

## **Studying and conducting research in one's own mother tongue. – Masters degree students of Sámi language and literature as an example of how to promote an indigenous language in higher education**

Colloquium of  
Masters degree students  
of Sámi language and literature

Sámi allaskuvla | Sámi University of Applied Sciences (SUAS) has, as its founding principle, the production and dissemination of knowledge in the Sámi community from a Sámi perspective, as well as the consolidation of the Sámi language as a language of both academic instruction and research.

In 2009, SUAS started a Masters programme in Sámi language and literature. This meant that students who had Sámi as their mother tongue, could now take higher education courses at the university in their own language, right up to the level of a Masters degree.

In 2016, this study option was extended to a full PhD programme, thus completing a research and study progression from undergraduate all the way up to the highest level of academic qualification and research.

Participating in this colloquium are SUAS students who started on their Masters degree in 2016, and who are now in the process of finishing their Masters thesis. During the colloquium, all the various research topics in the field of Sámi linguistics will be presented. The students will talk about their chosen subjects, while also discussing what it means to be able to study for a higher education degree in their own mother tongue, i.e. Sámi.

As an example of how the use of an indigenous language can be made an integral part of the academic process, the colloquium presentations will be given in Sámi with translation into English through an interpreter.