

## Please read this information!

You have received an assessment of your foreign education from NOKUT. Here you will find information about the assessment and your options.

### The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)

Recognition of foreign qualifications can be done by different authorities, depending on the purpose of the recognition. NOKUT's mandate includes assessing foreign higher education qualifications for general recognition and providing information about all the recognition and authorisation schemes for foreign education in Norway. Recognition by NOKUT is done in accordance with international treaties that Norway has ratified, including the Lisbon Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications concerning Higher Education in the European Region.

### What does general recognition mean?

General recognition is an academic approval of a foreign higher education programme. The recognition is system-based, meaning that the foreign education programme is assessed in relation to the Norwegian degree system. The decision describes the scope and level of the education programme, i.e. how many credits it confers and whether it is comparable to a Norwegian degree (university college graduate, bachelor, master or PhD). The assessment is a legally binding decision.

### What NOKUT assesses in the recognition process:

- the formal status (accreditation) of the educational institution and the qualification in the country where the applicant studied
- the scope and level of the education

### What NOKUT does not assess:

- education programmes that are not recognised as higher education programmes in the country where the applicant studied
- education at the upper secondary level (craft or journeyman's certificate)
- higher education entrance qualification
- tertiary vocational education
- the academic content of a foreign study programme in relation to a specific Norwegian study programme
- specific competence/occupations/professions
- education taken in Norway
- work experience

### General recognition can be used for:

- **Work purposes:** The recognition can be used in connection with applications for work in professions not regulated by law. It can also be used as a basis for deciding the pay grade.
- **Admission to further studies:** Some educational institutions require recognition by NOKUT. Contact the educational institution for more information. Read about studies in Norway: [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no)

### General recognition is not necessary if you wish:

- **To gain admission to a first degree/ bachelor's degree programme:** If you wish to study at the undergraduate (bachelor) level, you normally apply through the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service (Samordna opptak). Note that general recognition may be required for admission to a few study programmes. More information: [www.samordnaopptak.no](http://www.samordnaopptak.no)
- **To work in a regulated profession:** In Norway, many professions are regulated by law, for example the health professions. This means that you need an authorisation to work in these professions. An overview of industries/professions regulated by law and information about how to apply can be found at: [www.nokut.no/list-of-professions](http://www.nokut.no/list-of-professions)

### Was your application rejected?

The grounds for the rejection are stated in the decision. The most common reason for rejection is that you have applied for recognition of an education programme that NOKUT is not competent to assess. For information about other recognition schemes, see: [www.nokut.no/other-recognition-systems](http://www.nokut.no/other-recognition-systems). We also advise you to check out NOKUT's criteria at: [www.nokut.no/foreign/generalrec/criteria](http://www.nokut.no/foreign/generalrec/criteria)

### Was recognition granted for only parts of your education?

The most common reason for this is that your education does not meet the requirements set out in the GSU list. The GSU list states the requirements for the Higher Education Entrance Qualification in Norway for applicants with foreign education. For more information about the GSU list, see: [www.nokut.no/GSU-list/en](http://www.nokut.no/GSU-list/en)

## Some explanations

### Assessment of foreign master's degrees in Norway

Foreign master's degree programmes sometimes have a different structure from Norwegian master's degree programmes. Both the length of the programme and the scope of the thesis may vary in relation to what is required according to Norwegian law. NOKUT is only authorised to recognise foreign master's degrees as equivalent to either a two-year Norwegian master's degree or a five-year Norwegian master's degree. In order for a foreign master's degree to be recognised as equivalent to a Norwegian master's degree, it must meet the following requirements, among others:

1. The degree must be accredited in the country where the applicant studied
2. For the two-year programme, the degree must include an independent thesis with a scope of at least 30 credits, or
3. For the five-year programme, the degree must include an independent thesis with a scope of at least 20 credits.

Master's degrees that do not meet the requirements will be assessed and awarded a certain number of credits.

**Accreditation of education/educational institution:** Public approval of an education programme/educational institution granted by a body that has been authorised for accreditation by the competent authorities in the country where the education was taken.

## The Norwegian higher education system

PhD 3 yrs / 180 ECTS		Master 5 yrs / 300 ECTS
Master 2 yrs / 120 ECTS		
University College Candidate 2 yrs / 120 ECTS	Bachelor 3 yrs / 180 ECTS	

### Higher education in Norway:

One year's full-time study corresponds to 60 credits. The following degree programmes are currently offered in Norway:

- University college graduate
- Bachelor
- Master
- PhD

A university college graduate degree is based on a two-year programme, while a bachelor's degree is based on a three-year programme. A master's degree is based on a bachelor's degree. It is normally based on a two-year programme and comprises an independent thesis. A PhD degree is normally awarded on completion of a three-year organised doctoral degree programme.

## The Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (NQF)

NQF-levels	Description	EQF-levels	QF-EHEA Cycle
1	No qualifications at this level	1	
2	Primary and secondary qualifications	2	
3	Partially completed upper secondary education and training	3	
4 A	Craft certificate, Journeyman's certificate, Certificate for upper secondary education and training	4	
4 B	Certificate for upper secondary education and training		
5.1	Tertiary vocational qualifications 1	5	
5.2	Tertiary vocational qualifications 2		
6.1	University college graduate (Høgskolekandidat)	6	First cycle (Partial level)
6.2	Bachelor		First cycle (Bachelor's degree)
7	Master	7	Second cycle (Master's degree)
8	PhD	8	Third cycle (PhD)

**NQF:** The Norwegian Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning provides an overview of the educational levels in Norway. The NQF levels are referenced to the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF). The qualification frameworks make it easier to compare qualifications from different countries.

**EQF:** The European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning <http://ec.europa.eu/ploteus/>

**QF-EHEA:** The overarching framework of qualifications of the European Higher Education Area

You can read more about the NQF on NOKUT's website: [www.nokut.no/nkr](http://www.nokut.no/nkr)