

Residence permit for students

A foreign national who wishes to obtain an education may be granted a residence permit to study in Norway.

To be granted a residence permit to study or attend school in Norway you must:

- Have been admitted to a university, specialised university institution, state college, art college, folk high school or one-year course of studies in a private school (in special cases upper secondary schools are also approved)
- Be able to finance your studies
- Have a place to live during your stay as a student
- Be a full-time student
- Submit a complete plan for your studies in Norway

For applicants from countries outside the EU/EEA/EFTA:

When you apply for a residence permit for students, you must submit the following documents:

- Application form with (passport) photograph
- Copy of passport
- Documentation of admission to an approved educational institution or school
- Plan of study
- Documentation of financial support (loan from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund or deposits in a Norwegian bank)
- Documentation of housing
- A fee must also be paid.

Documentation requirements vary from country to country and are subject to change. For more information, contact the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you. If you are in Norway, contact the local police or the Directorate of Immigration (UDI).

For applicants from EU/EEA/EFTA countries:

When you apply for a residence permit for students, you must submit the following documents:

- Application form for EU/EEA/EFTA nationals with (passport) photograph

- Documentation of admission to an educational institution. It is a condition that this is vocational education
- Declaration or documentation showing that subsistence is ensured
- Health insurance (private, E-form or the European Health Insurance Card) that is valid for the entire period of studies

Applicants from EU/EEA/EFTA countries may apply for the permit from Norway and pay no fee for the application.

The applicant's closest family may accompany the applicant to Norway. Closest family includes spouse or cohabitant of at least two years and children. The following rules also apply:

- You must be able to provide for your family members (minimum pay scale 1 of the national pay scale)
- Family members must have health insurance.

Permits are granted for the same length of time as the duration of the education but not for more than one year. The permit may be renewed. The permit confers the right to work up to 50% of full time. An accompanying family member is granted a general permit to take employment.

Frequently asked questions

Where should I apply?

You apply at the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you. Your application will be processed by the Directorate of Immigration. An exception is made for EU/EEA/EFTA nationals, who may enter Norway and apply from Norway. In this case you send your application to the nearest police station for processing there.

NORAD students may also enter Norway and apply from Norway. NORAD students may be granted visas by a foreign service mission if all the terms and conditions are met. The police then process the application for a residence permit.

Does it cost anything to apply for a permit to study in Norway?

You must pay NOK 1100 when you submit your application for a residence permit to study in Norway.

If you are already in Norway and/or are applying for a renewal, the fee must be paid when you submit the application to the police (cash/card). The fee can also be paid in advance (credit transfer) with the receipt attached to the application, regardless of whether the application is mailed or submitted in person. The police will inform you of the account number, as the police receive the money, not the UDI.

If the application is to be submitted in Oslo, it is possible to call the police immigration office to obtain the account number. The telephone number for the police in Oslo is 22 34 21 00. You may find the telephone numbers for police districts in Norway at <http://www.politi.no>.

Applicants from EU/EEA/EFTA countries do not pay a fee.

How long does it take to process my application?

The case processing time varies. If you have an address in Norway you will receive an automatic notification by mail that the immigration authorities have received your application. This will also inform you about case processing time. See also the UDI's website at www.udi.no or call the UDI's applicant information service for updated information in Norwegian and English.

Can I appeal the decision?

Yes. You must give the grounds for your appeal; for example, you may have additional information to provide in the appeal. If you appeal, your application will be reconsidered by the UDI and then by the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) if the UDI does not reverse its previous decision. The processing of the appeal does not cost anything.

May I take my family with me?

If you have less than one year left of your studies in Norway, you may not take your family with you. If you have more than one year left of your studies in Norway, your closest family, i.e. your spouse or cohabitant of at least two years and your children under 18 years of age may obtain residence permits to

stay in Norway.

Your family members must apply for residence permits themselves through the nearest Norwegian foreign service mission

You must be able to provide for your family and have a place to live together with them. The minimum wage requirement corresponds to pay scale 1 of the national pay scale.

Separate rules apply to family members of students from EU/EEA/EFTA countries. The applicant's closest family members may accompany the applicant to Norway. Closest family includes spouse or cohabitant of at least two years and children. The following rules also apply:

- You must be able to provide for your family members (minimum pay scale 1 of the national pay scale)
- The family members must have health insurance.

How long can I stay in Norway?

A residence permit is granted for one year at a time. This permit must be renewed after one year. Renewal is conditional on satisfactory progress in your studies.

Do I receive a work permit when studying in Norway?

You do not receive a normal work permit when you come to Norway as a student. However, you may apply for a permit to work part-time (no more than 20 hours per week) and full-time during holidays. The educational institution must confirm that this will not interfere with your progress in your studies. Your spouse/cohabitant can apply for the same type of permit.

EU/EEA/EFTA nationals have the right to take up to 50% employment. Any accompanying family member is granted a general permit to take employment.

Other questions?

If you have any questions about the rules you may contact the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you. You may also contact the police or the UDI's applicant information service on telephone +47 23 35 16 00, e-mail ots@udi.no, or look up www.udi.no for more information in Norwegian and English.

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