Applying for Your Student Visa: Norway

What is a visa?
A visa is official authorization allowing you to enter a country and travel, work, live, or study there for a specific period of time. Generally, a visa is an elaborate stamp that is sealed onto one of the pages of your passport. Visas are issued to American citizens by a foreign country's Embassy or Consulate located in the United States. Every country has its own regulations governing the issuance of visas.

Do I need a visa to go to Norway?
A visa is required for students going to Norway through an officially registered organization or program such as ISEP or UM's Partner University Exchange program, so you (and your dependents, if applicable) will need to obtain a visa for your period of study in Norway.

What do I need to apply for a visa?
► Attention: Visa requirements change constantly! Please check with the Consulate office that has jurisdiction over your permanent address for the latest regulations.  http://www.norway.org/Embassy/
You need the following documents to apply for a visa (also called a "residence permit"):
• A notarized copy of all pages of a valid passport.
  ♦ Please see page 1 in the Study Abroad Handbook for how to apply for a passport.
  ♦ Apply early for your passport! It may take 6-8 weeks to process your application.
• Completed online application for residence permit (3 pages). Remember to provide the exact dates of your stay in Norway:  https://selfservice.udi.no/
• Two passport size photos
• Letter of acceptance from the Norwegian university you will be attending, mentioning your participation as part of an exchange program. The letter of admission must contain your name, information about the educational institution, your courses and the level to which you have been admitted, plus the length of your study.
• Written proof of your housing arrangements in Norway (i.e. a rental agreement); if your housing will be through your university in Norway, they will provide a letter stating that you have housing, and this should be submitted with your application. If you do not get housing through the school, you must find a place to live and submit the lease or tenancy agreement with your application.
• Proof of sufficient funds to cover your stay in Norway corresponding to the amount of full support from the Norwegian State Education Loan Fund:  http://www.lanekassen.no/Toppmeny/Languages/English/Financial-support-for-foreign-students/Grants-and-loans/. Student loans, grants, own funds or income from employment can be included in these funds. If you have own funds, you must transfer the amount to an account in your own name in a Norwegian bank or deposit the amount in an account established by the educational institution for this purpose. You can document that you possess the funds by means of a transcript of your bank balance, or a confirmation from the educational institution that the money is deposited in an account. The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration is aware that it can be difficult to open an account in a Norwegian bank, if you do not have a personal number in Norway. The real alternative for most potential students is to deposit the amount in an account established by the educational institution for this purpose.
• Round-trip flight itinerary. You must leave Norway when your residence permit expires. It must be probable that you will return to your home country when you have completed your studies.
• A processing fee of NOK2,500 (about US$437) in the form credit card on your online application; the fee is nonrefundable, and may change due to exchange rate fluctuations.

► You will also find answers to many of your visa-related questions at: http://www.udi.no/Norwegian-Directorate-of-Immigration/Central-topics/Studies/How-do-I-apply-for-a-residence-permit-for-students/#studypermit or Norway’s official site in the US, or www.udi.no

How do I obtain a visa/residence permit?

A. In person. (Please note: You must apply for the visa in person if you are NOT a resident of Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, or Hawaii, and you must apply at the consulate with jurisdiction over your permanent address).

• Complete online application at https://selfservice.udi.no/. You will book an appointment for handing in your documents to the Consulate General Office or Embassy.

• Take the above documents to the Norwegian consulate that has jurisdiction over your permanent address: http://www.norway.org/Embassy/.

• Call the consulate before you visit to verify hours of operation and location.

• Avoid waiting until the last minute to apply for your visa, as omitting one document or failing to complete a form completely may delay the processing of your visa for weeks.

B. Via mail

If you reside in Washington, Oregon, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska, or Hawaii and chose to apply for your visa via mail rather than in person, you should:

• Complete online application at https://selfservice.udi.no/.

• Send all documents, including your passport, via FedEx, US Overnight Mail, or other express mail service that provides a tracking number for your parcel, to the consulate. Keep a photocopy of all documents for yourself.

• Submit NOK2,500 (about US$437) application fee in the form of credit card when you complete your online application.

• Enclose a postage paid FedEx/US Overnight Mail envelope addressed to yourself.

• Apply early: according the Consulate's website, the process usually takes a few weeks and cannot be started until all paperwork is submitted.

• Be sure all documents are in order. Missing documents may cause delays in the processing of your application.

• Do not leave the country until you have received your passport and visa.

General tips for applying for a visa:

Foreign embassies and consulates in the US receive hundreds of inquires every day so contacting them may be a trying experience. Have patience. Some consulates only receive visitors or calls during certain hours of the day or on certain days of the week; visit their website to learn their hours or call back at different times of the day. You may find that you are placed on hold or that your call is never forwarded to the appropriate person. Don't be discouraged: be persistent, but polite. Remember that US consulates in foreign countries operate in a similar fashion!

Norwegian Consulates

Hand in your application to the Consulate General that covers your state of residence. The offices are located in Houston, Washington, DC, New York, and San Francisco, and their jurisdictions are:

Houston
States served: Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Florida, and Alabama as well as Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Haiti, and Jamaica.
Address: 3410 West Dallas Street, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77019
Phone: (713) 620-4200  
E-mail: cg.houston@mfa.no

Embassy, Washington, D.C.  
States served: Washington, D.C., Maryland, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin.  
Address: 2720 34th Street NW, Washington, DC 20008  
Phone: (202) 333-6000  
E-mail: emb.washington@mfa.no

Consulate General New York  
Phone: (212) 421-7333  
E-mail: cons.gen.newyork@mfa.no

Consulate General San Francisco  
Address: 20 California Street, Sixth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111-4803  
Phone: (415) 986-0766  
e-mail: cons.gen.sanfrancisco@mfa.no

Honorary Consulate General Minnesota  
States served: Minnesota.  
Address: 901 Marquette Ave. S, Suite 2750, Minneapolis, MN 55402  
Phone: (612) 332-3338  
e-mail: hcg.minneapolis@mfa.no