

# **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