

WHAT HAVE WE DONE FOR YOU?

Summary of the

Student union

impact work 2021/2022

Checking off the list

As students at Chalmers and members of the student union management team, we want to sum up the highlights of what we have worked for the past year to improve your student life.

We in the management team are elected annually by the student council. Our task has been to lead the daily work and make sure we work towards our vision – all members should thrive and develop during their time at Chalmers.

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 your student life.

This report is the short version. Full version [here](http://www.chalmersstudentkar.se/documents):
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 2021/2022





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

The vision of Chalmers Student Union



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2021/2022*

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Introduction

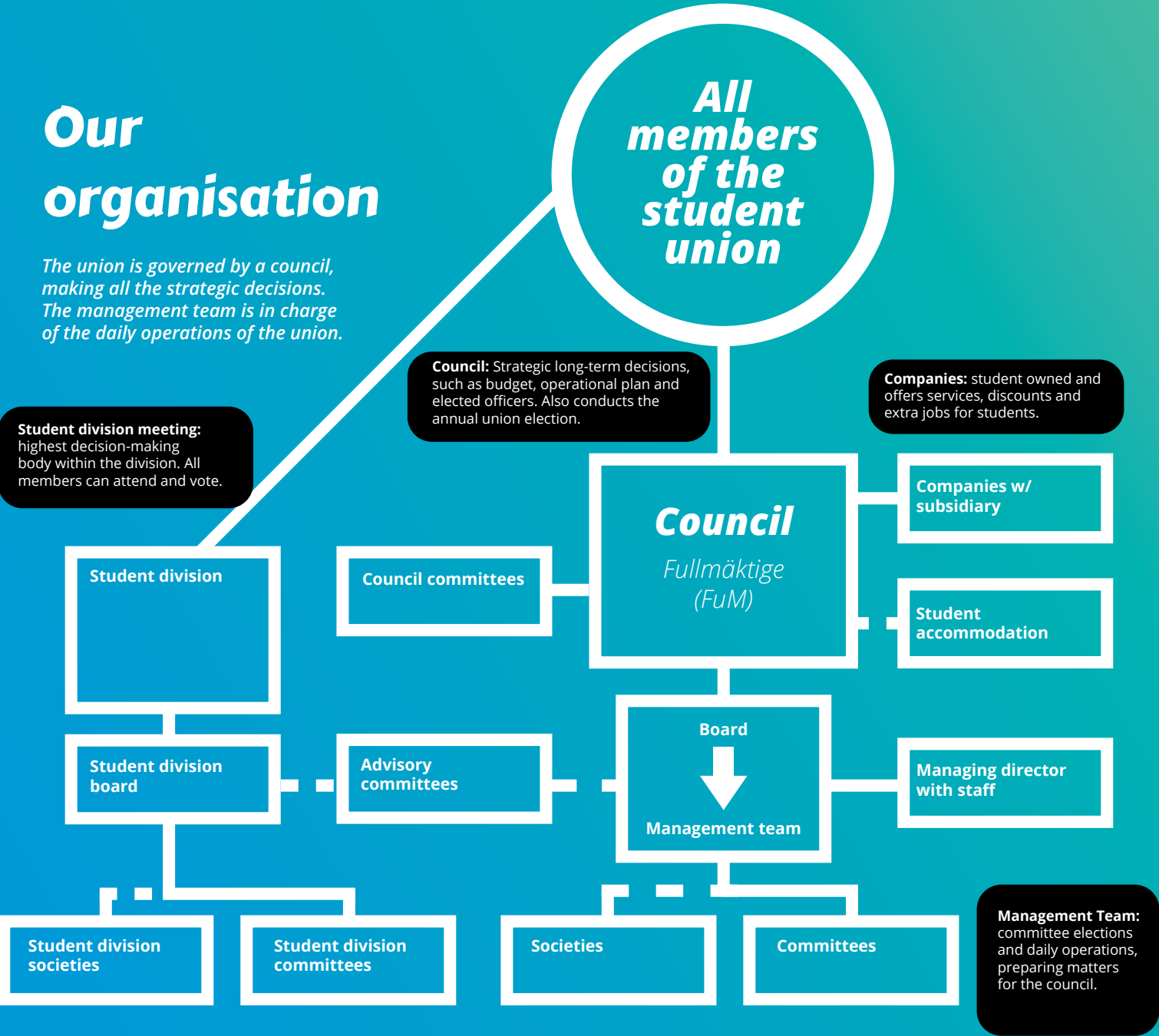
Chalmers Student Union is an independent organization, run democratically by its members and exists to represent, support, and provide opportunities for everyone who studies at Chalmers University of Technology.

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 representative 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.

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. The management team is in charge of the daily operations of the union.



1. Make the most of your education

New rules for exchange studies

In order to manage costs, Chalmers decided to introduce new routines for exchange studies. The management team took the proposed changes and presented them for the student divisions' education committees. The feedback was presented for Chalmers and incorporated in the final decision.

- **Our influence:** Making sure that the new rules did not affect students negatively

Education during the pandemic

During the year, Chalmers gradually moved from distance teaching to campus teaching. We worked together with the student divisions' educational committees to make sure the students were able to study on campus while being covid-safe.

Furthermore, we also made sure Chalmers communicated both their decisions and intentions behind it.

- **Our influence:** Highlighting problems and opinions from the members and student divisions' educational committees.



2. Affect your education & study situation

Educational monitoring at the technical foundation year

The union committee TBK (Committee for the Technical foundations year) brought the lack of educational monitoring to our attention. Thanks to this, the office for educational affairs worked with TBK in order to create a structure for this purpose. As a result, one of the positions in TBK is now also responsible for monitoring the education and taking in opinions from students

- **Our influence:** Increasing all students' ability to influence their education.



3. Feel safe



Guidelines for incidents at the student divisions

The guidelines for how divisions manages incidents such as harassment or violence, has not been updated in several years. Therefore, the guidelines were revised and thereafter reviewed by the student divisions, aiming to conform incident management in all parts of the union. These include for example tips on how to investigate incidents and support the people involved, which have been appreciated by the student divisions.

- **Our influence:** We created guidelines for the student divisions on managing incidents.

Recruiting a new university counselor

As Chalmers had lacked a counselor to support students for two years, the union has stressed the importance of such a function. Finally, in 2021, Chalmers gave the green light and we got involved in the recruitment of a counselor.

Interviews were conducted with several applicants. The selection yielded the candidate that both the university and union considered most promising Katarina Krstevski started working in January 2022 and it quickly became clear that many students utilized this service.

Our influence: The union took part in the recruitment process and has since then cooperated with the new counselor.

Manifestation for our PhD students

During summer 2021, Migrationsverket changed their interpretation of the alien act. This changed the rules around residence permits, which affected PhD students and their possibilities to stay in Sweden after completing their employment at Chalmers and other universities.

The union, together with Chalmers and Gothenburg University's PhD divisions, organized a manifestation against this change. It allowed people affected to express their opinions and feelings and was highly appreciated.

- **Our influence:** The union supported the PhD division in organizing the manifestation and followed the development of the situation.

Transitioning to physical exams

During spring 2022, the pandemic restrictions were lifted. Studying and exams began to take place on campus again, which the union encouraged because of the deterioration in students' mental health during the pandemic. There was some concern among the students regarding exams being held on site and the union relayed this to the university and asked them to make sure to have taken measures to limit the spread of infection. The union also cooperated with the university with infection tracking.

- **Our influence:** Convey students' concerns about safe examination to the university.



Katarina Krstevski
COUNSELOR AT CHALMERS

4. Being prepared for the future



Event for doctoral students

Changes in the aliens act have made it more difficult for PhD students to stay in Sweden and search for job or research partner after completed doctoral studies. To assist in this area the student union management team worked together with Chalmer Studentkår Promotion and facilitated a meetup with potential employers and relevant industrial partners.

- **Our influence:** Create contact opportunities between PhD students and potential employers.

Entrepreneurship - a future career opportunity

During this year's CHARM fair was a new event coordinated between the CHARM committee, Chalmers E-village and the student union society Chalmers Entrepreneurship Society. The event aimed to show that entrepreneurship is one possible career path for the students at Chalmers.

- **Our influence:** Highlighting entrepreneurship as a career path to our members.



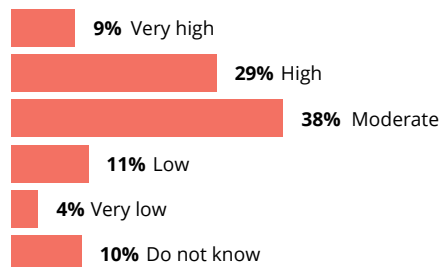
5. Access to housing



Holterman hostel open to the public as of 2023

Chalmers studentbostäder have finished their project to renovate the old building Holtermanska to a modern apartment solution for students and researchers at Chalmers. From september 2022 is it possible to live close to Chalmers for one week up til four months in one of the 66 rooms.

Have you had problems finding accommodation during the last 12 months?



Increased land prices for student housing

Several building projects for student housing have been put on hold during 2021 and 2022 because of increased land prices for building student housing, decided by local governance in Gothenburg. Among other projects, this has stopped the project of 450 student departments for Holtermanska at Chalmersplatsen by Chalmers Studentbostäder. The management team have therefor monitored the issue together with Göteborgs förenade studentkårer (GFS) and Chalmers Studentbostäder (CSB), who have made a good job to stand up in the matter against the local governance.

- ***Our influence:*** Highlighted the effect increased land prices will have on student housing long term and lobbied for better conditions for buliding more student housingcooperation with other student unions in Gothenburg (GFS).

6. Offer suitable & affordable services

Karaoke room in the Student Union Building

At the start of the year, the student union committee Ljud- och Bildgruppen (LoB) built a karaoke room in connection to J.A. Prippts in the Student Union Building Johanneberg. It's available to all members for a small fee and creates a new possible activity for our members.

Rental of porcelain, glass and cutlery

Our restaurant company Chalmers Konferens & Restauranger can now offer rental of porcelain, glasses and cutlery. The Management team hopes this will facilitate more organizers to make sustainable choices when planning events."

► **Our influence:** Enabled rental of porcelain for more sustainable student events on campus.

Vaccination on campus Johanneberg

During the second part of 2021, the vaccination for covid-19 started for the younger part of the population which most of the student union's members belong to. To give those members easy access to vaccination, healthcare companies could utilize the union's facilities for vaccination during June - November.



7. Personal growth & participation

Of Course 2022 - Physical health

This year's edition of our personal growth program Of Course focused on physical health, and was held together with Fysiken. Union members were able to try different forms of physical activity such as climbing and weight lifting and go to seminars on motivation and setting goals.

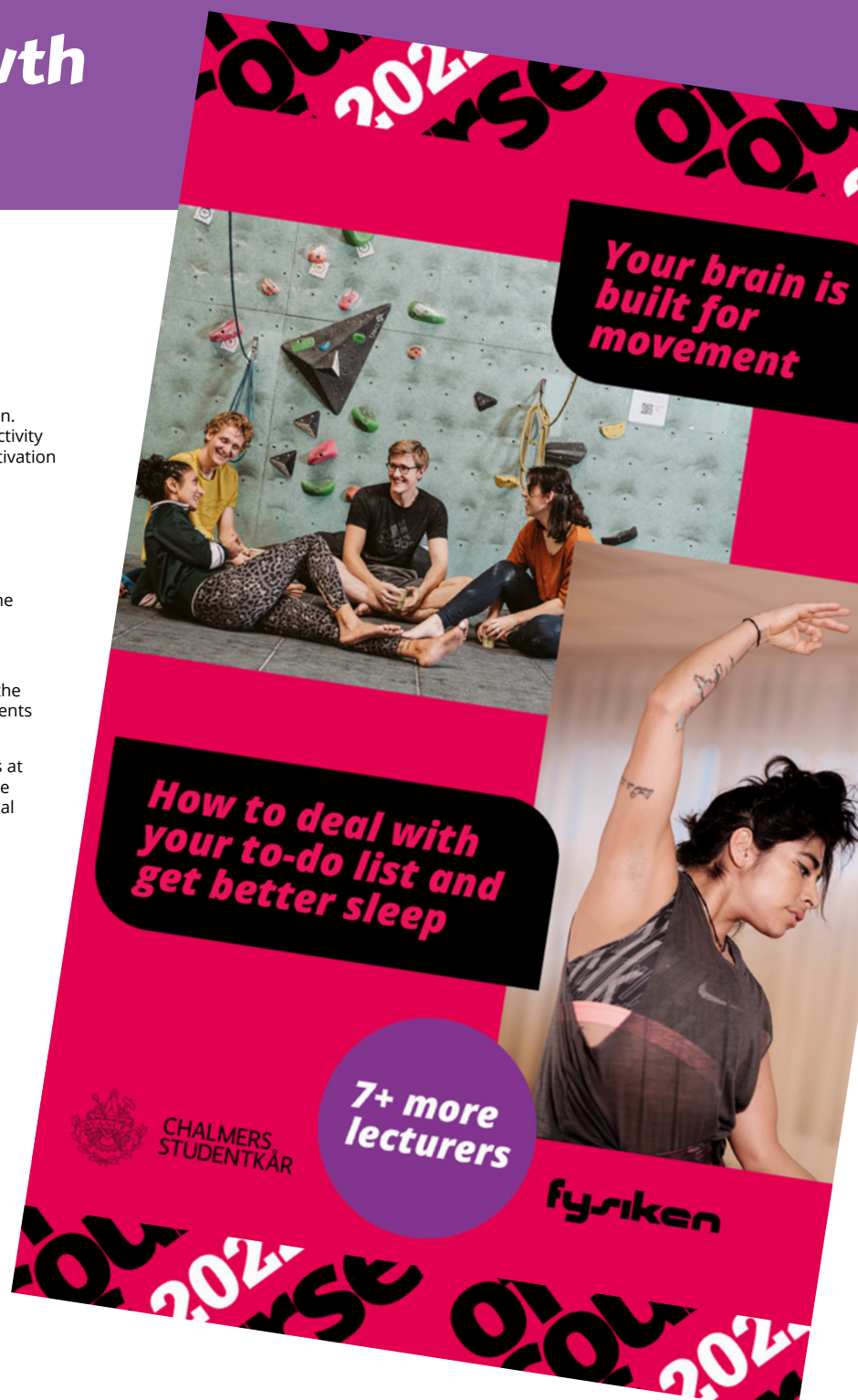
Our newest societies

During the year, two new societies have been accepted into the student union which all student union members can join.

These are:

Chalmers Raketgrupp - A society with the aim of increasing the interest in rockets and space technology, as well as offer students experience with long term projects.

T-RaX - A society who will act as a bridge between employees at Chalmers as well as Chalmers students regarding usage of the TRACKS multidisciplinary study environment outside of normal study hours.



8. Campus life & leisure



Improvements in the union building

We are happy to present the latest improvements in the student union building:

- The terrace on the first floor has been renovated with a new and bigger wooden floor to facilitate more students socializing outside during summer months
- A new volleyball net and two pingpong tables have been added to the gym hall
- Renovations of the sauna and the shower rooms in the student union building have started
- Several tables and sofas in the union building have been renovated

Reopening campus life

The end of pandemic restrictions made it possible to open up the wide campus life we have at Chalmers. The organizing committees have gotten extra education and support to make the reopening safe and the event life better than before the pandemic. This has led to the biggest "Cortège" ever with 1550 participants and 46 construction teams and a great reception for the new students, as well as multiple events held by each student division.

- **Our influence:** To support and educate the responsible students to prepare them for arranging bigger events. Also adding safety hosts to Cortège to ensure a healthy environment.

Celebrating the student union building

In 2021 it was 20 years since our new student union building was finished, which of course should not go unnoticed. The student union management handed out free cake during lunch and there was an exhibition with historical pictures from the building process. A seminar was held by some of the key people involved in the building of the house. The winner of the tree house design challenge was also announced. The tree house design challenge was an architecture contest to design a treehouse for a nature experience at the Chalmers Sauna, which will be built during fall 2022.

- **Our influence:** Show our appreciation to our beloved Student Union building and those who made it possible.



9. A healthy organisation



The pandemic's impact on student life

The management team have looked into the consequences of covid-19-pandemic in regards to volunteering work and the members' situation for studies, health and participation in the student life. We identified areas that needed extra focus to regulate the impact that the pandemic has had.

- **Our influence:** identified and took action to repair the impact of the pandemic concerning quality of education, our volunteers, safe campus & risk assessment for events.

Sustainability focus when renewing contracts

The student union has cooperative contracts with several companies to support our organization and create benefits for our members. This year, we focused on sustainability when renewing the collaboration. One example is the union's hybrid electric car sponsored by Volvo Cars, which is one step further towards more sustainable transportation within the organization.

- **Our influence:** Updated cooperation agreements focusing on sustainability takes our organisation one step closer to lower climate impact.



10. Represent members opinions

National advocacy in SFS

Sveriges Förenade Studentkårer (SFS) is an organization that represents 380 000 students from different unions in Sweden. This year, our union has made efforts to be an active member and to represent our students interests at a national level.

One example is discussing the alien act, an act decided by Migrationsverket that has negative effects for PhD students. Another is a bill on how SFS can represent students from the engineering preparatory year (tekniskt basår) since that is not done currently

- **Our influence:** Increasing cooperating with other unions in SFS, especially unions at technological universities.

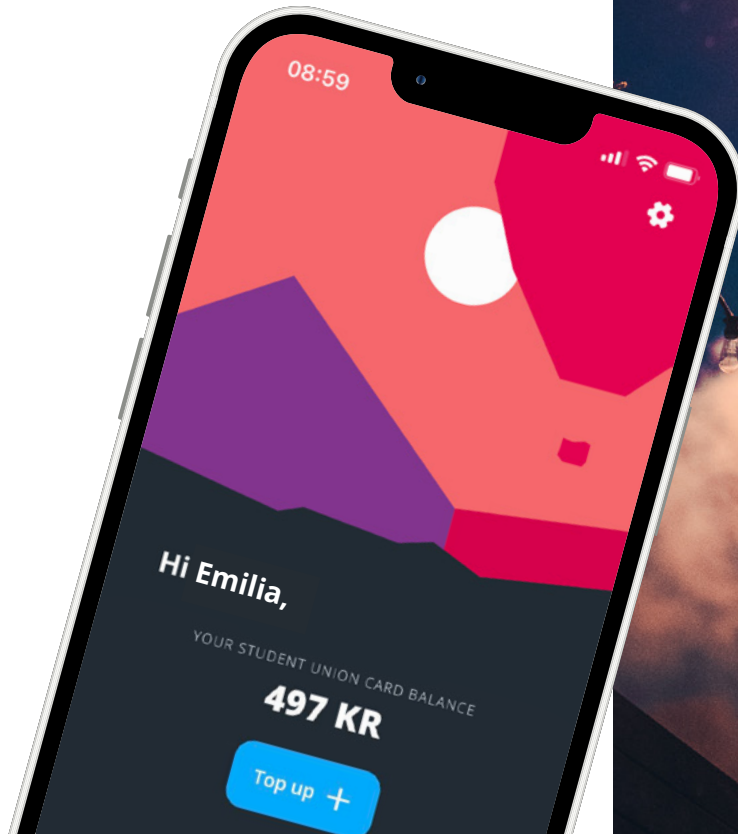


II. Continuous communication with members

Developing a student union application

The student union has a goal to develop an app that communicates to the student union's members about the student union's and its companies' events and work. During this operational year, the work has kicked off with mapping the most valuable functions and having workshops to outline the specification. The most prioritized features was topping up card, lunch menus and events for members and promoting sports through Fysiken. The development of the application started during the spring and the goal is to launch a first version during this fall.

- **Our influence:** Developing an app for the student union members to improve their day to day life on campus.





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.

chalmersstudentkar.se

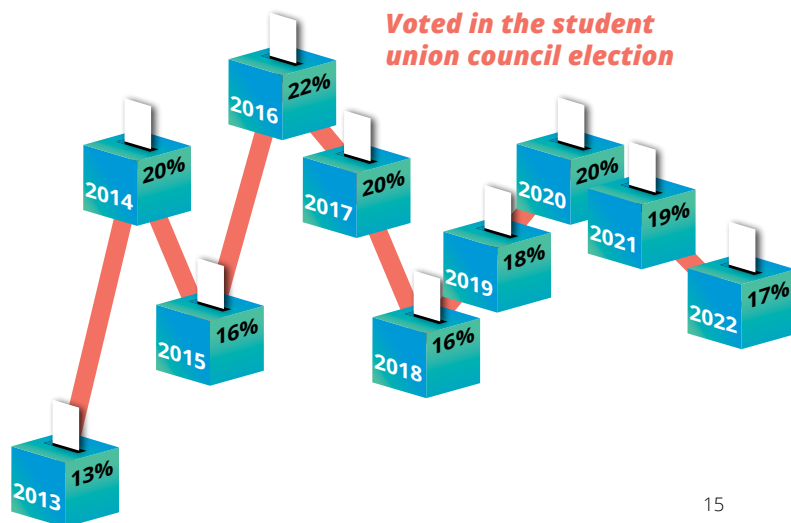
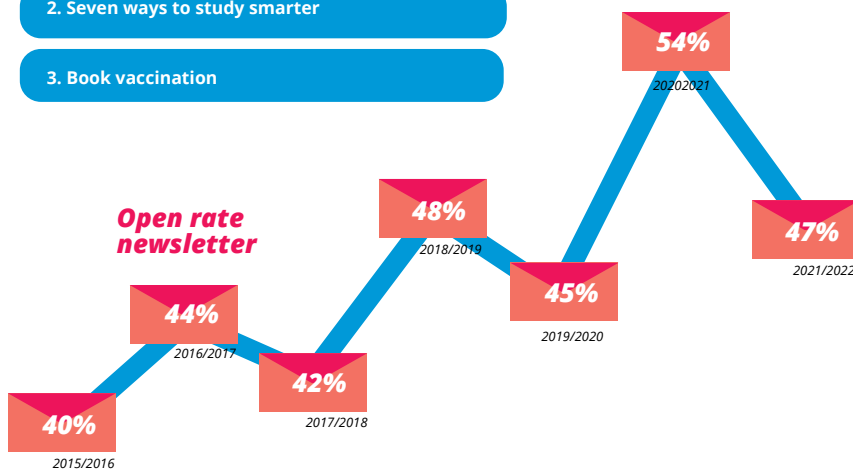
Top 10 visited links, union website

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. /information-desk | 6. /list |
| 2. /recreation-harryda | 7. /karkort4life |
| 3. /the-union-card | 8. /management-team |
| 4. /documents | 9. /cs-sauna |
| 5. /being-a-member | 10. /membership |



Top 3 visited links in union newsletter

1. New system for topping up your card
2. Seven ways to study smarter
3. Book vaccination





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