



UNIVERSITY OF AGDER



DISCOVER NORWAY





Photo: Olav Breen

At the top of the world, discover Norway, with its long and intricate coastline, untouched nature, 4.8 million people, and long traditions in international trade.

DISCOVER NORWAY

The United Nations has named Norway the best country to live in six years in a row. Norway is known for its stunning landscapes, clean air, safe streets, gender equality, lack of unemployment, and a very high standard of living. In the international environment at the University of Agder (UiA), you'll not only learn from the Norwegian way of living, but also learn from your fellow students, who will be from all over the world. You'll find yourself cooking rice with Indonesians, clinking glasses with Italians and watching football (aka soccer) with – well, everyone!

ECTS LABEL

UiA was one of the first institutions to be awarded the ECTS label by the European Commission for outstanding quality in student exchange.

DISCOVER THE UNIVERSITY OF AGDER

The University of Agder (UiA) was established on September 1, 2007 when Agder University College received full university accreditation. It is the fifth largest university in Norway. The university has two campuses with about 9000 students and 1000 employees.

There are five faculties:

- > Humanities and Education
- > Economics and Social Sciences
- > Fine Arts
- > Engineering and Science
- > Health and Sport
- > Teacher Education Unit (organized inter-disciplinarily)

UiA is a national and international research institution with research in all academic areas covered by the university's study programmes. More than 200 of the university's academic staff are professors or associate professors. The university prioritizes regional, national and international cooperation.



INTERNATIONALISATION

UiA cooperates with over 175 partner institutions through student, faculty and staff exchange. Each year, we accept about 200 international students and send 350 Norwegian students abroad.

The university has fulfilled the requirements of the Bologna Process by adopting the Bologna degree structure, implementing the European Credit Accumulation and Transfer System (ECTS system), increasing continuous evaluation, increasing internationalisation, introducing individual education plans and establishing a comprehensive quality assurance system.

UiA is the only Higher Education Institution in Norway to have been awarded both the ECTS and DS labels by the European Commission.

UiA offers 9 PhD programmes, over 20 master programmes and about 50 bachelor programmes. Six of the master programmes are taught in English. Each of the five faculties offers courses in English for exchange students.



Two Campuses: Grinstad (left) and Håkonsand (right).

COURSES IN ENGLISH

Courses in English are offered in :

- > Business Administration
- > Information Systems
- > Political Science
- > English
- > History
- > Religion
- > Mathematics
- > Engineering
- > Music Performance
- > Education

For a complete, up-to-date list of courses and course descriptions, go to www.uia.no/studyprogrammes

FIVE MORE GOOD REASONS TO CHOOSE UIA

As an exchange student, you can mix and match courses in different subject areas as long as you meet the pre-requisites. UiA also offers five semester programmes (30-ECTS credits each):

- > Norwegian Society, Education and Culture (NORSEC)
- > Course Package in Humanities and Education
- > Comparative Educational Studies
- > Outdoor Education and Nature Guiding
- > European Integration

These are described on the following pages.



NORSEC (NORWEGIAN SOCIETY, EDUCATION AND CULTURE)

- > Level: Bachelor
- > ECTS: 30
- > Semester: Autumn

What to expect: Is Norway a wealthy country because of its oil? Why have Ibsen and Hamsun become world famous authors? What are the basic Norwegian values? Is Norway a country based on egalitarian values? Why do we have two official written Norwegian languages in a country with only 4.6 million people? How are minorities treated? Is Christianity on the wane in Norway? What is it like to grow up in Norwegian kindergartens and schools? What are the challenges facing the Norwegian welfare state?

These and other questions will be discussed during the one-semester programme Norwegian Society,

Education and Culture. NORSEC is a comparative study programme focusing first on Norwegian society, the Norwegian school system and Norwegian culture. The students will, however, be invited to make comparisons with their home countries during the semester. Two three-day and two one-day excursions are important and integrated parts of the programme. One of the three-day excursions takes place during the first week.

Requirements: Teacher training and education students from partner institutions are prioritized for admission.

UiA has offered NORSEC for groups of 25-30 foreign students every autumn since 1994 with remarkably positive student evaluations.

COURSE PACKAGE IN HUMANITIES AND EDUCATION

>Level:	Bachelor
>ECTS:	30
>Semester:	Autumn

What to expect: The Course Package consists of the three courses (10 ECTS credits each):

1) Norway: Society and Culture, which gives you insight into various aspects of Norwegian society – history, school system, language, literature, economy, politics, music, art, food and religion.

2) Gender and Equality from a Global Perspective, which focuses upon gender identity, drawing on a number of disciplines, such as political science, sociology, economics, law, psychology and religious studies.

3) Beat Culture: Literature and Art, which introduces you to this highly interesting radical, experimental tradition in art and literature in America after the Second World War. The collection of beat art at the University of Agder – the largest outside the USA – forms a unique platform for this course.

Requirements: Applicants should have completed at least one year of higher education. Students from partner universities are prioritized. The three courses can also be taken separately.

"I thought I was liberal before, but it's very different here. It's interesting to see the ideas that come from a social democracy." -Ashton, USA





COMPARATIVE EDUCATIONAL STUDIES (CES)

Level: Bachelor

ECTS: 30

Semester: Spring

What to expect: The programme is an introduction to comparative educational studies with an emphasis on three areas:

- (1) the process of learning using Norway as the basis for international comparisons
- (2) the phenomena of integration, inclusion and special education on a global level
- (3) comparative case studies in schools or nursery schools.

Students will gain basic knowledge of research methods in comparative

educational studies, and learn about the differences and similarities between Norwegian and other educational systems.

Requirements: Students should preferably have completed two years of a bachelor programme in teacher training or education.

“At one kindergarten, I spent a day outdoors. To me, this is amazing, the outdoor idea. I will take this idea home with me and try to live it more. It’s so normal here, we have forgotten about this in Austria – just packing the children for the day and hiking. At an elementary school I saw open plan classrooms, which were also amazing. The difference is that it is accepted here. In Austria, it’s too radical.” - Andrea, Austria



OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND NATURE GUIDING

Level: Bachelor

ECTS: 30

Semester: Spring

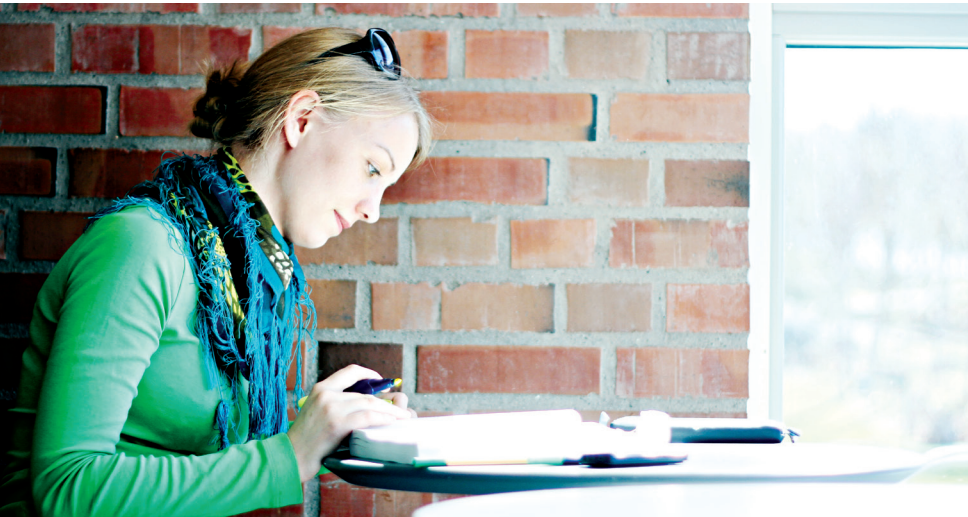
What to expect: Experience the Norwegian great outdoors and learn the concept of "friluftsliv" - making outdoor activity a part of everyday life. Outdoor activity has always been a part of Norwegian culture and society. Through theory and practice, this programme introduces sports students to "friluftsliv" and educates them to become teachers, coaches and leaders in outdoor environments. The programme consists of two modules: Outdoor Activities Theory and Outdoor Activities and Nature Guiding. Activities include traditional guiding, winter mountaineering, skiing, hiking and exploration of the sea and coastline. One of

the highlights is an excursion into the mountains to build and sleep in a snow cave.

Requirements: A high degree of physical fitness is required. Applicants should have completed at least one year of sports studies at bachelor level and must be able to swim. Students from the sports department's partner universities are prioritized.

More information: http://www.uia.no/en/portals/study/study_programmes/courses_in_english

"Finding the challenge in nature and testing your abilities in unknown terrain is one of the great advantages of this course." - Nils Åke, Germany



EUROPEAN INTEGRATION SUMMERSCHOOL

Level: Master

ECTS: 30

Semester: Summer

What to expect: The master-level courses are taught by top professors and practitioners from all over Europe. A maximum of 25 students are accepted, and they come from all over the world. The first course is a problem-oriented introduction to the historical, economic and political processes behind the development of a European Community/Union. Students learn how EU institutions work and how to study and understand the European Union as a political, economic and judicial system. The second course is focused on current issues in the development of the European Union, such as the development of regional and social policy, a common

foreign and security policy, or the future of the Constitutional Treaty of the European Union. Upon completion of the European Integration Summer School, students will have acquired analytical skills and updated empirical knowledge of political, economic and social integration in Europe. Unlike many summer programmes, there are no tuition fees.

Requirements: Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in a relevant field of study such as social sciences, economics and law, or an equivalent background including 180 ECTS credits.

More information: www.uia.no/eiss

"A variety of lectures gives a diverse picture of the EU integration process"
- Maurizio, Italy



STUDENT SERVICES

Both the University of Agder and the Student Association of Agder (SiA) strive to deliver top-notch services for students. Classroom, library and computer lab facilities on campus are excellent and available.

SiA runs on campus day care centres, housing services, bookshops, cafeterias, pubs and the gym, Spichenen.

Housing is of high quality. All students have their own bedroom and most share a bathroom and kitchen with one other student. Housing is within walking distance of campus. SiA also supports the semester start festival and contributes to 50 student organisations.

DISCOVER EXCHANGE

If you are a student at one of our many partner universities, you can apply for the exchange programme, which lasts one or two semesters. As an exchange student, you will pay no tuition or semester fees to UiA and you are guaranteed housing. The International Education Office and the Erasmus Student Network will take good care of you while you study at UiA.

APPLY

Talk to the international office at your home university about the possibility of exchange at UiA. When you are ready, you can apply online here: www.uia.no/applyexchange

ARRIVAL

When you arrive in Agder, you'll be met by members of the Erasmus Student Network - students who will take you to your student residence. Your first days will introduce you to your new home, the university and your fellow students. You are provided with a free orientation programme and a Norwegian course. Plenty of activities are organized throughout the semester by The International Education Office and ESN Agder.

ERASMUS STUDENT NETWORK

ESN Agder is a volunteer student organization which works primarily to improve exchange students' stay here in Agder. There are six students on the board, and many more volunteer buddies. Throughout the year ESN arranges trips, parties and other social events. There are monthly activities, and special focus on giving international students a comfortable start, by meeting them on arrival day and guiding them through orientation

week. We also focus on integration with Norwegian students through language exchange, international days and international pub nights.

Our main goal is to give you a semester abroad where you've experienced Agder and other parts of Norway at its best, and made friends for life.



Photo: Michal Kucera



Photo: Nils-Åke Walther



Photo: Sara Antonelli



Photo: Urs Isenring





DISCOVER NORWEGIAN

- > **Hyggelig** A special kind of niceness found only in Norway
- > **Sørrending** A person from the southern coast of Norway, usually also “hyggelig”
- > **Sol** When it is shining, a Sørrending knows how to enjoy it
- > **Snø** White stuff falling from the sky, providing a backdrop for winter sports, especially welcome when experiencing lack of sol
- > **Vann** For swimming in the summer, skating in the winter and drinking all year round (fresh, salt and bubbly varieties widely available)
- > **Fadder** A student who will meet you when you arrive and help you settle in
- > **Sykkel** Most popular form of student transportation (2 wheels, no motor)
- > **Danskebåten** Boat with frequent departures to Denmark (3 hour express), your connection to the continent
- > **Fest** Collection of friends, food, drinks and fun
- > **Vorspiel** Fest before the fest
- > **Nachspiel** Fest after the fest
- > **Skål** What you say at the fest while clinking glasses
- > **Grandiosa** The frozen pizza you will grow to love
- > **Pølser** Alternative to Grandiosa, aka hot dogs or frankfurters
- > **Spichern** The on-campus gym where you can work off the pølser and Grandiosas
- > **Venner** The international and Norwegian students you will meet and remain in contact with long after you leave Norway
- > **Koselig** A special type of “cosy” – not just candles and flowers, but a state of being





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Photo: Nils-Ake Walther (front)

Photo: Iris Engen Skadal

