

Information about NOKUT's decision

You have received a decision letter evaluating your foreign qualifications and studies against the Norwegian higher education system. This information note will help you understand this decision and the context in which NOKUT has evaluated your qualifications.

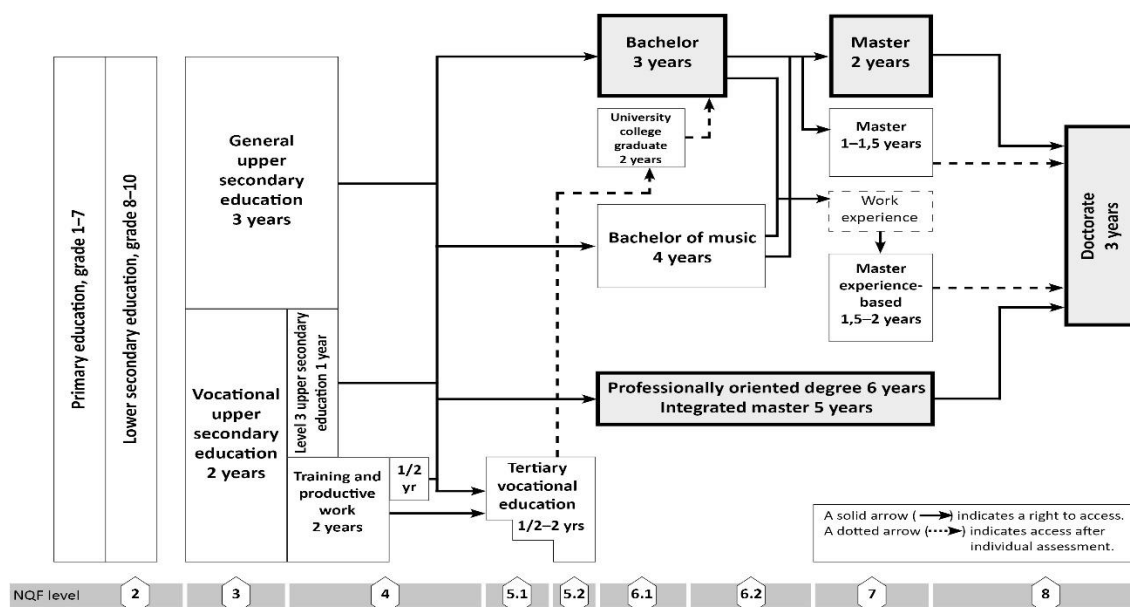
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1. NOKUT's evaluation may contain the following information:

Oppnådd grad/kvalifikasjon:	The name or title of the degree or qualification you have obtained.
Utdanningsstatus:	If you have not completed your qualification, the status of your studies will be marked as interrupted (“ <i>avbrutt utdanning</i> ”).
Type dokumentasjon:	The type of document our evaluation is based on, if relevant.
Utstedt av:	Name of the awarding institution/authority.
Land:	The country where you obtained your qualification, or in which the awarding institution's head office is located.
Avslutningsår:	The year you completed your qualification.
Fagområde:	The field of study if relevant.
Normert studietid:	The official length of the program leading up to the qualification when taken full-time.
Studieperiode:	The period of time over which the qualification was obtained.
Antall fullførte år/semester:	Information regarding the scope of your completed studies.
Vurdering:	NOKUT evaluates your qualification's scope and level, and what it matches to in the Norwegian education system. It also refers to the scope of the corresponding Norwegian qualification, and – if the studies cannot be recognized – the amount of semesters and years you have passed.
Begrunnelser/Tilleggsopplysninger:	Information related to the assessment of the qualification. We often use this section when the qualification is partially recognized or not recognized at all. It contains further details about how we have come to this conclusion, and may refer to further regulations and explanations regarding the expressions used in the decision letter or the evaluation itself.

NOKUT's general recognition is an academic recognition of foreign higher education qualifications. Our evaluation is system-based, which means that we evaluate foreign qualifications in relation to the Norwegian education system described below.

2. The Norwegian education system



Norway's higher general education system is composed of bachelor's degrees with a length of three years, corresponding to 180 ECTS; master's degrees with a length of two years, corresponding to 120 ECTS; and of PhDs with a length of three years.

University College candidate degrees have a length of two years, corresponding to 120 ECTS. Integrated master's degrees have a length up to five years, corresponding to 300 ECTS, whereas experience-based master's degrees have a length from one-and-a-half year up to two years, corresponding to 90 up to 120 ECTS. Shorter master's degrees correspond to 60 to 90 ECTS. Certain integrated professional degrees have a length up to six years, corresponding to 360 ECTS.

3. The National Qualifications Framework for Life-Long Learning

The National Qualifications Framework for Life-Long Learning (NKR) provides an overview of the various education levels that exist in Norway and shows how qualifications are placed in relation to each other in the Norwegian education system. This framework refers exclusively to the Norwegian education system. It helps to compare qualifications from different countries. More information regarding the National Qualifications Framework for Life-Long Learning [here](#).

NKR level		EQF level	QF-EHEA cycles
1	There are no qualifications at this level in Norway	1	
2	Certificate for primary and lower secondary education	2	

3	Document of competence in basic competence, partially completed upper secondary education	3	
4A	Certificate of completed vocational and professional upper secondary education	4	
4B	Certificate of completed upper general upper secondary education		
5.1	Diploma for tertiary vocational education 1	5	
5.2	Diploma for tertiary vocational education 2		
6.1	University College candidate degree	6	1 st cycle (partial level of qualifications / intermediate qualifications)
6.2	Bachelor's degree		1 st cycle (bachelor's degree)
7	Master's degree	7	2 nd cycle (master's degree)
8	PhD	8	3 rd cycle (PhD)

EQF: [The European Qualification Framework for Life-Long Learning](#)

QF-EHEA: The overall European Qualification Framework for Higher Education.

4. How does NOKUT evaluate your qualification?

General recognition of foreign higher education qualifications is based on the evaluation of *formal and documented education qualifications*. NOKUT's evaluations are system-based with regard to the level and scope of the qualifications in question. NOKUT does not evaluate the academic content of qualifications.

NOKUT does not evaluate shorter courses, work experience or prior learning. NOKUT does not evaluate studies with a duration less than one semester.

What NOKUT does:

- Checks the documents attached to the application and determines their authenticity.
- Investigates whether the institution providing the qualification and/or the programme leading to the qualification is accredited by the public authority responsible for higher education in the country of origin.
- Considers whether the foreign qualification is on the level of Norwegian higher education by comparing the education system in the country of origin with the Norwegian education system. If there are substantial differences between the education systems in Norway and the country of origin, NOKUT will not recognise the first year or the first two years of the foreign qualification as corresponding to higher education in Norway. More information [here](#).
- Determines which level the qualification corresponds to in the Norwegian higher education system. In other words, whether the qualification in question is at the same level as a Norwegian University college candidate degree, as a Norwegian Bachelor's or Master's degree or PhD.
- Examines the length (scope) of the study in terms of full years of study and/or in terms of work load.
- Determines whether the qualification can be recognised as equal to one of the degrees that exist in the Norwegian education system. NOKUT evaluates the qualification against an existing Norwegian degree. If the length of the study is longer than that of a Norwegian degree, NOKUT will only precise what degree this education matches to in the Norwegian education system.

- Reviews the profile of the qualification, whether it is based on academic or professional studies, whether it involves thesis work, and whether it gives access to further studies or if it is job market-oriented.
- NOKUT assesses the qualification's learning outcomes whenever possible. We consider that such learning outcomes must derive from a qualification framework.

More information regarding NOKUT's guidelines on evaluation criteria for general recognition of foreign higher qualifications [here](#).

5. The legal basis for general recognition and for NOKUT's mandate

When receiving individual applications for the recognition of foreign higher education qualifications, NOKUT determines if a foreign qualification can be granted general recognition and be considered as equal to a Norwegian higher education qualification, ref. *Act relating to universities and university colleges § 3-4*.

6. Right to appeal

If you appeal a decision, NOKUT is bound to proceed with a new assessment of your qualification. If NOKUT cannot accommodate the appeal, the case is forwarded to NOKUT's external Appeals Board (*Klagenemnda*).

The Appeals Board is not entitled to overrule NOKUT's assessment pertaining to the length (scope) of a qualification, the level at which it has been placed (bachelor's, master's degrees or PhD), or whether it can be considered as equal to a Norwegian degree. The Board is not entitled to reconsider evaluations made by NOKUT's experts. The Appeals Board will reject all appeals related to these points.

The Appeals Board can, however, determine if NOKUT has made a mistake in its assessment process (for example, if we have not respected the principle of good management or if we have misinterpreted the law).

If you disagree with NOKUT's evaluation of the scope, the level, or the corresponding degree in Norway, we recommend you to contact NOKUT for further information regarding the decision before placing a complaint. Please use the application portal to contact us or place a complaint.

7. NOKUT's other recognition schemes

In addition to the general recognition of foreign higher education qualifications, NOKUT provides the following recognition schemes:

- [Recognition of foreign tertiary vocational education](#)
- [Recognition of foreign vocational education and training](#)
- [Recognition of teacher qualifications – school and kindergarten](#)

8. What can NOKUT's general recognition of foreign higher education qualifications be used for?

NOKUT's decision of general recognition primarily addresses the job market, and you may use it in a job application process for non-regulated professions. This decision may also help determining the level of your salary.

9. Admission to further studies

The following rules apply for admission to further studies:

- **Admission to higher education / bachelor's level:** if you wish to enroll in studies at bachelor's level, you normally apply via the Norwegian Universities and Colleges Admission Service (Samordna opptak, click [here](#) for more information). Bear in mind that some private institutions have their own admission procedures.
- **Admission to master's degrees:** each institution has its own admission requirements. Contact the relevant institution to know more about their requirements.
- **Admission to PhD:** each institution has its own admission requirements. You normally need to have a two-year master's degree in the relevant field of study to be able to start a PhD. Universities Norway (*Universitets- og Høgskolerådet*, [UHR](#)) provides a set of guidelines for PhDs. If you are going to apply for a PhD, you should contact the relevant institution beforehand to know what their requirements are.

More information about studying in Norway:

- [Utdanning.no](#)
- [Study in Norway](#)

10. Information regarding authorization/recognition of professional qualifications

To exercise regulated professions in Norway, you need to obtain authorization or professional recognition. Nurses, lawyers and teachers are examples of such regulated professions. If you wish to exercise a regulated profession, you must apply to the responsible authority for professional recognition or authorization.

NOKUT's general recognition does not correspond to professional recognition or authorization.

You will find an overview of regulated professions in Norway and which authority to contact on our [website](#).

We hope NOKUT's decision of general recognition of foreign higher education qualifications will be of good help!