



**Karriere
Agder**

Leaflet:

NEW IN NORWAY
INFORMATION FROM
THE COURSE
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Recognition of foreign education

If you have an higher education from another country, you have the possibility to get your education recognised by NOKUT (Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education). Do you have a foreign education that may be unknown to Norwegian employers? Then it could be smart to apply for recognition, but be aware that a recognition is not required in order to use your diploma in Norway.

Besides higher education, also tertiary vocational education and some vocational education from Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland can be recognised by NOKUT. They are responsible for the recognition of teachers qualifications.

Be aware that you have to apply to other authorities if you work in a statutory profession. E.g. as a doctor or nurse you need an authorisation by the Norwegian health directorate (*helsedirektoratet*).

Previous education which can be recognised as part of higher education in Norway, or is necessary to get university admission certification, is assessed by NUCAS (*Samordna opptak*).

Useful websites



NOKUT (eng)
recognition or
foreign education



Information about
authorisation (eng)



Assessment by
NUCAS' (eng)

Vocational education

Vocational education in Norway is part of upper secondary school. There are different ways of obtaining a vocational qualification, e.g. a certificate of apprenticeship (*fagbrev/svennebrev*), but the most usual one is two years in school and two years as an apprentice in a company. You can get this kind of education as an adolescent (up to 24) or as an adult. If you have upper secondary school education from Norway or upper secondary school education from another country which is approved as equal to Norwegian education, you normally will not have the right for another education within this system. You can still apply but it is less likely for you to get a place.

If you have much practical experience, there are different ways of obtaining a vocational qualification without lectures in school. For candidates with at least 60 months of relevant practice – which must be approved by the department for *fag- og yrkesopplæring* of the Agder county municipality (*Fylkeskommunen*) – there is the possibility to take a theoretical exam and a practical exam (*fagprøven/svenneprøven*) without attending any form of education in the Norwegian school system. There are several requirements that can be found on the website *agderfk.no*, including that at least 24 month of practice must be from Norway. It is called *Praksiskandidat*.

You can also get training solely in a company without attending school. Here you must have at least 12 months with practice and must be employed in an approved in-service training establishment (*lærebedrift*). Then you can take the vocational qualification at work (*fagbrev på jobb*). The approval process is administered by the department for *fag- og yrkesopplæring*. Look for *fagbrev på jobb* at the website of the county municipality: *agderfk.no*. All links you can find at the next side (QR-codes)!

Entering university

There are two main ways for immigrants to enter higher education in Norway:

- If you have completed upper secondary school in your home country and would like to enter university education. You will find all information about the requirements on Samordna opptak.
- If you want to study but do need to complete university admission certification there are different rules that might apply. If you are 23 or older and have more than 5 years of practice, the 23/5-rule may apply to your situation. If you are under 23 years, you should apply for upper secondary school in Norway. You apply through *vigo*.

There are other ways of entering the university, but these two are the most common and most likely ones to use.

For being able to study in Norway you are required to have B2-level Norwegian and sufficient skills in the English language. You will find more information about that on the website of Samordna opptak.

Useful websites



Samordna
opptak (eng)



agderfk.no (no)



education
system (eng)

CV

In Norway you will typically send in a CV and a cover letter (*søknadsbrev*) along with the documentation of your education or experience. These two main application documents have two different functions.

Your CV is a list of your education, previous work experience, skills, and data in table form. That means that the information should be precise and short, so that it is easy for the recruiter or recruiting manager to capture all of your valuable information as fast as possible. A clean and well-structured CV is an useful asset in an application process. It is not necessary but also not uncommon to have a picture of yourself included at the top of the CV. Your picture should fit the role you are applying for. Usually, your CV should contain the following information:

- Personal information (as name, address, contact information)
- Education history (chronological: start with the newest one)
- Work experience (chronological: start with the newest one)
- Courses, skills, languages (additional information that gives you a benefit)
- Interests and hobbies (if beneficial for the role you apply to)

Try to write the CV in Norwegian if you feel comfortable enough with the language. That shows that you already are in the process of learning the language. The CV should **not** extend two pages!

You can have a short explanation of your work tasks and the skills acquired by your education in form of bullet points or a short text. Try to keep it short and just give information that is relevant for the role that you are applying to.

LABOUR MARKET

Cover letter

The cover letter is a document where you explain how the skills, education and experience from your CV make you a good fit for the role. In other words, you set your experience in relation to the information given in the job advert.

The cover letter should not extend one page and should be structured in several paragraphs. You can start with a subject line that states which job you are applying for. The first, and rather short, paragraph should give information about where you found the advert and why you chose to apply for the position. The paragraphs afterwards can be structured the way you want, but it might be good to have a paragraph about how your education fits the work tasks, another paragraph about how you can use your previous work experience in this role and a paragraph about your personal interests and your personality and how you see yourself as a good fit for the role.

If you do not yet feel comfortable writing in Norwegian, you should write the cover letter in English and address that you are still in the process of learning the language.

Useful websites



NAV (eng)



CV examples
(eng)

