

Application for membership in Folk och Försvar

Proposal 4

SFS

Covering letter

Proposal 4: Application for membership in Folk och Försvar

The core assignment of Sweden's National Union of Students (SFS) is to represent the interests of the students and the members. In order to do so with as much impact as possible, we are constantly looking for platforms where we can raise the student perspective to relevant people in positions of power and set the tone of the debate. With that in mind the Board proposes that SFS should apply for membership in Folk och Försvar.

In recent years, issues within defence and security policy, preparations for crisis and democracy have taken a larger space in the societal debate. Education and research are both a fundamental components in society's overall defence, and more importantly for democratic functions where critical thinking and access to information is key. The investments that take place in society related to the armed forces affect the higher education sector and the students.

Folk och Försvar was founded in 1940 and is an association with the goal to "build a bridge between society and the armed forces". Today, Folk och Försvar has more than 100 member organisations, including several defence organisations, political youth organisations, NGO:s, trade unions and representatives of Swedish business, trade and labour federations. The organisation runs educational programmes and provides a platform for public debate on defence and security policy, and preparations for crises. More information can be found on their [website](#).

A membership in Folk och Försvar can be motivated by multiple reasons. Folk och Försvar forms a place where SFS can raise a student perspective on current societal issues, such as competence development and students role in the total defence. SFS would be able to provide a broader discussion where multiple interests are taken into account. Furthermore, Folk och Försvar is a very well established organisation with a good reputation in society, and a membership would entail synergies in form of a forum for SFS to create and deepen connections whilst working on branding. Every year there is a conference that is held by Folk och Försvar called Rikskonferensen, the conference is a place where people of power from politics, civil society and the business sector are all gathered, something that provides a unique opportunity for a dialogue. Apart from that, a membership would entail the possibility for developing skills for both the operative, and the strategic operations of SFS.

A membership would mean access to formal, and informal, meetings with relevant actors for the student movement. To establish and deepen relationships are key for a successful advocacy in all issues that SFS works with. A membership would cost between SEK 5.000 and 10.000, which is something that fits within the existing budget.



Draft decisions

The Board proposed the General assembly

that SFS applies for membership in Folk och Försvar.

that the Board of SFS is tasked to handle the application for membership.

that the Board of SFS is tasked with reporting back on the application and potential membership to SFSFUM in 2025.