NOKUT

Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education

The Norwegian Competence Center for Foreign Education

Information center for recognition of foreign qualifications
General recognition of foreign higher education

http://www.nokut.no/en/
What we will talk about today?

• Overview of Norwegian Education System

• The several types of recognition.

• Recognition of higher and non-higher education.

• Recognition for non-regulated professions.

• General recognition of foreign higher education.

• Recognition procedure for persons with insufficient / non-verifiable documentation
Structure of Norwegian Education System
A full-time study programme corresponds to 60 credits (ECTS) per academic year.
I’m going to study in Norway ... do I need recognition?

Do I need to seek recognition before I apply for admission to higher education or vocational education in Norway?

➔ Normally NO. Recognition is part of the admission procedure.
The purpose of recognition:

- To make it easier for people with foreign qualifications to find work.
- To make it easier for potential employers to assess the level of a foreign job applicant’s education.
- Consistent gageing of salary/wages when hired.
- Ensure that those who work in regulated professions are properly qualified.
- To help you find out if you need further education.
Recognition of higher education

Two important categories:

1. Professions that are regulated by law.
2. Professions that are NOT regulated by law.
There are approximately 170 professions in Norway that are regulated by law. Medical doctor, dentist, pharmacist, legal adviser, nurse, physiotherapist, school teacher, chartered accountant, registered bookkeeper, real estate agent...

The list of all regulated professions can be found at NOKUT’s website: http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/Other-recognition-systems/Authorisation/List-of-regulated-professions/

You have to send an application to the particular recognition office.
Some examples of regulated professions:

- **Teacher**
  - If you are from an EU country you can apply directly to The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training (Utdanningsdirektoratet).
  - If your degree is not from an EU country, you need NOKUT’s general recognition of your education before you can apply for authorization from the Directorate for Education and Training.

- **Health related professions at all levels**
  - You must apply directly to SAK (The Norwegian Registration Authority for Health Personnel).

- **Electrician**
  - If you are from an EU country you must apply directly to DSB (The Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning).
  - If you are not from an EU country you can contact the «Fylkeskommune» / County Council first, and DSB afterwards.
Recognition of higher education
Non-regulated professions

Some examples of non-regulated professions:
engineer, social worker, economist, geologist, journalist, manager, musician, architect, artist...

• Because they are not regulated by law, you don’t need a recognition. An employer may hire you if they think you are qualified for the job.

• You can apply for NOKUT’s general recognition.
General recognition from NOKUT

• NOKUT’s general recognition is meant for the Norwegian labor market for non-regulated professions.

• General recognition is not a subject-specific recognition.

• System-based evaluation of higher education credentials:
  ✓ Level
  ✓ Scope
  ✓ Degree

• Example:
  «The degree is recognized as 3 years of higher education / 180 (Norwegian) credits, and equivalent to an accredited Norwegian Bachelor’s degree»
  «The degree is recognized as 1 year of higher education / 60 (Norwegian) credits on Master level»
How does NOKUT evaluate?

Criteria

• General recognition says that the foreign education was earned at a recognized/accredited institution of higher education in the country of origin.

• The education must be at a level above the entrance requirements for universities and university colleges in Norway.

• Higher Education Entrance Qualification for Foreign Applicants GSU

• For more information about NOKUT’s criteria, please visit our website:
NOKUT does not assess

• education at secondary school level
• vocational education
• whether your education includes the same subjects as a specific Norwegian education
• whether your education provides special expertise
• your education in Norway
• work experience
The application process

• We receive applications from individual applicants which contain an application form and required documentation.

• Applications are registered within a day.

• The normal processing time is 2 – 4 months, given that we have received a complete set of documents.

• The result (a formal legal decision) is sent to your postal address.

• All applicants have the right to appeal NOKUT’s decision.
You will find the application form and the guide at NOKUTs website:

Documentation requirements (1)

• NOKUT has both general and country-specific documentation requirements.

• You will find all of NOKUTs documentations requirements at: http://www.nokut.no/en/Foreign-education/NOKUTs-general-recognition/Documentation-requirements/

• ID-document, copy of your final degree diploma, transcript of grades and copy of secondary school certificate in the original language and in translation.

• NOKUT can only begin processing your application once we have received all these documents.
• Transcript of grades sent directly to NOKUT from the educational institution

For countries like Eritrea, Ethiopia, Hong Kong, Nigeria, Sudan, the Philippines, the USA and several others, NOKUT requires transcripts of grades to be sent directly from the educational institution.

One can use the [International Transcript Request Form](https://www.translatorportalen.com/) for ordering.

• Other specific requirements

- **China** - verification reports from CDGDC
- **Pakistan** – verification reports from HEC
- **Iran** – English translations by the justice administration office

• Official translations

- Translations must be made by an official translator (not private persons).

- NOKUT recommends translations to be made by an authorized translator (in Norway or abroad).

Official translators operating in Norway can be found at: [https://www.translatorportalen.com/](https://www.translatorportalen.com/)
Recognition of non-higher education
Craft Certificates (fagbrev)/journeyman’s certificates

Two important categories:
1. Professions that are regulated by law.
2. Professions that are NOT regulated by law.
Recognition of vocational education for work purposes

Craft Certificates (fagbrev) (electrician, hairdresser, cook, painter....) = not higher education

If your profession is regulated:
You must apply for recognition to one of the 16 recognition authorities.

Electrician, ship’s cook, lift contractor...

If your profession is not regulated by law:
• You do not need a recognition
• No centralized evaluation process.
• Vocational training offices (“Fagopplæringskontor” –) in each county (“Fylkeskommune”) can evaluate credentials, but practices vary.
• They can offer you an evaluation and statement of your competency.
  • http://www.vilbli.no/?Artikkel=017891&Side=Artikkel&Falang=&Lan=3

Examples: Hairdresser, painter, carpenter, plumber...
Higher Education

• Professions regulated by law: Authorisation is compulsory
• Professions NOT regulated by law:

NOKUT’s General Recognition is voluntary, but may be useful

Craft Certificate/
Journeyman’s Certificate

• Professions regulated by law: Authorisation is compulsory
• Professions NOT regulated by law: No centralised recognition process.