


# White Paper on professional studies

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 NORWAY

## Timeline

2023 Design 2024 Approved/Agreed

ID number 43665

## Background

Norway is expected to face great needs for competence and manpower within a number of disciplines, especially within professional studies, considering the demographic calculations for Norway. This is particularly true in the fields of health, welfare and education, but also in engineering, as in location development and spatial planning, where the need for skilled manpower continues to grow.

Some studies in higher education qualify students for specific professions, such as teacher. Many of these professions are regulated by law and require authorisation, or they have certain formal requirements in their studies. Others do not, but still qualify students for a specific profession.

A White Paper on professional studies is a government measure to meet the need for more skilled manpower within these professions (such as lawyer, doctor, nurse, engineer).

## Objectives

The government's aim is to have quality education in these professional studies and to ensure that Norway has enough employees with the right skills, at the right time, across the country.

## Description

The government has high ambitions for these professional studies, which will be collected in a White Paper, expected in 2024.

Feedback meetings are organised to identify the challenges from the municipalities' perspective and listen to local and regional actors about what is needed to strengthen the capacity, quality and diversity of the studies in these specific fields of higher education.

The Ministry of Education and Research is planning six feedback meetings around the country in the period January - March 2023 on a draft White Paper on professional studies to be published in 2024. Universities and colleges, students, representatives from the labour market, etc., will be invited to the meetings. The purpose of the meetings is to map the most important challenges and discuss proposals for solutions. After the feedback meetings, from around Easter time until the summer, everyone will have the opportunity to

submit written input.

### 2023 Design

The Ministry's first step was to organise feedback meetings. Stakeholders, including universities and university colleges, students, labour market representatives, and the National Council for Higher VET, were invited. The meetings mapped out the most important challenges and discussed potential solutions. Following the information meetings, written contributions were received from Easter to summer 2023.

### 2024 Approved/Agreed

On 5 April, the Ministry of Education and Research published the White Paper on professional studies in higher education. The White Paper focuses mainly on studies with framework-governed study plans, like teaching, engineering, and health and social studies. Measures from the White Paper aim to make education more flexible and practice-oriented. Changes in the admission rules are also foreseen, and the government planned to open up pilot projects where craft certificates as admission requirements for health studies are to be tested. The government also aims to improve the information for persons applying for approval of foreign education or vocational education.

## Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

## Target group

### Learners

Adult learners

## Thematic categories

### Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

## European priorities in VET

### Osnabrück Declaration

Establishing a new lifelong learning culture - relevance of continuing VET and digitalisation

## Subsystem

CVET

## Further reading

[News item](#)

[White Paper on professional studies](#)

## Related policy developments

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2024 Completed

### Reviewing the admission regulation to higher education

The Norwegian government has appointed a committee of stakeholders to conduct a comprehensive review and assess the regulations for admission to higher education.

 NORWAY

**Type of development**

Regulation/Legislation

**Subsystem**

CVET

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“ ... ” **Cite as**

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