about employers relevant for your programme?*



*How well do you feel prepared for your future career?*



# 5. Access to housing



## Opening of Gibraltar Guesthouse

The new house Gibraltar Guesthouse was initiated with 100 new homes, 85 of them reserved for international students and 15 for guest researchers.

## Investing in student housing

We have convinced and influenced Gothenburgs top politicians to unanimously vote for an administrative fast-track for the approval of student housing building permits.

## Project Emilsbro

In February 2021, the project Emilsbro is finished. It is a building with 42 homes built in between two already existing houses at Emilsborg.

# 6. Offer suitable & affordable services

83%

CO<sub>2</sub>-EQUIVALENCE

80%

REDUCED COSTS



## Less plastic waste, same benefits

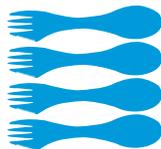
Going forward, the student union will no longer waste plastic and our members money on thousands of new student union cards each semester. Instead, higher quality cards will be ordered in the future, that will last for the entirety of each students' education. This has cut down annual card costs by 80% and CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 83%.

## Chalmers buscard discontinued

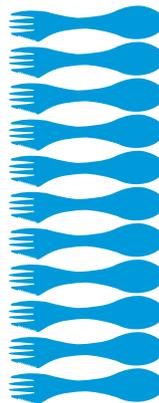
We worked hard for this cause but were unsuccessful in keeping the Chalmers buscard alive. The 350 SEK card (price per year) transported employees and students between campuses, and was discontinued by Västtrafik in January 2020. Travel cost increased tenfold so a temporary subsidization has been the current solution. Since then, we are working on new, more permanent, methods of cheap travel between our campuses.



SPORKS SOLD ON CAMPUS



August 2018–  
July 2019



August 2019–  
July 2020

## CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per year, in tons



\*start of the carbon footprint visualisation on lunch menus

## Sustainability and food at campus

Sustainability is a top priority for many of our members and something we have focused on for the past years. Reducing single use items of plastic has been a hot topic. We will continue our search for the ideal portable lunchbox, piloting the first deposited and reusable alternative during last year.

Since 2016, we measure the carbon footprint in our student union restaurant. Then you can make your own choice of CO<sub>2</sub> print, every day. The levels has gone down since 2016, however in 2019, we saw a slight increase.



# 7. Personal growth & participation

## The future of Of Course

The event Of Course is an annual event dedicated to personal growth and was organized for the third year in a row. This year, we invited handball player and activist Linnéa Claeson who spoke about sexism and moral courage. In the future, Of Course will be managed by a project group of volunteering students with the support of the management team.

## Leadership trainings

In February 2020, a leadership training was held for all the chairpersons in our committees and societies. During fall, a lunch lecture with Jay Johnson was held, this too about leadership, inviting all Chalmers students.

## Our newest societies

Any student at Chalmers can start a society. Our newest family members are Chalmers Women Association (CWA), Chalmers Entrepreneurship Society (CES), Chalmers Capital Management (CCM) and Effective Altruism.



# 8. Campus life & leisure

## Improvements in the union building

To make the Student Union building a better and a more pleasant place to be, we have done some improvements.

- ➔ *Gym hall: touched-up storage room, repaired floor, improved lighting, and an sports information board outside*
- ➔ *Kyrkan: refurbished floor*
- ➔ *Train car: new bar*
- ➔ *Gym hall and group rooms are now booked through TimeEdit*
- ➔ *Gym hall is equipped with yoga mats for your convenience*

We have also updated the toilet signs to signal what's behind the door rather than who the toilet is for.

## Better sustainability and power efficiency

Our building uses a lot of energy and produces waste. We have made adjustments to increase efficiency and sustainability.

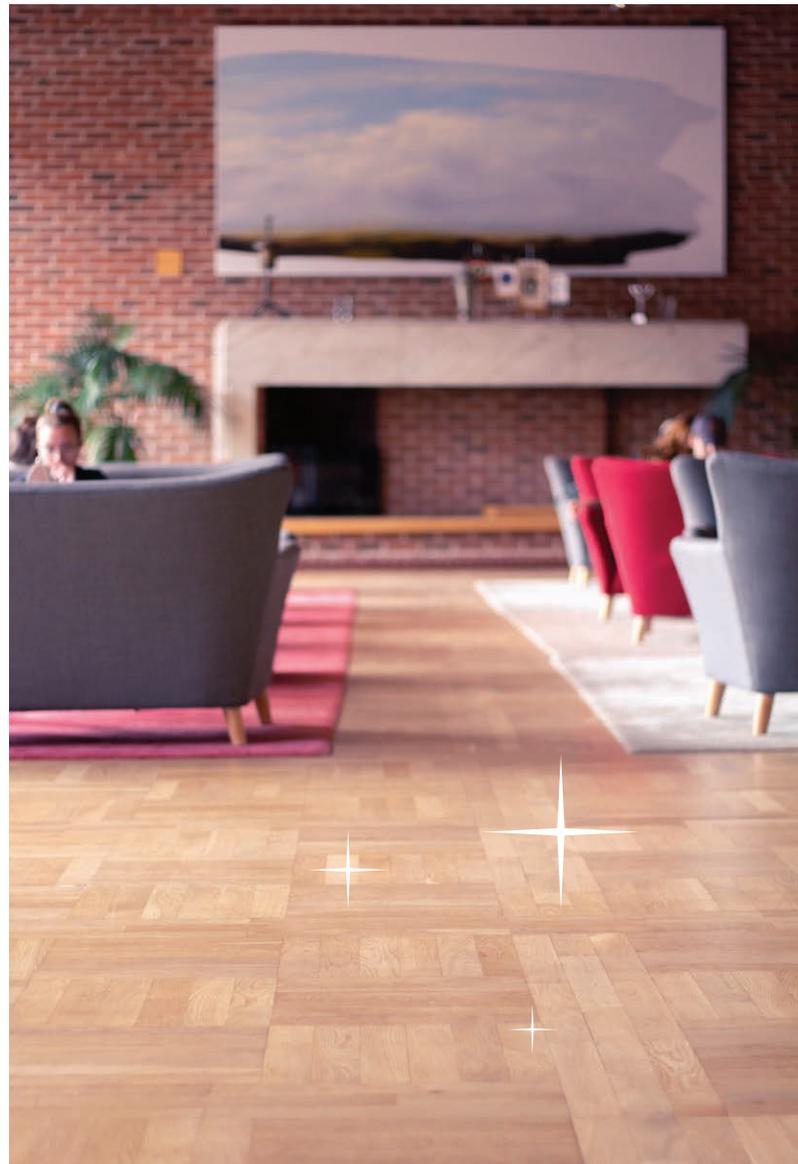
One main issue was the massive use of paper tissues. Instead, blowers were installed on the most frequently used toilets.

Secondly, we have replaced old appliances with power efficient alternatives to reduce our electrical consumption.

## Committee changes

All committees within the union are assigned to a certain task. The management team help with support, discussions and other things that aid the committees operations and strategic decisions.

- During the year, our two drama groups Chalmersspexet Bob and Vera has become one joint committee, now just called Chalmersspexet.
- Our union magazine Tofsen went underground for a year, but with a new approved operational plan, they resurrected with new committee members and a digital focus.



# 9. A healthy organisation

## Better routines

The economy within the student union faces the challenge of many different people involved with economic responsibility.

Clear instructions and an proper handover is crucial to acquire a financially sustainable organization. The student union was staffed with a head of administration in 2019. A thorough assessment of routines, documentation, and financial status of various parts of the student union resulted in updates of routines. These are available on the student union webpage.

## Centralizing the economy

For a long time, some committees have had their economy within the central budget while others have kept their own books.

Per recommendations of our auditors to adjust this discrepancy, the student union council decided to centralize all student union committees and include all bookkeeping in the same central budget. The deadline was originally set to 2024/2025 but could be met 5 years earlier due to many changes in the economic routines, improving the entire organization. When the student union council decided to approve the preliminary central budget for 2020/2021, all student union committees were included.

## New Managing Director

Chalmers student union's managing director, Peter Alehammar, retired during the operational year. We are very grateful for his many contributions and hard work for the student union through the years. Therefore, we have spent a lot of effort and time in finding a suitable replacement.

For the coming years, the management team has recruited Roger Nordman as the new managing director. He has a Ph.D. in Chemical engineering and energy system here at Chalmers, has worked with politics for many years. We firmly believe that he will do an excellent job in his new position and wish him the best of luck with his mission.



# 10. Represent members opinions

## Creating jobs in Göteborg

Business Region Gothenburg worked on a plan for their business strategy programme and invited the student unions of Gothenburg to contribute with thoughts and ideas. Of course, Chalmers student union wanted to join in and was a part of the meeting. The aim of the programme is to create 120 000 new jobs before 2030.

► **Our influence:** 13 of 18 students present were from Chalmers.

## Towards ecological sustainability

We have created a strategy and a complimentary action plan on achieving the sustainability goals of ecological sustainability. In the coming years, we are to address issues such as consumption, waste, campus development and public welfare. We will continuously ask for your input and communicate our achievements.



### VAD ÄR EKOLOGISK HÅLLBARHET?

Ekologisk hållbarhet handlar om att bevaka de tjänster som ekosystemen förser samhället med. Ekosystemtjänsterna kan delas in i fyra områden:

- försörjande
- reglerande
- kulturella
- stödjande

Genom att sträva mot en ekologiskt hållbar organisation kan vi bidra till att bevaka [ekosystemtjänsterna](#).

### VAD GÖR STRATEGIN?

Syftet med strategin är att ange prioriteringar för studentkårens arbete med ekologisk hållbarhet. Den ska kunna användas för att vägleda och säkerställa kontinuitet i arbetet.

### VARFÖR?

Det ökade intresset från våra medlemmar ligger bland annat bakom strategin. Enskilda studenters påtryckningar mot högskolan gjorde att även högskolan började prioritera dessa frågor. Ambitionen är att verka för att studentkårens alla delar ska ha så liten negativ påverkan på miljön

## II. Continuous communication with members



### Staying connected during a pandemic

Communication is the cornerstone of a stable organisation and during the sudden changes of Corona, new strategies had to be invented. Students, now more than ever, still needed information but in new packaging and on other topics than usual.

We released 42 tips on how to stay active and social and how to study smarter on a distance. We also created a Corona section on our webpage to inform students on all changes concerning the union events and activities.

### Redesigned membership portal

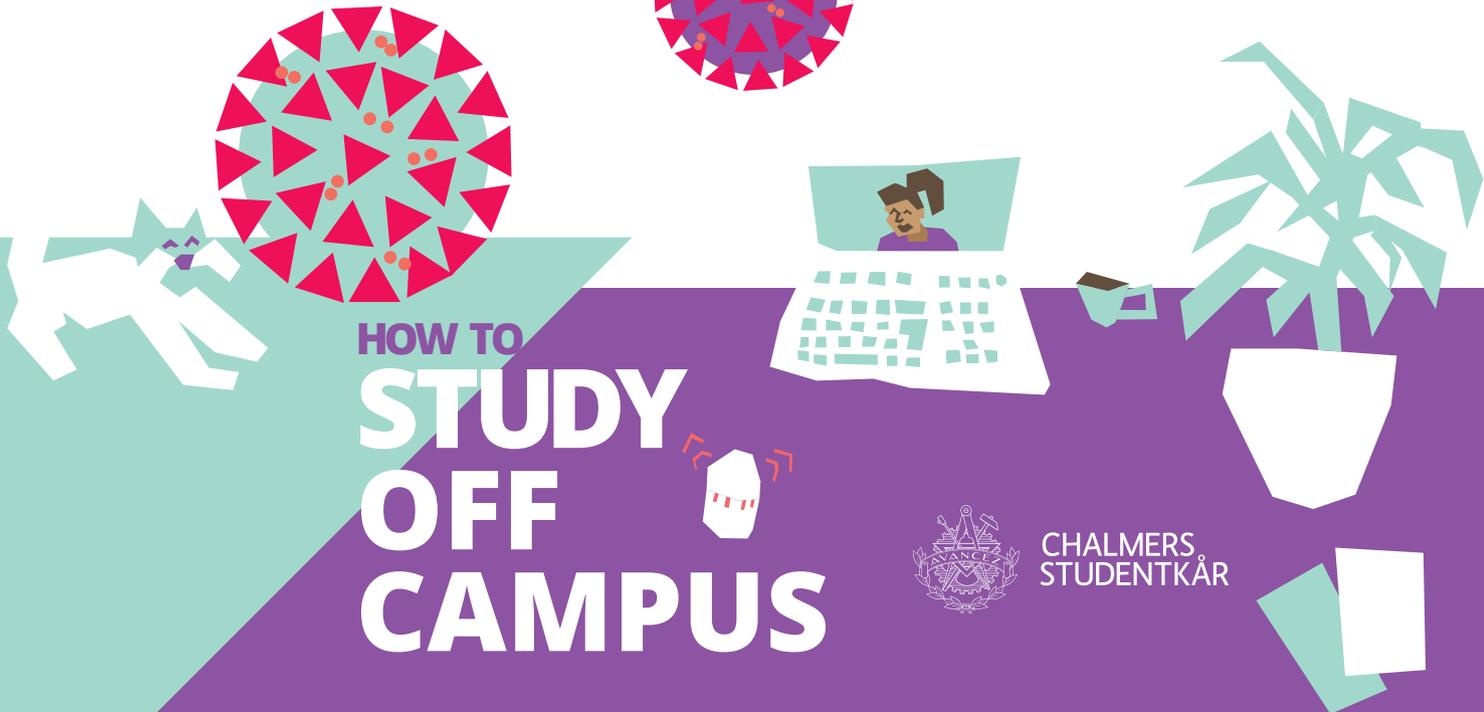
One of students main resources for managing their membership is the membership portal, Medlemsportalen. The design of this website has been neglected for many years. We wanted to enhance the experience since this is a useful tool for many students. You can search for other students, update your information and print receipts of your student union fee, among other things.

### Better sports at Chalmers

Students want more physical activities and sports at Chalmers and the student union wanted to help but didn't know where to start. A survey was sent out to gather information both on what was missing, and how the student union could help organizers with their struggles.

We have...

- Improved storage for equipment
- Purchased equipment for yoga
- Plan for future improvements



CHALMERS  
STUDENTKÅR



## WHERE DOES YOUR MONEY GO?



Education – to maintain and monitor our education for its quality and student rights. To have your opinions represented both locally and nationally.



Health – that you have a well functioning support system and to actively work on equality issues.



Student life – that you have meaningful activities outside your studies to create a rich social life.



Employability – to help you understand and get in contact with the job market for your future career.



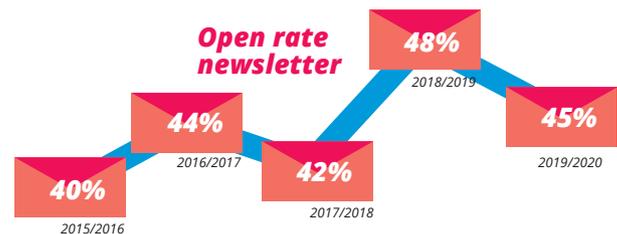
Savings – we save money strategically to ensure fundings of future ventures and projects, such as our country cabins.

## PICK YOUR FAVORITE



### Top 3 visited links in union newsletter

1. Fall semester at Chalmers - what we know
2. Update your adress at the membership portal
3. Kårkort 4 life/Student union card 4 life



1. Information desk

2. Recreation Härryda

3. Being a member

4. The union card

5. Documents

**Top 5 visited links, union website**

### Voted in the student union council election





CHALMERS  
STUDENTKÅR