

Reviewing the admission regulation to higher education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 NORWAY

Timeline

2021 Design

2022 Design

2023 Legislative process

2024 Completed

ID number 41552

Background

Every year, more than a hundred thousand people in Norway apply for higher education, and there is reason to believe that more people will want to access this level in the future. Educational choices are one of the most important choices in life and in both upper secondary education and higher education there lies a responsibility for ensuring that higher education applicants can make informed choices. Therefore, it is important that the rules for admission to higher education are holistic and easy to understand. Today's admission regulations have changed and adapted to different needs since 2007 and the time has come for a complete review.

Objectives

The objective is to develop recommendations on new admission regulations for higher education.

The overall goal is to grant everyone equal opportunities to study. The choice of education should be determined by abilities and desires rather than social background. It is also a priority to make higher education more accessible and enable more people to attend continuing and further education. The goal is to attract more international students, and to have a better gender balance and increased diversity.

Description

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

The committee is to make recommendations to the Ministry of Education and Research on the creation of understandable and flexible admission regulations, which ensure applicant legal rights, and can be adapted to the future of higher education and technological development. The new regulations are expected to:

- (a) ensure that the admission regulations are easy, fair and readable for applicants;
- (b) enable learners from upper secondary education and others to make informed educational choices, without any delays;
- (c) contribute to the best possible use of human resources;

- (d) contribute to an understanding of the competition for and the distribution of study places;
- (e) ensure that the regulations contribute to covering the competence needs in working life and are not obstacles for a diverse and gender-balanced working life;
- (f) ensure that they are efficient and digitisation friendly.

2021 Design

The committee was established on 22 April 2021. The committee consisted of members from pupil and student organisations, different directorates, principals, CEOs, and professors. The committee is expected to submit a suggestion at the end of 2022.

2022 Design

In December 2022, the committee published a report with suggestions to completely reform the admissions system for higher education at universities and university colleges. The suggestions were put out for public consultation until March 2023.

2023 Legislative process

The consultation input were processed by the Ministry of Education.

2024 Completed

In April 2024, new admission rules to higher education were approved to be implemented most of them from 2027, at the earliest, so future applicants can be well acquainted with the admissions rules before choosing subjects in further education. The main changes are as follows:

- (a) reducing maximum possible additional credit points from 14 to 3 for taking science subjects in upper secondary school and military service;
- (b) removing grade requirements for nursing studies;
- (c) replacing the gender point for study programmes with an imbalance between the sexes by gender quotas.

There were no changes directly affecting students with a vocational education background. Two years (120 credits) of higher vocational education gives access to higher education at universities and university colleges.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Learners

Young people (15-29 years old)

Other

Potential students in academic higher education, both young and adults

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Engaging VET stakeholders and strengthening partnerships in VET

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[News item on the committee](#)

[Mandate for committee to review the regulations for admission to higher education](#)

[Report on admission to higher academic education](#)

[News item about admission regulation rules changes](#)

Related policy developments

2025 Completed

White Paper on professional studies

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

 NORWAY

Type of development

Practical
measure/Initiative

Subsystem

CVET

“ … ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Reviewing the admission regulation to higher education: Norway. In Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). *Timeline of VET policies in Europe* (2025 update) [Online tool].

<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies-europe/search/41552>