


Financial and psychological support measures for students in response to COVID-19 crisis

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL MEASURE/INITIATIVE

 NORWAY

Timeline

2020 **Approved/Agreed** 2021 **Completed**

ID number 39027

Background

The pandemic has hit hard through strict infection control rules, unemployment and loss of social contact. As a result, many students, including VET students at vocational colleges (EQF level 5), are struggling with financial and psychological issues. Most VET students at vocational colleges are in the 25-29 age group.

Objectives

The government has implemented several measures aimed at students to counteract these negative consequences.

Description

In 2020, the government agreed several measures:

- (a) vocational colleges, colleges and universities receive funding to pay students to conduct academic follow up of other students;
- (b) the student organisations receive funding to pay students to start social, low-threshold services, such as social activities for students;
- (c) the student organisations receive funding for social, low-threshold services for mental health work;
- (d) the mental health student support telephone line receive extra funding to increase its capacity.

Additional measures are in the legislative process.

2020 **Approved/Agreed**

Legislative process in place:

- (a) students who have lost income due to the pandemic can apply for an additional loan;
- (b) a temporary exception is made from the absenteeism requirement for the spring

semester 2021, which means that students can stay at home with parents and keep the right to have their loan converted into a scholarship;
(c) a temporary exemption has been granted for the income limit throughout the year for students working in the health and care sector, police students and students who are ordered to carry out emergency work through the Home Guard or the Civil Defence.

2021 Completed

The COVID-19 pandemic is no longer considered a threat in Norway, and measures in response to COVID-19 crisis are completed.

Bodies responsible

- Ministry of Education and Research (KD)

Target group

Other

Higher vocational education students

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Ensuring equal opportunities and inclusiveness in education and training

Subsystem

CVET

Further reading

[Link to information about measures for students](#)

[Link to public consultation on regulation](#)

“ ... ” Cite as

Cedefop, & ReferNet. (2026). Financial and psychological support measures for students in response to COVID-19 crisis: 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/39027>

