

## Case Competition application

To whom it may concern.

Hi, we are a group of students from Stockholm University that wish to attend and participate in the Case competition that you are organizing. One of the main reasons of why we find ourselves suitable for, and willing to, participate in this competition is our engagement in questions regarding the applicability of the humanities in the labour market, and the importance of humanist competences in our societies in general. In this group we are all involved in an organisation called *Projekt Athena*. More specifically we embody its local group in Stockholm as it is a project that operates on a national level. [Projekt Athena is a student initiative](#) taken during the fall of 2009 which came about from the dissatisfaction that had risen up from the neglection of the subjects within the humanities. The neglection being manifested by the little to nothing amount of teacher led hours per week, and also the lack of ties to the labour market within the humanities programmes. We are working for more teacher led hours in the subjects of the humanities, more specifically 15 hours per week, and also an active coaching of the students in regards to the labour market and the ways in which the students can apply their competences in acquiring and competing of a vast amount of different jobs. This is all described in our [Humanist manifesto](#). The manifesto is spread throughout Sweden and particularly used against our universities and the Department of Education. Apart from our manifesto, we have also produced something called [The Competence Guide](#), which in its essence is to be regarded as a tool which the students can use in order to help them highlight their own competences to future employers etc.

We are also working against the, what we feel it to be, predominately negative view of the subjects of the humanities that exist in the Swedish society. This is the view that sees these subjects as not being useful in the society because they do not lead to a specific job, or working title. In other words, that humanists' competences do not have anything to contribute in a constant industrialising, globalizing, and cutting edge society. We find this view to be utterly misleading, distorting of the reality and an insult to a discipline which has been forming and evolving the thinking of mankind and our society throughout centuries. On the contrary, and this is what we in Projekt Athena are trying to show, an education in the subjects of the humanities equips the students with a vast amount of qualities and competences that can be used and applied, to not only acquiring a vast amount of different jobs and entering different job markets, one of them being the business world, but also, and perhaps more importantly, these competences will give the student the proper tools needed to not only fulfill the demands of his

or hers job, but also exceeding them through abilities such as critical thinking, management of large quantities of information, a crucial cultural understanding and so on and so forth. As we live in a world of constant change, where borders cut into each other, where displacement is to be found on every continent and people of different cultures and ethnicities have to live side by side in an ever so intimate manner, it is clear for us that competences such as a deep understanding of pluralism, cultural and ethnical background etc. is of fundamental importance, not at least in the business world where trade is often conducted cross borders.

With this background of ours, we are more than willing to participate in this competition of yours. We find it to be a great leap towards the goal which we in Projekt Athena are working for. That is to once and for all rid the negative views of the humanities and establish it once again as not only a serious subject that should be getting it's proper attention in the universities, but also underline that it creates suitable and knowledgeable men and women full of competence which can be used to contribute in the advancement and flourishing of their societies, being participating and contributing in the academic-, political-, or business world.

Through Projekt Athena, our group has organized several seminars, workshops, festivals and meetings for humanities students to learn more about their competences and how it can be applied on the labour market. We also have experience in organizing labour market days for humanities students at Stockholm University. We have also been successful in presenting the project for the Faculty of Humanities who have embraced our vision and ambitions. These experiences has taught us all how to solve specific tasks at the university regarding marketing of our products (the manifesto and competence guide), sending out press releases, writing debate articles among other things.

With the competences in our group, as well as the diversity of them which we have acquired through our different academic backgrounds within the humanities and social sciences, we believe we have a great advantage to not only solve any of the problems that may be presented during the competition, but that we are also good representatives of competences derived from these specific academic subjects.

Sincerely,

TanvirMansur, Ni ma Shirali, Malin Forshällen,  
Martin Reuterswärd and Alessandro Coletti

