

REGULATIONS CONCERNING ADMISSION TO HIGHER EDUCATION

CONTENTS

Regulations concerning Admission to Higher Education

Chapter 2. Higher Education Entrance Qualification

Section 2-1. Higher education entrance qualification – Knowledge Promotion Reform

Section 2-2. Foreign education

Section 2-3. Admission on the basis of completed higher education

Section 2-4. Admission on the basis of completed tertiary vocational education

Chapter 4. Specific entrance requirements

Section 4-1. Specific entrance requirements in addition to general higher education entrance qualification

Chapter 7. Ranking of applicants for admission

Section 7-1. General remarks about ranking and quotas

Section 7-2. Quota for primary certificates and ordinary quota

Section 7-3. Special quotas

Section 7-4. Calculation of points for applicants with more than one basis for ranking

Section 7-5. Grade point averages for applicants with 3-year upper secondary education

Section 7-6. Grade point averages for 23/5 applicants

Section 7-7. Improvements in grades

Section 7-8. Additional points for sciences

Section 7-8A. Additional points for sciences and foreign languages from upper secondary education

Section 7-9. Gender points

Section 7-10. Age points

Section 7-11. Additional points for higher education, one year at a Folk High School, civil service or initial military service

Section 7-12. Ranking of applicants who cannot have their points calculated

Section 7-13. Ranking on the basis of special assessment

Section 7-14. Ranking on the basis of an entrance examination

Chapter 10. False diplomas, false documents and documents issued by false institutions

Section 10-1. Supplementary definitions relating to section 3-7 paragraph 7 of the Universities and University Colleges Act

Regulations concerning Admission to Higher Education

Legal basis: Established by the Ministry of Education and Research on 31 January 2007 based on section 3-6, section 3-7 and section 4-9 of the Act of 1 April 2005 no. 15 relating to Universities and University Colleges, cf. decision concerning delegation of 7 October 2005 no. 1107.

Amendments: Amended by regulations of 18 October 2007 no. 1158, 18 November 2008 no. 1351, 24 April 2009 no. 453, 23 November 2009 no. 1393.

Chapter 2. Higher Education Entrance Qualification

Section 2-1. Higher education entrance qualification – Knowledge Promotion Reform

(1) The general qualification for admission to universities and university colleges (higher education entrance qualification) shall normally be:

Certificate of Norwegian three-year upper secondary education leading to general university admissions certification, or to vocational qualifications,

or

turning 23 years of age during the year of admission and being able to document at least 5 years of full-time work experience and/or education (*23/5 applicants*). Care-giving and initial military service or civil service for conscientious objectors may also count as work experience. Years completed and passed in upper secondary education, approved one-year courses from a Folk High School and/or examination from a study course of at least one year's duration count as education.

Both of the alternatives above require the following upper secondary subjects, included in or in addition to the requirements mentioned above:

- Norwegian 393 hours
- English 140 hours
- Mathematics 224 hours
- Natural Science 140 hours
- Social Science 84 hours
- History 140 hours

The subjects are given with the total scope in hours (units of 60 minutes). The subjects must be passed with the grade of 2 or better.

(2) For applicants who have passed Norwegian 309 hours and Sami/Finnish 309 hours and History 113 hours, the requirement of Norwegian 393 hours and the requirement of History 140 hours do not apply.

(3) The admissions body has a duty to assess whether other education or documentation of knowledge can be recognized as equivalent. The Ministry may issue more detailed rules.

(4) Applicants with general university admissions certification based on upper secondary education and training or previous systems prior to the *Knowledge Promotion Reform* shall

retain the general university admissions certification, cf. the rule on transitional arrangements given in section 9-1.

Section 2-2. Foreign education

(1) Applicants with 3-year upper secondary education from the other Nordic countries are qualified for admission without the additional requirement of Norwegian when the upper secondary education provides general university and university college admissions certification in the respective countries.

(2) Applicants with foreign education from countries outside the Nordic area, must document passed education that is equivalent to Norwegian 3-year upper secondary education providing general university admissions certification, cf. paragraph six, and must in addition document proficiency in Norwegian by means of one of the following tests:

1. Passed Norwegian with 393 hours from upper secondary education
2. Passed examination from level 3 in Norwegian for foreign students at the universities
3. Passed examination from the 1-year university college course in Norwegian language and civilization for foreign students
4. Test in Norwegian, higher level, (“Bergenstesten”) with a minimum of 450 points or “Passed” according to the new assessment scheme as of the autumn of 2009

(3) The university or university college may accept other documentation of proficiency in Norwegian. Applicants who for instance wish to document their proficiency in Norwegian based on having Norwegian or another Nordic language as their mother tongue, must normally document that they have received instruction in the mother tongue at least at the level of Norwegian/Nordic primary and lower secondary education.

(4) Applicants with International Baccalaureate (IB), including either Norwegian A or Norwegian B at standard level or higher, or meeting the requirements in paragraph three, satisfy the requirements for general university admissions certification if they in addition fulfil one of the following requirements:

1. a diploma from International Baccalaureate (IB)
2. an IB-Certificate with more than 20 points with three subjects passed at standard level and three subjects at higher level, or two subjects passed at standard level and four subjects at higher level. Such applicants cannot have lower grades than 3. *Theory of Knowledge, Creativity, Action and Service* and *Extended Essay* must also be passed.

(5) The requirements concerning proficiency in Norwegian do not apply to applicants to foreign language programmes, and to students participating in international exchange programmes.

(6) The GSU-list (Higher Education Entrance Qualification for foreign applicants) is binding for admission to higher education.

0 Amended by regulations as of 18 Nov 2008 no. 1351 (in force 1 Jan 2009), 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Section 2-3. Admission on the basis of completed higher education

Applicants who have been admitted to higher education on the basis exemptions from the requirement of higher education entrance qualification, cf. Chapter 3, and who have passed a course of this kind comprising at least one year of study (60 credits, or 2 courses of 30 credits each), are awarded higher education entrance qualification provided that they also meet the requirements regarding Norwegian language competence, cf. section 2-1, always provided that applicants with an education from non-Nordic countries, admitted on the basis of section 2-2 paragraph five, must document their proficiency in Norwegian in accordance with the rules in section 2-2.

0 Amended by regulations as of 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Section 2-4. *Admission on the basis of completed tertiary vocational education*

Applicants who have completed a two-year tertiary vocational education approved in accordance with the Act no. 56 of 20 June 2003 relating to tertiary vocational education, are awarded higher education entrance qualification provided that they also meet the requirements as to Norwegian, cf. section 2-1.

0 Amended by regulations as of 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Chapter 4. Specific entrance requirements

Section 4-1. *Specific entrance requirements in addition to higher education entrance qualification*

(1) In addition to the requirement of higher education entrance qualification, the Ministry of Education and Research has decided specific entrance requirements for certain programmes and subject areas, cf. sections 4-2 to 4-10. The requirements refer mainly to education programmes for general studies within Norwegian upper secondary education. The required subjects must have been passed.

(2) The admissions body has a duty to assess whether other education or documentation of knowledge can be approved as being equivalent. The Ministry may issue more detailed rules.

Chapter 7. Ranking of applicants for admission

Section 7-1. *General remarks about ranking and quotas*

(1) Admission to study courses is based on ranking within quotas. A quota is a fixed number or a fixed percentage of the places on a programme of study reserved for applicants **satisfying** more specific requirements.

(2) All qualified applicants who by the fixed deadlines for the admission have documented their entitlement, compete within the relevant quota.

(3) The documentation that qualifies the applicant for a programme of study forms the basis for ranking.

(4) Applicants with a high number of points are ranked in front of applicants with a low number of points. Applicants with the same number of points in a quota are ranked according to age.

(5) 10 days after the start of studies, the individual institution may, if it has proved impossible to summon applicants in accordance with the ranking lists, offer vacant places to qualified applicants without regard to the ranking as such.

Section 7-2. *Quota for first diploma and ordinary quota*

(1) The quota for first diploma applicants comprises applicants no older than 21 years in the admission year who have received a primary certificate after three years in upper secondary education in accordance with the rules determined in the Regulations of 17 July 1998 no. 61 relating to Primary and Secondary Education. The quota also includes applicants no older than 21 years in the admission year who have achieved higher education entrance qualifications on the basis of a certificate of vocational subjects and the required subjects mentioned in section 2-1.

(2) Applicants under the quota for first diploma applicants are ranked on the basis of the rules in sections 7-5, 7-8, 7-9 or according to section 7-13 and 7-14.

(3) 50 % of the places are to be offered to applicants under the quota for primary certificates.

(4) Applicants meeting the requirements for admission in the quota for first diploma applicants without being offered a place, go on to compete in the ordinary quota.

(5) The Ministry may exempt some programmes of study from the quota for primary certificates.

Section 7-3. *Special quotas*

(1) When desirable because of special circumstances, the Ministry may establish special quotas for some courses. Special quotas are defined by other criteria than the first diploma quota.

(2) In special cases the Ministry may establish a first diploma quota within a special quota.

(3) The Ministry may determine deviating rules for ranking within special quotas, including rules for awarding special additional points.

(4) Applicants meeting the minimum criteria for admission in a special quota without being offered a place, go on to compete in the first diploma quota, if relevant, and subsequently in the ordinary quota, cf. section 7-2.

Section 7-4. *Calculation of points for applicants with more than one basis for ranking*

Applicants meeting the minimum requirements for higher education entrance both as a 23/5 applicant and on the basis of a three year upper secondary education or the equivalent, cf. section 2-1, shall have their points calculated according to both these bases for ranking. As regards ranking as a 23/5 applicant, the calculation may include subjects from passed

certificates or certificates of competence necessary to qualify for a study programme, and subjects that may provide additional points. The institution shall use the method of point calculation that gives the highest ranking position.

Section 7-5. *Grade point averages for applicants with 3-year upper secondary education*

(1) All subjects with numeric marks that are included in the basis for ranking shall be taken into account in the calculation of grade point averages.

(2) A grade point average is the average of all numeric marks, to two decimal places, multiplied by 10.

(3) The Ministry, or an institution authorized by the Ministry, may determine conversion tables for applicants with International Baccalaureate, French baccalauréat or other foreign upper secondary education.

(4) The fixed conversion table applies to applicants with certificates from Norwegian upper secondary with letter grades, cf. section 9-2.

0 Amended by regulations as of 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Section 7-6. *Grade point averages for 23/5 applicants*

(1) Grade point averages are calculated on the basis of subjects included in general and specific entrance requirements and the subjects that give additional points.

(2) The grade point averages are calculated as the average of all numeric marks, to two decimal places, multiplied by 10.

(3) Applicants satisfying one or more general or specific subject requirements for admission on the basis of other education or documentation of knowledge other than the subjects passed in Norwegian upper secondary education, shall be ranked in accordance with section 7-12.

Section 7-7. *Improvements in grades*

When calculating grade point averages apart from the quota for first diploma applicants, improvements in grades shall replace previous grade(s) in the same subject.

Section 7-8. *Additional points for sciences*

Until and including admission to the academic year 2010-2011 the following applies:

(1) Up to 4 additional points can be awarded for sciences (science points). Double additional points cannot be given for subjects that overlap.

(2) All programme subjects in the programme area for Natural Science with a scope of 140 hours give 0.5 additional points, apart from Mathematics R2 and Physics 2, which give 1.0 additional point.

(3) Applicants with general studies at Vg3 in the education programme for Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry are awarded 0.5 science points.

(4) Applicants with certificates from other upper secondary education which is officially approved, can be awarded up to 4 science points provided that their education includes combinations of subjects which must be considered equal to those science subjects in Norwegian upper secondary education that give the right to additional points.

(5) Applicants with International Baccalaureate are awarded 0.5 science points for mathematics, biology, chemistry, design technology, computer science and environmental systems taken at standard level, 1.0 science point for biology, chemistry, design technology and computer science taken at higher level and 1.5 science points for mathematics and physics taken at higher level.

(6) Applicants with certificates from French baccalauréat are awarded science points as follows:

- Passed Line S Scientifique gives 4.0 science points
- Passed Line ES Economique gives 0.5 science points

(7) Applicants with calculated grades with their admission basis from other foreign countries can be awarded up to 4 science points when their education includes combinations of subjects which must be considered equal to those science subjects in Norwegian upper secondary education that give the right to additional points.

(8) Applicants with calculated grades with their admission basis from before the *Knowledge Promotion Reform* can be awarded up to 4 science points when their education includes combinations of subjects which must be considered equal to those science subjects that give the right to additional points.

0 Amended by regulations as of 18 Nov 2008 no. 1351 (in force 1 Jan 2009), 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Section 7-8A. *Additional points for sciences and foreign languages from upper secondary education*

As of admission to the academic year of 2011-2012 the following applies:

(1) A total of up to 4 additional points for programme subjects from the Programme Area for Natural Science and Mathematics and programme subjects in Foreign Languages from upper secondary education in the *Knowledge Promotion Reform*. The subjects must be passed. Additional points are not awarded for overlapping subjects.

(2) All programme subjects from the Programme Area for Natural Science and Mathematics and programme subjects in Foreign Languages with a scope of 140 hours give 0.5 additional points, apart from the subjects Mathematics R2, Physics 2 and Foreign Languages III, which give 1.0 additional point.

(3) Applicants general studies at Vg3 in the education programme for Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry are awarded 0.5 science points.

(4) Applicants with International Baccalaureate are awarded additional points within a total framework of 4 additional points as follows:

0.5 additional points for mathematics, biology, physics, chemistry, design technology, computer science and environmental systems taken at standard level, 1.0 additional point for biology, chemistry, design technology and computer science taken at higher level and 1.5 additional points for mathematics and physics taken at higher level, as well as up to 1.0 additional point for foreign languages at higher level and for another foreign language, cf. paragraph 6.

(5) Applicants with certificates from French baccalauréat are awarded additional points within a total framework of 4 additional points as follows:

Passed French baccalauréat (all lines) give 1.0 additional point provided that Norwegian has been chosen as a subject on the certificate.

Passed Line S Scientifique gives 4.0 additional points

Passed Line ES Economique gives 0.5 additional points

(6) Applicants with certificates from other current or previous Norwegian or Nordic upper secondary education that is or has been officially approved, or with a basis for admission from another foreign country, may be awarded up to 4 additional points when their education includes combinations of subjects which must be considered equal to those science subjects and foreign languages that give the right to additional points.

0 Added by regulations as of 18 Nov 2008 no. 1351 (in force 1 Jan 2009). Amended by regulations as of 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Section 7-9. Gender points

The Ministry may decide that in the case of particular educations, 1 or 2 additional points may be awarded to applicants whose gender is clearly underrepresented among students or workers in the education in question.

Section 7-10. Age points

(1) Applicants outside the quota for first diploma applicants with a certificate for passed three-year upper secondary education and training leading to higher education entrance qualification or vocational qualifications, are awarded 2 age points per year from the year the applicant turns 20, up to a maximum of 8 points.

(2) 23/5 applicants are awarded 2 age points per year from the year the applicant turns 24, up to a maximum of 8 points.

Section 7-11. *Additional points for higher education, one year at a Folk High School, civil service or initial military service*

- (1) 2 additional points are awarded for either a completed programme of study or a total of 60 credits at a university or university college, or one year at a Folk High School with approved school documentation, or completed initial military service or civil service for conscientious objectors.
- (2) 1 additional point is awarded for a completed half-year programme of study or 30 credits.
- (3) A maximum of 2 additional points may be awarded in accordance with this provision.

Section 7-12. *Ranking of applicants who cannot have their points calculated*

- (1) Qualified applicants who cannot have their points calculated must be ranked in relation to applicants with calculated points by a discretionary assessment. An offer of admission requires equivalent skills and knowledge on a par with applicants offered admission after ranking on the basis of calculated points.
- (2) This assessment shall take into consideration whether the applicant has a basis for admission and a combination of subjects which is equivalent to that providing a basis for additional science points for applicant who can have their points calculated.
- (3) The admissions body shall during the assessment place emphasis on the applicant's real qualifications for the programme of study, including the applicant's proficiency in Norwegian.

Section 7-13. *Ranking on the basis of special assessment*

- (1) The background for admission on the basis of special assessment may be that another mother tongue than Norwegian, sickness, disability or other special circumstances give reason to believe that the applicant's grade point averages according to the provisions in sections 7-5 to 7-7 do not give a correct picture of the applicant's qualifications.
- (2) Applicants who wish to be assessed in accordance with this provision must request this in their application, attaching a separate explanation for and documentation of the circumstances invoked.
- (3) Circumstances such as those mentioned above do not in themselves give a right to admission. An offer of admission requires equivalent skills and knowledge on a par with applicants offered admission in accordance with sections 7-1 to 7-12 and section 7-14.
- (4) In the case of studies with entrance examinations, this provision applies in so far as an offer of an entrance examination or final ranking wholly or partly is based on point calculation in accordance with sections 7-1 to 7-12.
- (5) Applicants who are not offered admission in accordance with these provisions shall be ranked in accordance with the provisions in sections 7-1 to section 7-12 and section 7-14 respectively.

Section 7-14. *Ranking on the basis of an entrance examination*

(1) Applicants to programmes of study that have entrance examinations as special admission requirements in accordance with sections 4-4, 4-9 and 4-10 can be ranked in one of the following manners:

- According to sections 7-1 to 7-13 only
- According to the entrance examination only
- According to both sections 7-1 to 7-13 and the entrance examination

(2) The Ministry decides which alternative is to be used for each programme of study. Quotas for primary certificates cf. section 7-2, apply unless the Ministry has decided an exception, cf. section 7-2 paragraph 5.

Chapter 10. False diplomas, false documents and documents issued by false institutions

0 Added by regulations as of 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).

Section 10-1. *More detailed definitions relative to section 3-7 paragraph 7 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges*

(1) A diploma or document is false if the diploma or document contains written or digital information which is not truthful, or a manipulation of or changes in the contents of an original, written or digital, diploma or document.

(2) The term “documents issued by false institutions” refers to documents issued by non-existent educational institutions, or by educational institutions that falsely claim to be accredited in accordance with section 3-1 of the Act relating to Universities and University Colleges or according to equivalent foreign regulations.

0 Added by regulations as of 23 Nov 2009 no. 1393 (in force 1 Jan 2010).