

LOOK UP



STUDY IN  
**NORWAY.**

# GUIDE TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN NORWAY. LOOK UP AND DISCOVER.

## SOME FACTS ABOUT NORWAY

**OFFICIAL NAME:** The Kingdom of Norway

**LOCATION:** Northern Europe with borders to Finland, Sweden, Russia, the North Sea and the North Atlantic Ocean

**AREA:** The Kingdom of Norway: 385,155 km<sup>2</sup>

**MAINLAND:** 323,758 km<sup>2</sup>

**SVALBARD AND JAN MAYEN:** 61,397 km<sup>2</sup>

**LENGTH OF COASTLINE:** 25,148 km, including fjords

**LARGEST LAKE:** Mjøsa, 362 km<sup>2</sup>

**HIGHEST MOUNTAIN:** Galdhøpiggen, 2,469 m

**POPULATION:** 4 799 252 (01.01.2009)

**CAPITAL CITY:** Oslo

**SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT:** Constitutional monarchy

**LANGUAGE:** Norwegian Bokmål and Nynorsk and in some districts also Sámi

**MONETARY UNIT:** Norwegian kroner, NOK

**TERRAIN:** 31 National Parks and 11 glaciers

**NATURAL RESOURCES:** Petroleum, copper, natural gas, fish, timber, hydropower

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# ABOUT THIS BROCHURE

In this brochure you will find a short description of Norway's educational system, information about our target areas within research and some practical information about how to apply for a student residence permit. In addition you will also find a general description of life in Norway, including some useful facts about the Norwegian society.

Internationalisation of higher education has been an important factor for the development of programmes and degrees taught in English. Currently more than 200 Masters programmes taught in English are available to students, covering a wide range of subject areas. Most of the institutions are also offering courses in English at Bachelor's and Ph.D. level.

Norway is one of the leading countries conforming to the guidelines from the Bologna Process in European higher education. The degree system based on the Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. structure has been successfully implemented together with the ECTS credit system. The European standard in higher education makes it easier for students to obtain recognition of their qualifications if they wish to study in different countries.

There are about 70 universities and university colleges in Norway. They are located throughout the country in cities, towns and in the countryside. Student mobility and international cooperation are key objectives for the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research. Presently, 14,000 foreign students are studying in Norway and we look forward to welcoming many more!

For more detailed information about living and studying in Norway, please visit our website: [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no). This portal is the official gateway to higher education in Norway.

**WELCOME TO NORWAY!**





# ASPIRE.

Come to Norway for an academic environment that lets you pursue your highest ambitions, and for a society, culture and nature from which you can draw inspiration and a wealth of unique experiences.

**INSPIRE.**



## THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM IN NORWAY

“Education for all” is the basic principle of the Norwegian educational system. According to the law, every child is ensured a minimum of 13 years education, regardless of social or cultural background and possible special needs. The Ministry of Education and Research is determined to make the Norwegian educational system one of the best in the world, based on the framework of lifelong learning.

### PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Compulsory schooling in Norway is ten years and children start school at the age of six. Everyone between the ages of 16 and 19 has had a statutory right to three years’ upper secondary education leading either to higher education or to vocational qualifications.

Norway has a uniform upper secondary school, combining general theoretical education and vocational training and giving equal status to practical and theoretical education. General theoretical education and vocational training are offered side by side, often in the same school building.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

Norway has seven accredited universities, eight accredited specialised universities, 24 accredited university colleges, two accredited national institutes of the arts and 29 private institutions of higher education with either institutional or programme accreditation.

The system of higher education comprises all the institutions and/or programmes that are accredited. With the exception of the private university colleges, all higher education institutions are public and owned by the state.



The state university college system was established to decentralise and increase the availability of higher education throughout Norway. The university colleges offer Bachelor and Masters programmes and a number of vocationally-oriented programmes. The duration of the study programmes are normally two to four years. Some of the undergraduate courses are interchangeable between the universities and university colleges. Many students combine courses from both types of institutions to complete their degrees.

As a rule, tuition is not required to study at Norwegian higher education institutions, although fees may be imposed for certain professional education programmes, and specialised education programmes, mainly those offered by the private institutions.

In addition to their teaching activities, all higher education institutions, and particularly the universities, are responsible for conducting basic research as well as researcher training. This is primarily done through graduate-level studies and doctoral degree programmes. The academic year runs from mid-August to June.

### **DEGREE SYSTEM**

Norway has adapted to the objectives of the Bologna process in the European higher education. A central issue has been the implementation of a 3 + 2 + 3 degree system with a Bachelor, Master and Ph.D. structures following European standards.

With the introduction of the new degree system it has become easier for students who complete all, or part of their education in Norway, to obtain recognition for their qualifications in other countries.



The “Høgskolekandidat” degree is obtained after two years of study. This degree may be built upon to obtain a Bachelor’s degree. The degree is offered at state university colleges and a few private institutions.

The Bachelor’s degree is awarded by all the state universities, specialised university institutions, university colleges and a good number of the other higher education institutions, both private and public. It is obtained after three years of study. The national academies of the arts offer a Bachelor’s degree of four years’ duration.

The Master’s degree is awarded by the state universities and specialised university institutions, several university colleges and some private institutions. The degree is obtained after 1–2 years of study. An important part of this degree is independent research work of 30–60 ECTS credits.

For internationalisation purposes, a number of Master’s degree courses in English have been introduced at the universities and university colleges, and at some private institutions.

Various professional qualifications are awarded by all the state higher education institutions and a number of the private higher education institutions. These programmes/degrees are of four to six years’ duration and cover both regulated and non-regulated professions.

The Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) is awarded after three years of study following completion of a Master’s degree or a professional degree/programme. Doctoral programmes, which are essentially research programmes, are offered by all university-level institutions, some state university colleges and a few private institutions.

### **CREDIT SYSTEM AND GRADING**

The academic year normally runs from mid-August to mid-June and lasts for 10 months. Courses are measured in credits according to the ECTS standard (European Credit Transfer System). The full-time workload for one academic year is 60 ECTS credits.

Grades for undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate examinations are awarded according to a graded scale from A (highest) to F (lowest), with E as the minimum pass grade. A pass/fail mark is given for some examinations.

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## RESEARCH

Through internationalisation, basic research and innovation, Norway seeks to become a leading nation within research. The list below shows some of the appointed target areas for Norwegian research:

- > Energy and the environment
- > Food
- > Oceans
- > Health

Priority technology areas

- > Information and communications technology (ICT)
- > Biotechnology
- > New materials and nanotechnology

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) plays a vital role in developing and implementing the national strategy. RCN acts as a government adviser identifying present and future needs for knowledge and research, and provides funding for independent research, as well as for research programmes and Norwegian participation in international research.

In order to ensure quality in research, 21 Centres of Excellence and 14 Centres for Research-based Innovation (CRIs) have been established with the intention to bring more researchers and research groups to a high international standard. The purpose of the Centres for Research-based Innovation (CRIs) is to build up and strengthen Norwegian research groups that work in close collaboration with partners from innovative industry and innovative public enterprises.

Students and researchers who are looking to do research projects in Norway may find it useful to take a look at the International Scholarship Section at the website [www.rcn.no](http://www.rcn.no)

The website is hosted by the Research Council of Norway and provides more information and facts and figures about research activities in Norway.

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## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

The Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) is an independent state body whose purpose is to safeguard and develop the quality of Norwegian higher educational institutions. This is done through evaluation, accreditation and recognition of quality systems, institutions and study programmes. NOKUT also handles individual applications for recognition of foreign higher education.

A list has been compiled to provide information on what the minimum academic qualifications/entry requirements are for applicants with foreign education. This compilation of country-specific information is called the GSU-list and states what level of education applicants from different countries need to meet for entry into Norwegian higher education, including requirements concerning proficiency in English.

An updated version of the GSU list can be found at [www.nokut.no/sw14437.asp](http://www.nokut.no/sw14437.asp)

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELOR PROGRAMMES**

Completion of secondary education at advanced level, equivalent to passing the exam at the end of Norwegian upper secondary school, is the basic requirement for entry to Norwegian universities and university colleges. Please check the link [www.nokut.no/sw14437.asp](http://www.nokut.no/sw14437.asp), for more relevant information regarding your country. Some university and university college programmes have special entry requirements, usually relating to specialist subjects or fields of study from secondary school. The particular institution will provide information about these special qualifications, which will be assessed when a concrete application is made to a programme of study.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER PROGRAMMES**

Admission requirements are decided by each university and university college based on an academic evaluation of the applicants.



Admission requirements are decided by each university and university college based on an academic evaluation of the applicants.

Applicants for master programmes have normally obtained an undergraduate/Bachelor's degree or equivalent of at least 3 years' duration. The degree must include courses equal to at least 1 1/2 years of full-time studies in a subject relevant to that of the programme applied for.

In special cases, the first (and sometimes the second) year of study at a foreign higher education institution will not be recognised as higher education in Norway.

If you require further information, please contact the different institutions directly.

### **LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

Please note that the requirements listed below are general. The institutions may have additional requirements for certain programmes.

The requirements for an English test may be waived for the following applicants:

- > Applicants from the EU/EEC and/or The European Council/UNESCO-Cepes, who have attended a minimum of seven years of English as foreign language in secondary and upper secondary school.
- > Applicants who have successfully completed a Bachelor's degree conducted using English as the primary language of study.
- > Applicants with an A-level exam in English from upper secondary school.

Applicants who cannot meet the English language requirements may present one of the following tests or exams:

- > Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 500 (paper based) or 170 (computer based).
- > International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) with a minimum score of 5.0.
- > Advanced Placement International English Language examination (APIEL) with a minimum score of 3.0.
- > Universities of Cambridge/Oxford:
  - First Certificate in English
  - Certificate in Advanced English
  - Certificate of Proficiency

Additionally, you meet the requirements for English language competence if you have:

- > Completed one year of studies at the university level in an English-speaking country (Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, United Kingdom, USA) where the language of instruction is English.
- > Completed studies at university level with a major in English.

All applications should be submitted directly to the institution concerned. A complete list of the Norwegian universities and university colleges can be found on page 22. Please note that for Bachelor's programmes, knowledge of Norwegian is usually also required. Please see [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no) for more information about requirements for proficiency in Norwegian.

#### **RECOGNITION OF FOREIGN HIGHER EDUCATION QUALIFICATIONS**

The International Recognitions Unit at NOKUT is responsible for managing applications for general recognition of foreign qualifications. NOKUT handles applications for general recognition of foreign qualifications and awards a number of general ECTS credits. They also state whether the level and scope/duration of foreign qualifications is equivalent to a Norwegian degree.

For more information about recognition, please see [www.nokut.no/sw13106.asp](http://www.nokut.no/sw13106.asp)



The application for recognition may either be addressed to the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT) or to universities and university colleges.

### **DIPLOMA SUPPLEMENT**

The Diploma Supplement (DS) is an international document that gives a detailed description of the qualifications attained by a candidate. It does not replace the diploma, but supplements it. The DS has a standard layout and is divided into 8 sections. Section 8, which describes the country's system of higher education, is a standard text included in all diploma supplements issued in the country concerned. The DS is already an integral part of the electronic student registration systems at Norwegian higher education institutions. The DS is provided to graduates free of charge.

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## LIVING IN NORWAY

### **NORWEGIAN SOCIETY**

Norway has been recognised as “the best country in which to live” several times by the United Nations Human Development Report. Egalitarian values are highly respected by most Norwegians, and gender equality is well developed compared to many other countries. The Norwegian welfare state was developed after the World War II, and several decades later there is still consensus amongst Norwegian politicians about this idea. Norway has a population of 4.7 million and one of the lowest crime rates in the world.

### **STUDENT LIFE**

“Education for all” is the basic principle in Norway, and with few exceptions there are no tuition fees. Currently, there are 14,000 international students in Norway. Statistics show that the number

is growing, but there is plenty of room for more. The universities and university colleges focus on making international students feel welcome during their stay in Norway. Most of the universities and university colleges arrange special activities for the international students when they arrive.

### **LANGUAGE**

We have three official written languages in Norway; Bokmål, Nynorsk and Sami. However, if you speak English you should have no problem living here. Children start learning English at school from the age of six, and you will find that all foreign films and television series are subtitled instead of dubbed.

**NORWEGIAN CITIES AND TOWNS PROVIDE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO INDULGE IN ALL THOSE ACTIVITIES THAT ADD SPICE TO STUDENT LIFE.**



## ACTIVITIES

Most Norwegians love outdoor life and some of the world's most extreme sports can be tried here. Climbing, rafting, skiing, mountain biking, fishing, scuba diving and hunting are all popular activities. The vast areas of unspoiled nature provide some unique opportunities for pure enjoyment. Try climbing one of the many mountains; enjoy a canoe trip on the fjords, or simply take pleasure from a quiet walk in the untouched mountain areas.

## CULTURAL LIFE

Although Norwegians like to think of themselves as sporty, it is not all hiking, biking and skiing. There are plenty of clubs, bars, cinemas and theatres to choose from in Norway. World famous bands and artists visit Norway on a regular basis. You can also choose from a wide variety of

exotic restaurants in addition to the traditional Norwegian menus. The prices vary like everywhere else, and contrary to rumours, there should be nothing stopping you from including frequent restaurant visits in your student budget.

For more information, please see [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no).

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**NORWEGIANS LIKE TO WORK  
HARD, BUT THEY ALSO  
LIKE TO PLAY HARD. THEIR  
FAVOURITE PLAYGROUND IS  
THE OUTDOORS.**



## RESIDENCE PERMIT FOR STUDENTS

A foreign national who has been admitted to an approved educational institution, generally a university or university college, must obtain a student residence permit to study in Norway. All students that plan to stay in Norway longer than 90 days will need a student residence permit.

When you apply for a residence permit for students, you must submit the following documents:

### **FOR APPLICANTS FROM COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EU/EEA/EFTA**

- > Application form with (passport) photograph
- > Copy of passport
- > Documentation of admission to an approved educational institution
- > Plan of study
- > Documentation of housing
- > Documentation of financial support (loan from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund or deposits in a Norwegian bank). Subsistence is ensured at NOK 82,900 for the academic year 2007/2008. Some institutions and special programmes charge tuition fees. If you are attending one of them, you must also prove that you are able to meet this extra cost. As a general rule the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) requires the money to be deposited in a Norwegian bank account, and this account must be in the applicant's name. If the educational institution has set up an account for this purpose, the applicant may transfer his/her funds to this account.

Documentation requirements will vary from country to country and are subject to change. For more information, contact the Norwegian Foreign Service Mission closest to you ([www.norway.info](http://www.norway.info)). If you are in Norway, contact the local police or UDI.

The applicant's closest family may accompany the applicant to Norway. For information about how to apply, please see [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no)



**FOR APPLICANTS FROM EU/EEA/EFTA COUNTRIES**

- > Application form for EU/EEA/EFTA nationals with (passport) photograph
- > Documentation of admission to an approved educational institution
- > Declaration or documentation showing that subsistence is ensured. Subsistence is ensured at NOK 82,900 for the academic year 2007/08. Some institutions and special programmes charge tuition fees. If you are attending one of them, you must also prove that you are able to finance this extra cost.
- > Health insurance (private, E-form or the European Health Insurance Card) that is valid for the entire period of studies. Applicants from EU/EEA/EFTA countries may apply for the permit from Norway.

The applicant's closest family may accompany the applicant to Norway. For information about how to apply, please see [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no)

**WHERE TO APPLY**

You apply at the Norwegian Foreign Service Mission closest to you. It is important that you turn up at the office in person and show a valid identification card. Applications that are sent by post or e-mail will not be accepted and you may not travel to Norway before your application is processed by UDI. An exception is made for EU/EEA/EFTA nationals, who may enter Norway and apply from Norway. In this case you may apply to the nearest police station for processing there. You must pay a fee of NOK 1,100 when applying for a residence permit to study in Norway. Applicants from EU/EEA/EFTA countries do not pay a fee.

The application processing time varies. If you have an address in Norway you will receive an automatic notification by mail that the immigration authorities have received your application. This will also inform you about application processing time.

Please note: This information only covers the general rules. For complete information and online application forms please see the UDI's website at [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no) or call the UDI's applicant information service for updated information in Norwegian and English.

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# MENTOR.

en norske monetare pol  
stunt av Norges b

Egalitarian values are a cornerstone of the Norwegian culture. This is true both off campus and on. The relationship between lecturers and students is informal, defined by common goals and mutual respect - not by the distance from the student canteen to the professor's office.

**FRIEND.**



## UNIVERSITIES & UNIVERSITY COLLEGES

### UNIVERSITIES

#### Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB)

postmottak@umb.no  
www.umb.no

#### Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

postmottak@adm.ntnu.no  
www.ntnu.no

#### University of Agder (UiA)

postmottak@uia.no  
www.uia.no

#### University of Bergen (UiB)

post@uib.no  
www.uib.no

#### University of Oslo (UiO)

informasjon@uio.no  
www.uio.no

#### University of Stavanger (UiS)

post@uis.no  
www.uis.no

#### University of Tromsø (UiT)

postmottak@uit.no  
www.uit.no

### SPECIALISED UNIVERSITIES

#### BI - Norwegian School of Management

study@bi.no  
www.bi.no

#### MF Norwegian School of Theology

post@mf.no  
www.mf.no

#### Norwegian Academy of Music (NMH)

mh@nmh.no  
www.nmh.no

#### Norwegian School of Economics and Business Administration (NHH)

nhh.postmottak@nhh.no  
www.nhh.no

#### Norwegian School of Sport Science (NIH)

postmottak@nih.no  
www.nih.no

#### Norwegian School of Veterinary Science

post@veths.no  
www.veths.no

#### Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO)

postmottak@aho.no  
www.aho.no

#### School of Mission and Theology

post@mhs.no  
www.mhs.no

*In addition to the specialised university institutions there are two university centres:*

#### The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS)

post@unis.no  
www.unis.no

#### University Graduate Center (UNIK)

postmottak@unik.no  
www.unik.no

### UNIVERSITY COLLEGES

#### Akershus University College

postmottak@hiak.no  
www.hiak.no

#### Bergen University College

post@hib.no  
www.hib.no

#### Bodø University College

postmottak@hibo.no  
www.hibo.no

#### Buskerud University College

postmottak@hibu.no  
www.hibu.no

#### Finnmark University College

postmottak@hifm.no  
www.hifm.no

#### Gjøvik University College

postmottak@hig.no  
www.hig.no

#### Harstad University College

postmottak@hih.no  
www.hih.no

**Hedmark University College**

postmottak@hihm.no  
www.hihm.no

**Lillehammer University college**

post@hil.no  
www.hil.no

**Molde University College**

post@himolde.no  
www.himolde.no

**Narvik University College**

postmottak@hin.no  
www.hin.no

**Nesna University College**

postmottak@hinesna.no  
www.hinesna.no

**Nord-Trøndelag University College**

postmottak@hint.no  
www.hint.no

**Oslo University College**

postmottak@hio.no  
www.his.no

**Sami University College**

postmottak@samiskhs.no  
www.samiskhs.no

**Sogn og Fjordane University College**

post@hisf.no  
www.hisf.no

**Stord/Haugesund University College**

postmottak@hsh.no  
www.hsh.no

**Sør-Trøndelag University College**

postmottak@hist.no  
www.hist.no

**Telemark University College**

opptak@hit.no  
www.hit.no

**Vestfold University College**

studadm@hive.no  
www.hive.no

**Volda University College**

postmottak@hivolda.no  
www.hivolda.no

**Østfold University College**

postmottak@hiof.no  
www.hiof.no

**Ålesund University College**

postmottak@hials.no  
www.hials.no

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF THE ARTS****Bergen National Academy of the Arts (KHIB)**

khib@khib.no  
www.khib.no

**Oslo National Academy of the Arts (KHIO)**

khio@khio.no  
www.khio.no

**PRIVATE COLLEGES OF HIGHER EDUCATION****Ansgar School of Theology and Mission**

ansgar@ansgarhs.no  
www.ansgarhs.no

**Barratt Dues Musikk institutt**

post@bdm.no  
www.bdm.no

**Betanien Deaconal University College**

bdh@betanien.no  
www.betanien.no

**Bergen School of Architecture**

www.bergenarkitektskole.no/postgrad1.shtml  
www.bergenarkitektskole.no/

**Bjørknes College**

hoyskole@bjorknes.no  
www.bjorknes.no

**Campus Kristiania (Markedshøgskolen)**

www.campuskristiania.no

**Diakonhjemmet University College**

post@diakonhjemmet.no  
www.diakonhjemmet.no

## UNIVERSITIES & UNIVERSITY COLLEGES

**Haraldsplass Deaconess University College**  
hdh@haraldsplass.no  
www.bergendsh.no

**Norwegian Eurythmy College**  
www.eurytmi.no

**Norwegian School of Dance (DNBH)**  
www.dnbh.no

**Norwegian School of Information Technology**  
opptak@nith.no  
www.nith.no

**Norwegian Teacher Academy**  
post@nla.no  
www.nla.no

**Queen Maud's College**  
dmmh@dmmh.no  
www.dmmh.no

**Scandinavian School of Management**  
rmh@online.no  
www.markedshoyskolen.no

**School of Mission and Theology**  
und@mhs.no  
www.mhs.no

**The Rudolf Steiner College of Education**  
adm@rshoyskolen.no  
www.rshoyskolen.no

In addition, there is a number of institutions with education and websites only in Norwegian. A complete overview of Norwegian institutions of higher education is available on [www.NOKUT.no](http://www.NOKUT.no)





## EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES AND SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

There are several exchange programmes, fellowships and scholarship opportunities for students who would like to study in Norway. Please check the website: [www.studyinnorway.no/tuition\\_scholarships](http://www.studyinnorway.no/tuition_scholarships) for details regarding the exchange and fellowship programmes listed below:

- > The Erasmus Programme
- > Nordplus Higher Education
- > Erasmus Mundus
- > Quota Scheme
- > Fellowship Programme for Studies in the High North
- > YGGDRASIL-Young Guest and Doctoral Researchers' Annual Scholarship for Investigation and Learning in Norway
- > Norad's Programme for Master Studies (NOMA).

For more information about exchange programmes/scholarships please visit the website of the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) at [www.siu.no](http://www.siu.no). We also advise you to check the following websites for more information about exchange programmes/scholarships: [www.studyinnorway.no](http://www.studyinnorway.no), [www.rcn.no](http://www.rcn.no), [www.lanekassen.no](http://www.lanekassen.no)

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A man wearing glasses and a light blue shirt with a patterned tie is writing on a whiteboard. He is holding a white marker in his right hand. The whiteboard has some handwritten text in black and brown ink, including the word 'ing' and some numbers like '10/10'. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a classroom or meeting setting.

# ACHIEVE.

Student years are all about academic achievement and living here and now. Norway is the country for both. No matter how far your ambitions reach, our modern education system will cater for them. No matter how much enjoyment you seek, the social side of student life will provide it.

**ENJOY.**



**NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION (SIU)**

Pb 7800 N-5020 Bergen, Norway

Phone: + 47 55 30 38 00

E-mail: [siu@siu.no](mailto:siu@siu.no)

[www.siu.no](http://www.siu.no)

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Published by/ The Norwegian Centre for International  
Cooperation in Higher Education (SIU) 10/2009

Concept and Design: Cobra

Printed by: Bryne Offset

Photos: Marte Rognerud, Bjørn Jørgensen, Svein Bringsdal,  
Arl Tønnessen, Getty Images

Circulation: 2000

