



## Equality and Diversity

### Norway

#### Case study overview

Within the Norwegian higher education system [1] there are 7 accredited universities, 9 accredited specialised university institutions, 22 accredited university colleges, 2 accredited national colleges of the arts and several private institutions of higher education with either institutional or programme accreditation [2]. A **university college** mainly provides vocationally oriented studies whereas a **university** offers education in the more classic academic disciplines. Higher education institutions and their study programmes are accredited by the **Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT [3])** and with the exception of some private university colleges, all higher education institutions are state-run. Tuition in Norway would normally be in the Norwegian language and there are three official written languages with various spoken dialects. The two official written Norwegian languages are **Bokmål** and **Nynorsk**, and the majority of people in Norway use **Bokmål**. In addition, the indigenous **Sámi people** have their own official written language. However, a number of accredited study programs are offered by higher education institutions where the main language of instruction is English. **Equality** and **diversity** are important considerations within Norway and the higher education system. Within Norwegian legislation:

"Institutions should strive as much as possible, the studying environment and conditions are tuned to match the needs of students with special needs. Any adaptation/adjustment made to satisfy the needs of some special Groups of students should not lead to any form of reduction of quality of study in each discipline" [translated from the main document on the laws governing universities and university colleges in [4]]



Norway actively promotes the concepts and practice of **universal design** for increased accessibility in society. This is particularly important for individuals with disabilities who face mobility obstacles in everyday life due to poor design. In the field of **Universal Design**, **Universell** [5] in Norway is the National Coordinator of Accessibility of Higher Education. Universell supports students with disabilities by contributing to an improved accessibility to higher education through a number of initiatives. Additionally, the Norwegian government is aiming for Norway to be universally designed by 2025 [6].

## References

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- [2] Study in Norway, Education System. ONLINE, available: <http://www.studyinnorway.no/Study-in-Norway/Education-system>
- [3] Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT). ONLINE, available: <http://www.nokut.no/en/>
- [4] Lovdata. ONLINE, available: <https://lovdata.no/>
- [5] Universell. ONLINE, available: <http://www.universell.no/inkluderende-laeringsmiljoe/universellforum/universellforum-2014/>
- [6] Norway universally designed by 2025. ONLINE, available: <https://www.regjeringen.no/globalassets/upload/bld/nedsatt-funksjonsevne/norway-universally-designed-by-2025-web.pdf>

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