

General recognition of foreign higher education in Norway

www.mic.gov.ru

NOKUT

Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education

Department of Foreign Education

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

<http://www.nokut.no>

Difference between academic and professional recognition

- The recognition system in Norway is divided between academic recognition and professional recognition.
- Relevant competent authorities provide professional recognition for specific professions, such as health care professionals and teachers.
- The responsibility for academic recognition however, is divided between Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) and higher educational institutions such as colleges and universities.
- NOKUT provides a type of academic recognition called general recognition.

General recognition of foreign higher education

- General recognition is a system-based assessment where the foreign qualification is compared to the Norwegian system of higher education.
- NOKUT's recognition is used mainly for the Norwegian labor market where the professions are not regulated by national legislation.
- The foreign qualifications are recognized as equivalent to a degree or part of a degree in the Norwegian degree system.
- General recognition is a flexible way of recognition, as it is not bound to the content of the degree, the quality of the degree or grades.

Legal framework

Recognition of foreign qualifications shall be given in accordance with Norwegian laws and international agreements which Norway has ratified

National legislation

The Act of 1. April 2005 no. 15 relating to universities and university colleges

International agreements

- The Lisbon Recognition Convention. Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the European region (1997/ratified in 1999)

EU legislation

- EU directive. 2005/36/EU Mutual recognition of professional qualifications for regulated professions



Legally binding decisions

- National legislation require that NOKUT issue legally binding decisions, in which the foreign education is recognized according to the Norwegian educational system.
- The decision contains information regarding the foreign degrees applied for, NOKUT's conclusion and grounds for the decision. Applicants have a right to appeal NOKUT's decisions, cf. the Public Administration Act § 28 and the Lisbon Recognition Convention article III.5.
- An external appeal board is assigned by the Ministry of Higher Education and Research and the members of this board shall assess if NOKUT has acted in compliance with legislation, guidelines and precedence.

Recognition of higher education

Two important categories:

1. Professions that are regulated by law.
2. Professions that are NOT regulated by law.



Professional recognition (authorisation) of regulated professions is compulsory.

- 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/>

- Applicants have to send an application to the particular recognition office.
- Applications from EU citizens will be processed in accordance with EU directives.
- Applications from other countries will be assessed more thoroughly.



Authorisation/regulated professions

Examples:

1. **The Norwegian Authorisation Authority for Health Personell (SAK);** health professions (audiologist, care worker/second level nurse, health care worker, dental technician, dentist, general nurse, general practitioner). <http://www.sak.no/english/Sider/default.aspx>
2. **The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training;** educational head or manager of kindergarten, teacher in primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school). <http://www.udir.no/Regelverk/Recognition-of-teacher-qualifications/>
3. **Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway;** real estate, economy and finance (tax adviser/accountant, real estate agent, debt-collector).
4. **The Directorate for Civil Protection and Emergency Planning (DSB);** electrical professions. <http://www.dsb.no/no/toppmeny/English/Electrical-safety1/Foreign-electrical-skilled-workers/>

General recognition from NOKUT

- NOKUT's general recognition is meant for the Norwegian labor market for non-regulated professions.
- The procedure results in a legally binding decision.
- 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»

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 gauging 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.

10 på topp etter 1. kvartal 2015

| Land | Antall søkere |
|---------------|---------------|
| Polen | 218 |
| Litauen | 162 |
| Serbia | 157 |
| Filippinene | 101 |
| Storbritannia | 61 |
| Russland | 53 |
| Syria | 51 |
| India | 44 |
| Ukraina | 44 |
| Pakistan | 36 |



International and national cooperation

- NOKUT cooperates with other **ENIC/NARIC** offices, especially the Nordic ENIC/NARIC offices (**NORRIC** network).
- NOKUT is also the designated **National Contact Point (NCP) for the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF)**, and works to disseminate information about the framework to target groups such as the higher education sector and employers.
- NOKUT also actively supports the Norwegian government's initiative to revitalize existing **regional conventions and to work for the establishment of a global convention.**