

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 Direct 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?

You need the following documents to apply for a visa (also called a "residence permit"):

- A 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 application for residence permit (3 pages). Remember to provide the exact dates of your stay in Norway;
 - ◆ To obtain this document go online to:
<http://www.udi.no/Global/upload/Skjema/OppholdArbeid/GP7028En.pdf>
- Two passport size photos
- A 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.
 - ◆ Include your acceptance letter from UM *and* your acceptance letter from your host institution. If the acceptance letter from your host institution has not arrived within two months prior to your departure, please notify UM's Office of International Programs.
- Written proof of your housing arrangements in Norway (i.e. a rental agreement); if your housing will be through your school, they will provide a letter stating that you have housing waiting when you arrive, 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 that you have sufficient funds to cover your stay in Norway (US\$980-1300/month is considered the minimum) from a Norwegian bank account. 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. However, if you are an exchange student traveling to Norway as part of an exchange agreement and will receive federal student loans or aid, you must submit documentation of this funding (i.e., your acceptance letter for the exchange program from us or your host university). This would be sufficient proof of funding for your host institution in Norway. You would not need to transfer any money to Norway, which is normally required for international students paying tuition to their host school.
- 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. This can be shown with a round-trip flight itinerary.
- Written proof of any scholarship that you have received.

- A processing fee of about US\$187 in the form of cash or credit card; the fee is nonrefundable, and may change due to exchange rate fluctuations.
- ▶ **Attention:** This list may not be all-inclusive! Verify this information with the consulate, as the application process can change or may even vary by consulate.
- ▶ You will also find answers to many of your visa-related questions at:
<http://www.norway.org> , 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 residence, not your school residence**).

- Take the above documents to the Norwegian consulate that has jurisdiction over your state of residence. (The Norwegian consulate also processes visa applications by mail, see below).
- 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:

- 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 \$187 application fee in the form of a money order to the Consulate General of Norway (no cash unless you apply in person!) --consulates will not accept personal checks.
- 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

Send you 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 as follows:

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

Washington

States served: Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Bahamas.

Address: 2720 34th Street NW, Washington, DC 20008

Phone: (202) 333-6000

E-mail: emb.washington@mfa.no

New York

States served: New York, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and West Virginia.

Phone: (212) 421-7333

E-mail: cons.gen.newyork@mfa.no

San Francisco

States served: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Address: 20 California Street, Sixth Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111-4803

Phone: (415) 986-0766

e-mail: cons.gen.sanfrancisco@mfa.no