

# SHAHEEN PAKISTAN

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Module: Further Study in Norway



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## GLOSSARY

**Applicant:** the family member who wants to move to Norway (with the reference person) and needs a residence permit (visa-related)

**NOK:** Norwegian Krone (Norwegian currency)

**Reference Person:** the family member applying for study in Norway (visa-related)

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

### **MOTIVATION TO APPLY TO NORWAY**

One of the main incentives international students have to study in Norway is **low or no tuition fees**. Public universities in Norway have no tuition fees. Private university fees have low tuition fees. In addition to that, Norway is generally considered to have a high standard of living and is considered to be a fairly safe place to live in. This is also an incentive for students to apply and study here.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

The following table includes some general information on Norway (*information was taken from [Study in Norway](#)*)

<b>Language</b>	The two official languages of Norway are Norwegian and Sami; Norwegian is widely spoken. For more information <a href="#">click here</a> .
<b>Norwegian Identity Number</b>	If you get accepted into a higher education institution in Norway and thus stay in Norway for more than 6 months, you will need to register with the <a href="#">National Registry</a> to get your 11-digit identity number. This number will essentially be your date of birth alongside some personal number. You will need to get this number in order to get your student card or to set up a bank account, among other things. Usually, the education institution arranges and guides international students for this so you don't need to worry about managing this! It is important to contact the institution once you have been accepted to find out about the process. For more information <a href="#">click here</a> .

[Click here](#) for more practical information on studying in Norway.

**Note:** Even you are planning on studying at an English-taught program, some proficiency in Norwegian will help you adjust to the country, both in academics and in terms of your social life.

### **Job Prospects**

Norway has a low unemployment rate, but there is high competition for employment here. Local students may sometimes get precedence since most jobs require proficiency in Norwegian or some other Scandinavian languages. There may be some sectors where English proficiency is an asset or considered a skill but for the most part, Norwegian proficiency is a requirement.

Useful links:

- [Guide for Finding a Job in Norway](#)

### **Working while studying**

If you have a study permit, you are allowed to work in Norway for up to 20 hours per week during the school term, and full-time during the holidays. Note that this 20-hour upper limit needs to be strictly followed. Most higher education institutions in Norway do not have work-on-campus or

work-while-studying schemes and so you will have to search the job market to find part-time work opportunities. You should, however, consult the university about opportunities of work for you on campus to see if there are any work-on-campus opportunities available. Since finding a job as a foreign student is difficult due to the language barriers and competition with EU-students, if a job opportunity on-campus exists, you should go for it!

You will not need to apply for a work permit initially; when you get the study permit, you automatically have the right to work part-time while studying (given the restrictions mentioned above). However, if you renew your study permit, you will need to apply separately for a work permit. For this, you will need to show your progress in your studies so far, preferably showing a good progression. Also note, such an application for a work permit will include a statement from the university affirming that you are capable of working, without it negatively affecting your studies. In addition to this, you will also need a letter from your employer confirming that you have been offered the job. Contact your institution for details on processes and rules.

### **Working in Norway after graduation**

As mentioned above, job opportunities for non-EU international students are very limited, mainly due to the language barrier. When you get the study permit, the clause is that after it expires (after you graduate) you will go back to Pakistan. If you plan on working in Norway or generally staying for more than 90 days, you will need to apply for a residence permit. Initially you will be given a [Temporary Residence Permit](#), which will last up to 3 years, which will allow you to work in Norway. After 3 years you will be allowed to apply for a Permanent Residence Permit.

In order to apply for a residence permit, you will need to have a job first. [Click here](#) to find out about various forms of work immigration, in terms of the type of jobs or skill sets, to find out which one you are eligible for.

Information on tax policies when earning in Norway can be viewed [here](#).

### **OVERVIEW OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM**

The table below gives a brief overview of the education system in Norway (secondary and tertiary education) in comparison to the education system in Pakistan. Lower secondary school in Norway is equivalent to O-Levels/Matric in Pakistan, whereas Upper Secondary school is equivalent to A-Levels/FSc etc.

Age	Norway	Pakistan
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13-16 years	<i>Ungdomsskole</i> (lower secondary school)	8th to 10th grade.	Equivalent to O-Levels/Matric etc.
16-18 years	<i>Videregående skole</i> (upper secondary school)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Studies path</li> </ul> OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vocational Studies path</li> </ul>	Equivalent to A-Levels/HSSC/FSc
18+ years	Higher Education	Bachelor's/Master's/Doctorate Degrees	Bachelor's/Master's//Doctorate Degrees

## **SECTION 2: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**



## **TYPES OF DEGREES**

There are 23 university colleges in Norway, which focus on undergraduate education, primarily in the following fields: nursing, teaching, business management, engineering and information technology. Most colleges offer programs outside of these fields as well. The university colleges can be classified in two ways: public university colleges in Norway, and accredited private university colleges. Students attending private institutions will typically be required to pay tuition fees.

Some of the undergraduate degrees available to students for selection are listed below.

<b>Types of Undergraduate Degrees</b>	<b>Duration (Full time programs)</b>
<b>Programs in Arts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bachelor of English</li> <li>- Bachelor in Architecture</li> </ul>	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Science</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biology</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Fine Art</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bachelor of Acting</li> <li>- Bachelor of Film and TV Production</li> </ul>	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Business</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bachelor of Business Administration (B.BA.)</li> <li>- Bachelor of Economics (B.Econ.)</li> <li>- Bachelor of Economics and Finance (B.Econ. &amp; Fin.)</li> </ul>	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Social Sciences</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bachelor in Games and Entertainment Technology</li> <li>-</li> </ul>	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Northern Studies/Circumpolar North</b>	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Engineering</b> -- includes programs in the fields of Construction, Electronics, and Chemistry	Typically 3 years
<b>Programs in Law</b>	Typically 5 years (includes Master's)
<b>Programs in Medicine (Cand.Med.)</b>	Typically 6 years (candidates are required to work for an additional 1.5 years before they are given certification. For specialist certification, 6 more years of work experience are required)

<b>Programs in Teaching</b>	Typically a 1-year course in Pedagogy is required before teaching certification is granted (this is only for those who are interested in teaching in the Norway)
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## **EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN**

### **British Curriculum (O Levels/IGCSEs/A Levels)**

To be eligible for undergraduate admission in Norway, you will need at least **3 A Levels**. Typically, there is no restriction on what subjects these need to be, but for certain programs and certain universities, there may be subject specific requirements that you have to fulfill. Make sure to check for these thoroughly before applying.

If you are doing or have done A-Levels, you will not need to pass any extra English language examinations to prove your English proficiency. If you attempt to enrol in a Norwegian-language program you will have to fulfill the Norwegian proficiency requirements of the country. These can be found on page 3 of [this document](#).

### **Pakistani Curriculum (Matriculation/HSSC)**

In order to be eligible for undergraduate admission in Norway, you will need a Higher Secondary Certificate (HSSC) + 1 year university education OR Intermediate Examination Certificate + 1 year university education (Source: [GSU list](#) -- The GSU list contains informations about the kind of basic education you need to have to qualify for admission to universities and university colleges in Norway). You will also need to fulfill additional English language proficiency requirements.

You can fulfill these through the following tests (taken from [this](#) document):

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) with a minimum score of 60 for an internet-based test (iBT) or 500 for a paper-based test (PBT)
- International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) Academic test with a minimum score of 5.0
- Pearson PTE Academic test with a minimum score of 51 points
- The European Language Certificate - telc:
  - telc English B2
  - telc English B2-C1 University
  - all telc English certificates on C1- level
- University of Cambridge examinations:
  - First Certificate in English

- Certificate in Advanced English
- Certificate of Proficiency in English

### **International Baccalaureate**

You are eligible to apply for an undergraduate program in Norway if you fulfill the following conditions (taken from [this](#) document):

- passed 3 subjects at standard level and 3 subjects at higher level OR passed 2 subjects at standard level and 4 subjects at higher level
- scored at least 20 points including any points for Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay
- grade 3 or better in all subjects
- passed Theory of Knowledge and Extended Essay
- Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) must be "fully satisfied"

If you are doing or have done the IB, you will not need to pass any extra English language examinations to prove your English proficiency. If you attempt to enrol in a Norwegian-language program you will have to fulfill the Norwegian proficiency requirements of the country. These can be found on page 3 of [this document](#).

## **SECTION 3: GRADUATE STUDY**

## **DIFFERENT KINDS OF INSTITUTIONS (TIERS)**

There are currently four different types of institutions in Norway: universities, specialized universities, university colleges and private institutions.

- Universities: Any institution or college that offers at least 5 Master's programs and 4 Doctoral programs is labelled a university.
- Specialized Universities: There are 6 public specialized universities and 3 private specialized universities in Norway. Each of these specializes in a specific field (including Architecture and Design, Economics, Sport Sciences, Music, Veterinary Science, and Theology).
- Private Institutions: These offer courses that are not being offered in public institutions, or courses that have limited spaces in public institutions. Students attending private institutions may have to pay tuition fees.

Level of Education	Types of Degrees	Duration and Structure (Full time programs)
Master's		Typically 2 years (could be longer for some programs)
PhD		Typically 3 years  At some universities, it may be longer -- with a portion of your study being dedicated to teaching
Combined Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs	Programs in Law	Typically 5 years
	Programs in Medicine (Cand.Med.),  Programs in Psychology (Cand.Psychol), Programs in Theology (Cand.Theol)	The Cand.Med is typically 6 years (candidates are required to work for an additional 1.5 years before they are given certification. For specialist certification, 6 more years of work  Cand.Psychol and Cand.Theol are also 6 years long typically. They are professional degrees and require 6 years of study in the fields of Psychology and Theology respectively.

[Here](#) is a list of some of the Master's programs that are being offered. (Note: this contains both undergraduate and graduate programs). You may click on your programs of interest for more detail. This is **not** an exhaustive list of all the postgraduate degree options available. For more degree options, you are advised to visit your prospective university website.

## **HOW TO PREPARE FOR A POSTGRADUATE DEGREE**

### **EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR MASTER'S**

To be eligible for Master's admission in Norway, you need to have completed a Bachelor's degree in at least 3 years. Some universities may require you to have studied a degree in a subject relevant to the Master's you wish to go for, so make sure to check these requirements before applying.

### **EDUCATION SELECTION IN PAKISTAN FOR PHDs**

You need to typically have done a Master's degree or a professional degree to be eligible for PhD admission. A lot of the times your previous degree will need to be in a subject relevant to the PhD you wish to go for, so it is highly recommended to check these requirements with your specific university and program through the institution's website before applying.

## **SECTION 4: GENERAL INFORMATION**

**(Applicable to all Applicants)**

# APPLYING

## **OVERVIEW**

There are some programs taught in English, which may require you to display a certain level of proficiency in the English language. Otherwise, if you are proficient in Norwegian, then you can apply for Norwegian-taught programs. In this case similarly, you will need to prove proficiency in the Norwegian language. Requirements for both vary across institutions.

Application components, procedures, and deadlines are handled and vary by individual institutions or even programs. So it is important to check their requirements and guidelines when checking your eligibility. The sections below highlight the minimum requirements for higher education in Norway.

### **Application Components**

- Certificate of completion of Secondary School education.
  - Some programs have special requirements about fields or subjects studied in secondary education; check individual program requirements to find this out.
- **For English-taught programs:** Proof of proficiency of English language
  - TOEFL, IELTS
  - Note that the requirements in terms of the type of test results/documentation required alongside the minimum scores often vary according to institution and even according to programs, so it is best to check out admission requirements of the programs you are planning on applying to. Other than the two tests mentioned above, universities may accept other qualifications, hence it is important to read university guidelines carefully.
- **For Norwegian-taught programs:** Proof of proficiency of Norwegian language
  - [Norwegian Language Proficiency Proof - Types](#)
  - Note that the requirements in terms of the type of test results/documentation required alongside the minimum scores often vary according to institution and even according to programs, so it is best to check out admission requirements of the programs you are planning on applying to.
  - For students who do not meet the Norwegian language requirements can apply for the [Norwegian Language and Civilization for Foreign Students](#).
- Transcripts/Resume/CV

The following are other components that may be required on occasion:

- Statement of Purpose
- Admission Test



## TRANSLATABILITY KEY

### How applications to Norway are different to those to the US and the UK?

The purpose of this key is to show how the application processes for Norway compare to applications in the UK or the US (in terms of timelines, component requirements, degree types etc.) This information should allow you to: i) look at the field-specific tips given for USA or UK; then ii) adapt these tips for an application to another country (using the 'translatability key' in that country's profile). Please refer to the table below:

TRANSLATABILITY KEY	Are they required? How important are they compared to UK/USA?
<b>COMPONENTS</b>	
<b>STATEMENT OF PURPOSE</b>	Universities may require you to submit a statement of purpose (also referred to as a motivational letter by some universities) . It is typically not very long -- usually 1-2 pages in length, or 1000 words. Do visit your prospective university to find out what the exact requirement for the statement are.
<b>RESUME</b>	Some universities may also ask for a CV detailing your relevant experiences. Some may ask you to list your academic experiences, important leadership activities, exchange programs or other relevant information). Visit your prospective university website to find out what is required.
<b>STANDARDIZED TESTS</b>	If you are applying for an English-taught course, you will typically need to display your proficiency in the language by taking the TOEFL/IELTS. Some postgraduate programs may require GMAT/GRE/CAT as well. Do visit your prospective university websites to find out the requirements and the minimum criteria.
<b>TRANSCRIPTS (which qualifications are accepted; if they are not, then what happens?)</b>	Please visit your prospective university website to see which international qualifications are accepted, and what the minimum criteria is. For instance, the Arctic University of Norway requires Master's applicants from Pakistan to have a 65% or more in their undergraduate degree. Make sure you check your specific university website to find out what the exact requirement is.

## TIMELINE

The academic year typically runs from mid-August to mid-June.

### Application Cycle

It is best to check program deadlines on the university/program admission application website.

### Application Process and Timeline

Make sure to start developing your application ***at least*** a few months prior to the start of the semester. If you have any questions about the courses or their requirements, make sure to contact the university/program; try to do so as early as possible. In order to apply for program you will need to apply directly through the institution.

## FEES, FUNDING AND SCHOLARSHIP

### **FEES**

Almost all public institutions in Norway are funded by the Ministry of Education and Research, and so you will not be charged any tuition fees. However, you will typically be charged a small student union fee each semester that will range from **NOK 300 - NOK 600** (Norwegian Krone -- equivalent to USD 35-60, as of June 2019). With this fees you will usually get access to health services, counselling, sports facilities, and a student card.

Although it is **rare**, there may be some postgraduate courses that you may have to pay for even in public universities. Make sure to look out for these on specific university websites.

### **BUDGETING**

As an international student, you will have to account for a lot of costs besides just the tuition fees. These include:

1. Travel expenses
2. Health and travel insurance
3. Accommodation and living expenses
4. Travel and sightseeing
5. Textbooks and other course materials
6. Food and drink
7. Miscellaneous

The cost of living is generally higher in Norway than in other European countries, and you should budget your money in the following ranges depending on which city of Norway you will be living in:

- Oslo: 1,200 - 2,000 EUR per month (USD 1350-2257, as of June 2019)
- Bergen: 1,100 - 1,800 EUR per month (USD 1240-2031, as of June 2019)
- Tromsø and Trondheim: 1,000 - 1,600 EUR per month (USD 1128-1805, as of June 2019)
- Smaller cities: 800 - 1,000 EUR per month (USD 902-1128, as of June 2019)

Here are some tips on how you can save money in the country:

- Choosing single course Indian, Chinese, or Thai meals at restaurants, as these are usually the best value
- Using your student card for discounts when traveling, sightseeing, and on transport
- Buying second hand textbooks and course materials

## **SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Postgraduate: There is no tuition fee for attending public higher education universities/institutions in Norway -- since all costs are covered by the Ministry of Education and Research. This extends to both local and international students. Students can also apply to receive grants from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund if certain prerequisites are met (it is difficult for international students to receive this, but not impossible). Keep in mind: funding opportunities are limited, and in most cases, will not cover your total cost during your study. It is advisable that you try to find funding from Pakistan (or some other external scholarship) or use your private funds.

Undergraduate: There are a limited number of scholarships available for undergraduate students from Pakistan. It is best to contact your selected universities and check if you are eligible for any funding schemes they offer.

## APPLYING FOR A VISA

### **DO YOU NEED A VISA**

All students coming from outside the EU who wish to study in Norway will need to apply for a Residence Permit for Studies or a Study Permit. Pakistanis, who have gained admission into a university college or university, will need to apply for this Permit.

If you are granted a Study Permit, you will also be able to work for up to 20 hours a week while studying, and full-time during holidays.

### **WHEN SHOULD YOU APPLY**

You should apply at least 6 weeks prior to your departure date.

### **HOW LONG DOES VISA PROCESSING TAKE**

The Immigration Department does not disclose the exact amount of time it takes to process a visa application, but it will typically take around 6 weeks. For instance, if your application was submitted before December 1, the Department will have your application processed by January 15.

As soon as your application has been processed, you will receive a notification. For more information, please visit this [page](#).

### **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST**

The Study Permit (and renewals) for applicants over the age of 18 costs NOK 5300 (USD 612, as of June 2019). Keep in mind your application may be subject to additional service fee (if the Visa Application Centre is receiving your application on behalf of the Embassy -- i.e. if you are applying through Gerry's).

For more information regarding cost, click [here](#)

### **APPLYING**

*This section was last updated in November 2018. It is recommended you visit this link in case the process has changed.*

In order to be eligible to apply, you must be admitted to a university college or university program in Norway (it must be a full-time program).

### **OTHER INFORMATION**

- You will be required to show that you have enough funds to cover all your costs (including tuition fee, if applicable) during your study. As a general rule, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration requires this money to be deposited in a Norwegian bank account. If you are being

financed through scholarships, student loans or any other sort of funding, you will also need to submit documentation for that. Note: if you do not have a bank account in Norway, you may use the bank account at your university (kindly contact your university for more details regarding this).

- If you have already been offered a part-time job in Norway, the income from this work can be included in your proof of funds.
- You will need to show proof that you have satisfactory living arrangements.
- A Student Resident Permit to Norway is only granted on the condition that the student will return to his/her country of residence (i.e. Pakistan) upon completion of study.
- Your selected place of study must be a part of NOKUT's (the Norwegian Agency for Quality Assistance in Education) [list of approved accredited universities, university colleges or specialized university institutions](#) (note: you may need to translate this page on your browser).

## **COMMON PROBLEMS**

The Immigration website states: due to circumstances in applicants' home countries, it might be difficult for some applicants to get a Residence Permit for studies of lower than Master's level -- but the department will still try to consider your application holistically.

## **VISAS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS/DEPENDENTS**

Your spouse and children can apply to come and live with you in Norway. If your family members apply at the same time as you, their applications will be processed at the same time as yours. There will be certain requirements that will need to be met in the application (such as valid proof of relationship between you and the family member, proof of consent, relevant identity documentation etc.). The Immigration Department typically requires applicants (spouses) to be at least 24 years old.

For more information, please click [here](#).

# ACCOMMODATION

## **GENERAL OPTIONS**

While education is free for international students (and locals) in Norway, the general cost of living is high. You will most likely have three accommodation options available to you: university halls, student villages and private accommodation. Keep in mind that there could be limited space and high demand, so it is best to begin your accommodation search early on. It is recommended that you start your search when you are applying to your prospective universities.

### **On-Campus Accommodation**

Accommodation in university halls is usually limited, so apply for it as early as possible. Should you not find a spot for yourself, start looking into off-campus options such as Student Villages or Private Accommodation.

### **Student Villages in Norway**

Student Villages usually consist of a number of small houses and/or apartments, and are generally in close proximity to universities or city centres. They have good access to public transportation, and typically offer shared accommodation to students. The larger Student Villages are more renowned for a high number of international students and more social activity. Some villages will also be suitable for students who are coming with their families (spouses and children). For more information on general housing options and student villages, please visit the links listed below.

- [Sammen Housing](#) (offers student accommodation for Bergen, Haugesund, Stord, Sogndal, Førde)
- [Moholt, Trondheim](#); this is the largest Student Village in Trondheim.
- [Steinan, Student Village, Trondheim](#); Moholt and Steinan are the only two fully-furnished villages in Trondheim.
- [Click here](#) for more Student Village options in Trondheim.

Some of these places will come with free internet access, and other facilities (like grocery shops in the vicinity). The larger student villages may also have Resident Assistants, who typically serve as the primary contact-person in the area.

### **Private Accommodation**

You can rent a private room in a multiple-bedroom apartment, or you can opt for your own 1-bedroom apartment.

### **Cities ranked according to living cost**

Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger and Trondheim are considered more expensive than other cities.

### **Other**

Students typically use public transport (bus shuttle and coach services), to travel in Norway. Most bus services offer student discounts. It is recommended that you try to get a public transportation card made as well, to avail lower costs.



## CONTRIBUTORS

This information was compiled with the valuable help of SHAHEEN volunteers.

We thank our volunteers for their contribution, and hope their tips and advice will help you in your application.

In addition to that, the following sources were consulted in developing this country profile. We encourage you to consult these sources for additional information and guidance:

- [Study in Norway](#),

In addition to these, the following sources were also consulted:

[Temporary Residence Permit](#), [Work Immigration](#), [Facts about Education in Norway](#), [Work in Norway - The Official Guide](#), [Study Permit](#), [Prospects](#), [Norwegian Business School](#), [Life in Norway](#), [Master's Portal](#), [Study Abroad](#), [Studylink](#), [International Student Blog](#), [Wikipedia](#), [Norway Education](#), [NUFFIC](#), [Arctic University of Norway](#)