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Admission and Visa process of Norway for Pakistani Students

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Norway and Iceland are probably the only countries in the world where the higher education is free of cost for citizens of other countries, including Pakistan (earlier Sweden and Denmark used to offer free education as well, but now they have imposed tuition fees for students from outside of European Union). Therefore, many Pakistani students may find this short guide useful for study in Norway.

The process of admission to Norway is as follows:

1 - Visit <http://www.studyinnorway.no/> to search for Master programmes and Bachelor programmes taught in English and their institutes. The requirement for admission into any master degree in Norway is 16 years of education from Pakistan¹, and the requirement of admission into Bachelors degree is at least one year of university education from Pakistan^{2, 3}.

2 - Read the requirements of the programmes you are interested in.

3 - Apply in at least 8 Programmes, since the admission is getting more competitive every year now. Send application by regular Pakistan Post (<http://www.pakpost.gov.pk/>). Do not waste money on DHL, Fedex, TCS etc. All your documents should be attested. Preferably, the documents should be sent by your institution in Pakistan. You only need to send the attested copies (from IBCC, HEC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and not the original degrees, transcripts and certificates.

Recommended list of required documents for admission

- You need your bachelors degree + transcripts and copies attested from HEC⁴ and also from Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁵.

- Matric and Intermediate (F.A⁶/Fsc⁷) degree + transcripts and copies attested from relevant board, IBCC⁸ and also from Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁹.
- English translated Birth Certificate from Union Council/Municipality and attested from Ministry of Foreign Affairs¹⁰. Copy certified by Notary Public.
- Family registration Certificate from Nadra¹¹. Copy certified by Notary Public.
- Computerized National Identity Card (CNIC). Copy certified by Notary Public.
- Valid Passport. Copy certified by Notary Public (only first page).
- Experience letter (if any). Copy certified by Notary Public.
- Recent passport size photo.
- IELTS (5.5 or 6.0 over-all-band, depending on the requirements of the institute). Certified by Notary Public.
- At least two Reference letters/Recommendation letters from teachers and employers. (*at least one from your former teacher*). Certified by the institute. Make sure that the name of the recommender, his/her email address and/or phone numbers are indicated on the letter.
- Motivation letter/ Statement of purpose.
- Bank statement of around 13 Lac Rupees. It could be a one day statement--no need to show history in transactions, you only need to show that you have this amount of money in your account, or your sponsor's account (with an affidavit).
- You may also get the English Translated Marriage Certificate/*Nikah* Form+photocopies, attested, or English Translated Un-Married Certificate +photocopies, and attested.
- If any document is not in English, then submit the official credentials in original language and a certified translation in English as well.
- Resume/CV.
- Any Educational or Training Certificate that will maximize your chances to get admission.

4 - If you get the admission then transfer the required money (89,000NOK) in your University's bank account. This money is only to prove that you are able to cover your living expenses in Norway for a year. This money is returned to the students after arriving in Norway.

5 - Apply for visa at the Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad with the required documents mentioned at the website of Norwegian Embassy in Islamabad (See ¹²).

6 - Come to Norway, save money, and get higher education for free.

¹ Four years of university education.

² you need to have passed at least one year of University studies (One year of B.A/BSC/B.com, or any other One year Diploma from any HEC recognized University, which is above the Intermediate (F.A/Fsc) level, and equivalent to one year of bachelor studies).

³ See further details at <http://www.nokut.no>

⁴ Higher Education Commission of Pakistan. URL: <http://www.hec.gov.pk/InsideHEC/Divisions/QALI/DegreeAttestationEquivalence/DegreeAttestationServices/Pages/Default.aspx>

⁵ URL: http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Pages/Attestation_Documents.htm

⁶ Fellow of Arts.

⁷ Fellow of Science.

⁸ Inter Board Committee of Chairmen. URL: <http://www.ibcc.edu.pk/Attestation.htm>

⁹ URL: http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Pages/Attestation_Documents.htm

¹⁰ URL: http://www.mofa.gov.pk/Pages/Attestation_Documents.htm

¹¹ URL:

http://www.nadra.gov.pk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=14

¹² <http://www.norway.org.pk/Embassy/visa/RESIDENCE-PERMIT/What-documents-should-I-bring/When-I-wish-to-study-in-Norway/>