



**Hedmark University College
Faculty of Education**

**NORWEGIAN LANGUAGE AND
CULTURE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS
(30 + 30 ECTS credits)**

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Introduction

The study programme in Norwegian language and culture has been put together by the University Colleges of Lillehammer, Gjøvik and Hedmark. It is aimed at foreign students who are studying at one of the colleges' collaborating institutions abroad. The programme is primarily designed for students who wish to undertake further studies at one of the three university colleges. With the exception of quota students, all students must send their application form to the Universities and Colleges Admission Service. The study programme is also open to students from one of the collaborating institutions who wish to study in Norway for a shorter period, including students who are doing Scandinavian Studies at one of these institutions. Students who already have a background of Norwegian from previous studies may be able to join the programme at the add-on module. The programme is delivered by Hedmark University College, Faculty of Education, and all lessons are given at Hamar.

Aims and objectives

The main purpose of the programme is to provide the students with the language skills and cultural background necessary in order for them to study at university and college level in Norway. Upon completion of the study programme students will have

- the necessary skills in spoken and written Norwegian required in order to undertake higher education where the language of instruction is Norwegian
- learnt to communicate in Norwegian in both informal and formal situations outside the classroom
- a knowledge of Norwegian society which forms a satisfactory basis for pursuing higher education in this country
- a knowledge of Norwegian culture which entails that they will feel at home in this country while they are studying

Target group

The programme is aimed at international quota students, students who are studying at one of the colleges' collaborating institutions who wish to use this programme as part of their education in their own country, and other international students who have secured a place at one of the three university colleges through the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (cf. the introduction).

Entry requirements

Students have to meet the general entry requirements (with the exception of Norwegian). The collaborating institutions abroad are responsible for ensuring that the students have sufficient qualifications for studying in Norway.

Programme duration, scope and level

This is a full-time foundation programme which lasts for one year. The basic module is offered in the autumn semester every year, while the add-on module is taught in spring. Classes are taught for about 14 weeks per semester. Each week students have 12 hours of tuition and 2 hours of student-led seminars.

Qualification/transfers

Upon successful completion of the programme, students will have satisfied the general Norwegian language requirements to foreign students for entry to all institutions of higher education in Norway.

The programme can form part of a Bachelor's degree at one of the university colleges. In such cases the individual colleges decide how many ECTS credits to award for the programme, depending on how the Bachelor's degree is put together.

Information skills

Students receive an introduction to using the library, as well as searching for, and evaluating, information on the Internet. They will also be given an introduction to Classfrontier, which is an on-line study support facility.

Programme content, structure and organisation

The programme is organised in one basic module and one add-on module, each comprising 30 ECTS credits.

The basic module corresponds to level 1 and 2 of the traditional programmes for foreign students offered by the universities. The add-on module is the same as level 3 of these programmes. For more information about the content, please see below for a description of the individual modules.

There are 15 study places available on each of the modules. These are divided in equal measure between the university colleges in Hedmark, Gjøvik and Lillehammer. If one of the colleges does not require all the places, the allocation between the colleges may be altered.

Internationalisation

As the target group is foreign students, study opportunities abroad are not available.

Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods include lectures, group work, seminars, language lab exercises and on-line activities. Instruction is in Norwegian. Students must be prepared to work hard, and emphasis is placed on taking an active part in written and oral activities.

Assessment

Each module is completed with a written and an oral exam. In order to be permitted to do the exams, students must have attended at least 80% of the classes.

For further information, please see the description of the individual modules.

BASIC MODULE ("Level 1 + 2", 30 ECTS credits)

The basic module, which is aimed at foreign students with no prior knowledge of Norwegian, will provide students with general background and skills in Norwegian language and culture (cf. the introduction)

Code

Name

Norwegian language and culture for foreign students, basic module.

ECTS credits

Upon successful completion of this module, students are awarded 30 ECTS credits.

Semester

The basic module is offered in the autumn semester.

Language

The language of instruction is Norwegian.

Aims and objectives

Students will be able to

- understand spoken Norwegian in day-to-day situations and about general topics
- participate actively in conversations concerning topics that have been discussed in class
- speak Norwegian with an accent that does not impede communication
- read and understand simple, authentic texts
- write simple texts about topics that have been dealt with in class
- participate in conversations about texts and provide feedback on the structure and content of texts written by their fellow students
- keep updated on relevant topics and events, both locally and nationally, based on their knowledge of Norwegian society and culture
- use various Internet forums and e-mail to get and exchange information

Content

In this module students read textbooks and authentic texts that deal with everyday topics, as well as Norwegian culture and society. Students write texts using different styles, and talk about the texts they have read and written. Basic language functions such as establishing social contact, exchanging information, expressing feelings, and understanding conventions for interaction and conversation, all form an important part of the teaching, as does developing a basic vocabulary in Norwegian. Students work on the basic structures and pronunciation of the Norwegian language. They do web-based communication exercises and practise their language comprehension and production in the language laboratory.

Teaching and learning methods

The teaching and learning methods are described in the general presentation of the programme above.

Prerequisites

No prior knowledge of Norwegian is required in order to do the basic module.

Requirements

Students are required to take an active part in class, whether it is the physical classroom or an Internet setting. This ensures that students use Norwegian in spoken and written activities on a daily basis. They must contribute with oral presentations and write papers on specified or chosen topics. In connection with the written and oral course requirements, students must employ a variety of methods to collect information from their local environment, such as for instance interviewing people. Through the Internet students have to participate in discussions and present texts.

Assessment

Students are assessed on the basis of a 4-hour written exam and a 20-minute oral exam. They get 30 minutes to prepare for the oral exam, which is in the shape of a conversation between two candidates on a given topic. Students are awarded one grade for the written exam and one for the oral exam. The grades range on a scale from A, which is the best to F, which is the worst grade (fail).

Required reading

The required reading is in four parts:

- two textbooks in Norwegian for foreigners; a beginner's book and a book for the intermediate level, both with additional material. A choice of the following books:

Ellingsen, Elisabeth og Kirsti Mac Donald (1999): *På vei* og (2000): *Stein på stein*. Oslo: Cappelen.

Hvenekilde m. fl. (1990/1991): *Snakker du norsk? Grunnbok 1 og 2*. Oslo: Cappelen.

Manne, Gerd og Gølin Kaurin Nilsen (2003): *Ny i Norge*, 4. utgave og Manne, Gerd (1988): *Bo i Norge*. 2. utgave. Oslo: Fag og Kultur.

- a book on Norwegian grammar:
Mac Donald, Kirsti (1999): *Norsk grammatikk for fremmedspråklige*. 2. utgave. Oslo: Cappelen.
- a book on Norwegian pronunciation:
Kløve, M.H. (1997): *Norwegian Phonology and Pronunciation. An introductory course for foreigners*. Ulset: M. H. Kløve.
- a selection of literary and factual texts, to be decided by the course tutor.

ADD-ON MODULE (30 ECTS credits)

The add-on module is designed for students who have completed the basic module, as well as students who meet the requirements for direct entry at this level (see below). In particular, this module aims to provide students with the foundation necessary in order for them to pursue further studies at university and college level (cf. the introduction).

Code

Name

Norwegian language and culture for foreign students, add-on module.

ECTS credits

Upon successful completion of this module, students are awarded 30 ECTS credits.

Semester

The add-on module is offered in the spring semester.

Language

The language of instruction is Norwegian.

Aims and objectives

The add-on module will prepare foreign students for further academic studies in Norway. This means that students will

- have a good command of spoken and written Norwegian at the level required for studying in this country
- have a good comprehension of spoken Norwegian, including presentations in the shape of monologues, such as lectures
- be able to speak fairly fluently in Norwegian, with good pronunciation
- be able to read and understand texts in Norwegian, including academic and technical papers
- be able to write formal texts, including academic and technical styles
- have an insight into Norwegian society from both a contemporary and a historical perspective
- be up-to-date on Norwegian culture, including some history of Norwegian literature as well as modern literary work
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Content

In the add-on module students will primarily study authentic, and somewhat more difficult, texts from Norwegian culture and society, covering both literary and academic genres. Students are also required to write different types of texts about general and technical topics. They train their listening skills through listening to dialogues and monologues used in various situations and in different media, and practise their spoken language in conversations, discussions and presentations.

Throughout the semester, students work systematically to develop their general and academic vocabulary. They gain knowledge of Norwegian pronunciation and receive practical help and advice on how to improve their speaking skills through, for instance, language lab exercises. They continue to explore the language and will gain a better insight into Norwegian morphology and syntax through working with texts and targeting aspects of grammar.

When exploring Norwegian society, special emphasis is placed on the education system, the political system, the economy, equal opportunities and the language situation. Students will also get an introduction to modern, Norwegian history. The study of Norwegian culture brings students into contact with literature but they also get an opportunity to experience other cultural expressions such as concerts and exhibitions.

Teaching and learning methods

The teaching and learning methods are described in the general presentation of the programme above.

Prerequisites

Before students can do the add-on module they have to pass the basic module with a grade E or better, or have equivalent qualifications from one of the collaborating institutions abroad (see the introduction).

Requirements

Students are required to take an active part in class. They are expected to prepare oral presentations and submit written texts of varying length for which topics may have been given by the course tutor or chosen by the students. One of these texts is then expanded on so as to produce a paper of around 15 pages, for which the course tutor must have approved the topic. The paper has to be submitted and approved before the exams. Students must discuss their own and other people's texts with each other and the lecturer. For collecting information they are expected to use a number of sources and each student must initiate at least one discussion in the web-based class forum, as well as participate with at least one contribution in every one of the discussions initiated by one of the other students.

Assessment

Students are assessed on the basis of a 6-hour written exam and a 30-minute individual, oral exam.

The written exam comprises three main parts: one which tests the formal skills and knowledge of the candidate, one that tests the candidate's reading comprehension and one part for which students write a coherent text on a given topic. The oral exam looks for skills in using the language for various purposes, accuracy and the ability to initiate and carry a conversation. Curricular and factual knowledge will also be tested. Students are awarded one grade for the written exam and one for the oral exam. The grades range on a scale from A, which is the best to F, which is the worst grade (fail).

Required reading

The required reading consists of textbooks in Norwegian and social science, totalling around 600 pages. There is also a selection of literary texts. Textbook material will be taken from books such as these:

Berge, Anne Lene, Eli Lindtner Næss og Inger Marie Stein (1997): *Spor. Teori og tekster. Grunnkurs*. Oslo: Cappelen.

Berge, Anne Lene og Øystein Rottem (2003): *Spor. Teoribok VK I og VK II. 2.* (revidert) utgave. Oslo: Cappelen.

Ellingsen, Elisabeth og Kirsti Mac Donald (2002): *Her på berget. 2.* utgave. Oslo: Cappelen.

Eriksen, Thomas Hylland (1998): *Et langt, kaldt land – nesten uten mennesker*. Oslo: Universitetsforlaget.

Gjernes, Erna og Ragnar Arntzen (1990): *Sirkel. Flerkulturell lesebok for den videregående skolen*. Oslo: Gyldendal.

Gjernes, Erna, Anne Golden, Rita Hvistendal og Lise Iversen Kulbrandstad (1997): *Stemmer*. Oslo: Gyldendal.

Libæk, Ivar og Øivind Stenersen (1997): *Norges historie – tilrettelagt for elever med fremmedspråklig bakgrunn*. 2. reviderte utgave. Oslo: Grøndahl.

Næss, Eli Lindtner og Inger Marie Stein (1998): *Spor. Tekster VK I og VK II*. Oslo: Cappelen

Students will also read an unabridged piece of literature, such as a play by Henrik Ibsen or a short, modern Norwegian novel. The course tutor makes the final decision on the selection of literature.