UiO: University of Oslo
A Leading European University
Welcome

Knowledge is the key to a better life for all. As a new student or researcher at the University of Oslo, you are embarking on a journey towards new knowledge.

The University of Oslo is a leading European university and the oldest and largest university in Norway. Academic excellence and research-driven learning will be core elements of your life as a student or researcher at our institution.

We hope that your journey will be rewarding and that you will experience that knowledge changes everything.

Ole Petter Ottersen
RECTOR

Gunn-Elin Aa. Bjørneboe
UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR
Tradition and excellence
The University of Oslo (UiO) was founded in 1811 and is Norway’s oldest and premier institution of higher education. UiO has contributed substantially to research, innovation, and education in and outside of Norway. Today the UiO is the country’s largest public institution of research and higher learning. UiO has ambitious goals for increasing its contribution to academic developments internationally, as well as for resolving the challenges facing society today. The overriding goal of UiO’s Strategy 2020 is to strengthen our international position as a leading research university through a close interaction across research, education, communication, and innovation.

Research
As a university with a broad range of academic disciplines, UiO has top research communities in most areas. UiO coordinates ten Centres of Excellence (SFI), two Centres for Research-based Innovation and three of Norway’s foremost museums. Moreover, UiO has a strategic focus on interdisciplinary research in the fields of energy and life sciences, as well as the major initiative to “unpack” the Nordic model. UiO has access to good public funding schemes and offers high-end lab and office facilities, libraries, and technical support.

Education
UiO focuses on research-based education and attracts highly qualified students from all over the world. Students at UiO learn from Norway’s foremost researchers, with excellent facilities in the beautiful city of Oslo. UiO’s Centre for Professional Learning in Teacher Education (ProTed) has been awarded the title of Centre of Excellence in Education by the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT). UiO contributes to innovation directly through commercialization of the research findings of its academic staff and students as well as through cooperation with business partners and the public sector. The most important contribution to innovation, however, is made through the education of degree candidates, excellent research, and the exchange of knowledge with important stakeholders in society.

Comprehensive and International
Located mainly on the Blindern Campus in the northern part of Oslo, UiO has eight faculties. The capital university is also home to the Viking Ship Museum, the Historical Museum and the Natural History Museum, a Main Library with holdings of 3.6 million volumes and a wide range of associated units and centres. UiO has an operating annual budget of NOK 6.6 billion, and most of its funding comes from the Norwegian Government. UiO attracts students and researchers from all over the world. About 13% of the student population is from foreign countries. 20% of the academic staff and 25% of the PhD candidates are from abroad.

About UiO
The University of Oslo (UiO), is the oldest and largest university in Norway and is recognized as one of Northern Europe’s most prestigious universities.
A leading European university
UiO is the highest ranked institution of education and research in Norway—and one of the World’s Top 100 universities, according to the Shang-
hai World Ranking. With five Nobel Prize winners, UiO has a strong track record of pioneering research and scientific discovery.

Nobel Prizes
Four scientists affiliated with UiO have been awarded Nobel Prizes for their research, and one for his efforts to promote peace:

- Fridtjof Nansen (Nobel Peace Prize, 1922),
- Odd Hassel (Chemistry, 1969),
- Ragnar Frisch (Economics, 1969),
- Ivar Gjæver (Physics, 1973),
- Trygve Haavelmo (Economics, 1989).

Facts about UiO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
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www.uio.no/english/about/
Basic and interdisciplinary
A university with a broad range of academic disciplines has a special responsibility to generate new ideas and call attention to the ways in which they challenge existing knowledge. We acknowledge that new and radical solutions often originate in free basic research. At the same time, it is an important task for UiO to develop new knowledge. It is therefore necessary that there be room for research in areas that do not come under our current prioritized areas.

Centres of Excellence
UiO coordinates ten Centres of Excellence (SFF), a Centre for Research-based Innovation, and seven Marie Curie Training Sites, and we have received a total of 23 European Research Council (ERC) grants, ten of which are Starting Grants and 13 are Advanced Grants. These centres enable us to establish time-limited research centres characterized by focused, long-term research efforts of a high international calibre, and where researcher training is an important aspect. High scientific quality is the main criterion for the selection of the centres by the Research Council of Norway.

International cooperation
Researchers at UiO cooperate with colleagues all over the world and connect to the best and most relevant institutions for their research. It is a goal that all international cooperation and institutional partnerships should be based on genuine interest and cooperation within one or preferably several academic departments at UiO. This also applies to student exchange agreements, where student mobility should be based on recommendations from scientific staff.

Focus areas in research
An outstanding research university must be an active participant in international cooperation. UiO aspires to making a strong contribution to this cooperation. Academic boundaries must also be transcended and UiO recognizes the fundamental role of interdisciplinary research in addressing the major challenges facing society today. To encourage top level academic collaboration, three prioritized areas have been established:

Life Sciences
Life sciences include research on biological processes and phenomena encompassing the entire chain from natural sciences to medicine. Life sciences research helps early detection of diseases, and the development of drugs and therapies that can be tailored to individual patients. In 2013, the journal Genome Technology ranked the Oslo life sciences community among the 20 most promising research clusters in the world in the area of biotechnology.

UiO:Energy
This project addresses one of the most complicated challenges that the world is facing: the transition to a sustainable energy system. UiO:Energy will strengthen and support energy research, education, and innovation across disciplinary boundaries at UiO. The initiative was launched in 2012 and includes large sections of UiO’s academic range, from chemistry to political science, via law and informatics.

Unpacking the Nordic Model
This initiative is a response to the increasing interest in Nordic cultures and societies. Its objective is to critically highlight the preconditions for the Nordic model and discuss its future and the perceptions of it that prevail internationally.

www.uio.no/english/research/
General information
Higher education at public institutions in Norway is free, and UiO does not require tuition fees for studies. A full semester workload amounts to 30 ECTS credits. The academic year is divided into two semesters: autumn semester from August until December and spring semester from January until June.

Exchange students
Exchange students normally study at UiO for one or two semesters and most exchange programmes have admission twice a year. You apply through your home university. Erasmus+ offers opportunities for student, staff, and PhD exchanges with partner universities throughout Europe. UiO has more than 400 exchange agreements with approximately 200 partner universities in Europe.

Studies
The University of Oslo currently offers more than 800 courses particularly aimed at exchange students and over 40 Master’s degree programmes taught in English.

Students who speak a Scandinavian language may also take courses from UiO’s entire course catalogue.

The EEA Financial Mechanisms Programme offers study abroad scholarships for students from institutions that have a prior exchange agreement with UiO in selected countries in Eastern and Southern Europe. The scholarships are administered by local authorities in each eligible country. The Science without Borders (SwB) programme offers study abroad scholarships for students from Brazil who may spend two semesters at UiO as part of their studies. The scholarship is funded by the Brazilian government and covers subjects mainly within science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Bachelor’s degree programmes
Bachelor’s programmes at UiO are taught in Norwegian. Only 60 places are available for international students and admitted students must successfully complete a one year Norwegian language course before starting the programme. Applicants with a valid Norwegian language proficiency test should apply through samordnaopptak.no.

Master’s degree programmes
Master’s degree programmes have a duration of 1.5 or 2 years (90 or 120 ECTS credits), and include a major independent, written work. Most programmes have additional admission requirements. UiO offers Master’s degree programmes taught in English in Education, Health Sciences, Humanities, Information Technology, and more.
English language proficiency requirements

International students who are not native English speakers must document English language skills that are suitable for the subject area of study. The two most common tests are TOEFL iBT—Test of English as a Foreign Language and IELTS—International English Language Testing System.

Fulbright

The U.S.-Norway Fulbright Foundation for Educational Exchange offers study grants for graduate students from the USA for full-time study or a combination of independent research and advanced courses or seminars. Fulbright students at UiO may follow most courses taught in English at the Master’s and PhD levels.

See [www.uio.no/english/studies](http://www.uio.no/english/studies) for overview over study programmes and admissions information.

ogy and Informatics, Law, Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Religion, Social Sciences, and Theology. Admission to Master’s degree studies requires a completed Bachelor’s degree considered comparable to a Norwegian Bachelor’s degree.

PhD programmes

A PhD from UiO consists of three years full-time study and research, including 30 credits of coursework and a thesis, and culminates in a trial lecture and public disputation. The PhD training is organized into programmes, one for each faculty. In order to qualify for admission to a PhD programme at UiO, you normally need an undergraduate and postgraduate degree, i.e. a Master’s degree or equivalent. The faculties may have additional requirements for admission. UiO is host to five national research schools and partner to another eight schools.

Quota scheme

The Norwegian Quota Scheme is a funding scheme offered by the Norwegian government for students from developing countries applying for selected Master’s degree programmes and PhD programmes. Quota Scheme applicants are recruited from institutions that have formal cooperation agreements with UiO.

The International Summer School

The International Summer School (ISS) offers intensive Master’s and Bachelor’s courses each summer, from late June to late July. Over 500 students from about 90 countries participate each year. A limited number of scholarships are available.

The Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies

The Oslo Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies provides several PhD research courses that aim to cover all of the academic disciplines within the social sciences. Researchers, research scholars, and master’s students aiming to continue with advanced studies are welcome to apply.

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Life at UiO

There is much more to UiO than studies and research. A welcoming and vibrant university and city will enable you to make the best of your stay.

Excellent learning environment

As a student at UiO you will learn from the best academic staff the country has to offer and be a part of a modern research university with abundant opportunities. Expect fellow students who are highly motivated and engaged, and who will become part of your social and professional network for life.

Study facilities include well-equipped lecture rooms, laboratories and computer labs, state-of-the-art libraries and a wireless network zone for portable computers. Teaching methods at UiO vary between lectures, seminars, laboratory work, workshops, group exercises, problem-based learning, and self study.

Students start with friendships

More than 300 active student associations, societies, and organizations contribute to a rich and varied social life for students at UiO. At the beginning of each semester you are introduced to a Buddy – a student who has taken responsibility for introducing you to UiO and the city. Every semester UiO arranges a special events programme for international students, including museum tours, hiking trips, ski courses, film evenings and a weekly International Coffee Hour.

The Norwegian Student Society in Oslo offers concerts, lectures, improvisational theatre, club concepts, parties, exhibitions, and courses. As an international student at UiO, you become a member of the International Students’ Union (ISU) – an independent, democratic, non-profit organization run for and by international students. ISU publishes a newsletter and arranges academic and social events.

General services

The campus has student health centres with general practitioners, nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, and dentists. There is also a team of professional counsellors to whom students can turn for advice in academic, financial, or personal matters. You can choose from 60 different sports activities in four training centres offered by the SIO Student Sports. You can get a customized, individual training programme, or participate in group training or get-started classes. At UiO you can eat at more than 40 on-campus restaurants and cafes with a varied selection of menus at student-friendly prices.

Housing and costs

All international students are given priority for reasonably priced student housing and will receive guidelines on how to book student housing after admission. Most social events on campus are either free of charge or offered at student-friendly prices. International students may apply for a part-time work permit.

Public higher education in Norway is free and there are no tuition fees at UiO. UiO does not control sources of student funding and cannot assist students financially.

[www.uio.no/english/student-life/](http://www.uio.no/english/student-life/)
UiO in Oslo

The capital of Norway is a beautiful, welcoming, and vibrant knowledge hub.

The city of everything
Oslo is smaller than most capitals, but offers all the cultural activities one expects to find in a capital as well as beautiful nature surrounding the city and UiO. The Norwegian capital is home to almost 600,000 inhabitants and over 10% of the entire population of Norway.

Oslo is a green city surrounded by sea, forests, and hills with a milder climate than the latitude suggests and summertime temperatures normally exceeding 20°C. Yet, the winters are cold enough to make Oslo a popular venue for skiing. With public transport, you can quickly and easily reach Oslomarka, the forested and hilly areas surrounding Oslo, ideal for outdoor activity.

Knowledge hub Oslo
With its university, several university colleges, and 60,000 students, Oslo is a national and Scandinavian knowledge hub.

UiO in Oslo
UiO’s original campus is located in the city centre, adjacent to the Royal Palace and the Parliament. The main campus of Blindern, just minutes by subway, tram, or bicycle from the heart of Oslo, offers proximity to the forests and hills surrounding the city and affords wonderful views of the Oslo Fjord. As most Norwegians speak English, it is easy to find one’s way around.

Facts about Oslo
Oslo is the capital and the most populous city in Norway. Oslo constitutes both a county and a municipality.

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<th>Area</th>
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Eleven large scale canvas oil paintings by Edvard Munch in the University of Oslos Assembly hall – the Aula. Painted between 1900 and 1916.
knowledge hub. The Oslo area represents over 50% of the country’s collective effort in research and development. Oslo hosts about 40 research institutions and ten of Norway’s 20 Centres of Excellence (SFF) in research are located in Oslo.

Experience Norway from Oslo

Norway is known for its outstanding nature, which is easily accessible from Oslo. You can also travel to see the Aurora Boreals (Northern lights), experience the midnight sun, and discover the beautiful fjords and mountains all over the country. Visitors to Norway love the fresh air, quiet atmosphere, clean water, vast areas of space – and nature.
Welcome to the University of Oslo