Family immigration

Engelsk

Familieinnvandring

Family immigration means that a family member living abroad is allowed to come to Norway to live with his or her family. The person who the family member living abroad wishes to be reunited with must have Norwegian or Nordic citizenship or a work or residence permit constituting grounds for family immigration.

A permit for family immigration is primarily granted to close family members. The permit is granted for one year at a time. After three years, you may apply for a settlement permit.

Close family members are:

- A spouse and registered partner
- Cohabitants who have lived together for at least two years
- Children under 18 years of age

Other family members who may be granted a permit to reside in Norway are:

- A cohabitant with whom the person living in Norway has or is expecting a child (even if they have not been living together for at least two years)
- A person intending to enter into marriage with a person residing in Norway within six months after entry into Norway
- Single mother or father over 60 without any close relatives in their country of origin
- Unmarried, supported children over 18 years of age with special care needs or without caregivers in their country of origin
- Full siblings under 18 years of age without a mother, father or other caregiver in their country of origin or country of residence and with no mother and father in another country
- Other family members, when strong humanitarian considerations warrant it

Requirements that must be met before you can be granted family immigration:

- As a general rule, the applicant must be ensured subsistence in Norway. The subsistence require¬ment, i.e. income requirement, is equal to pay scale 1 of "Statens lønns¬regulativ" (the national pay scale). As of 1 May 2007 this corresponds to an income of NOK 182 400 annually before taxes. The amount is adjusted annually. For an update see the UDI's website or contact the foreign service mission closest to you
- When the applicant is not a close family member (see above) there is also a housing requirement

Where I can apply:

Persons who wish to be reunited with a family member in Norway must as a general rule apply in the country of origin or the country in which the applicant has resided for the past six months with a work or residence permit. The applicant must submit the application in person at the nearest Norwegian foreign service mission.

The person living in Norway cannot apply for family immigration on behalf of a person or persons living abroad. Only in extraordinary cases may exceptions be made to this rule.

Documentation requirements:

- Application form with photograph
- Birth certificate
- Copy of the passport (all the pages of the passport including unused ones)
- A certificate made out by the public authorities showing that you are related to the person living in Norway
- Employment contract showing the length of the employment and the amount of income. Wage slips showing the income during the last three months must also be submitted
- Housing contract
- Written declaration of consent (in the case of shared parental responsibility) from the other parent of a child who is coming to Norway when only one of the parents has/is obtaining a permit to reside or work in Norway. If the parent living in Norway has sole parental responsibility, documentation showing this must be submitted
- Documentation showing marital status for both the person living in Norway and the appli¬cant when applying for a residence permit with the purpose of entering into marriage

Documentation must be submitted in the original together with a translation into Norwegian or English. Documentation requirements vary from country to country and are subject to change.

UDI
Norwegian Directorate of Immigration

Separate rules apply to nationals from EU/EEA countries (see separate information for EU/EEA citizens at www.udi.no). For more information, you may contact the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you. If you are in Norway you may contact the police or the Directorate of Immigration (UDI).

Frequently asked questions

How do I apply if I am going to get married in Norway?
If you intend to enter into marriage and stay in Norway, you may apply for a residence permit with a duration of up to six months to enter into marriage. You must apply for a residence permit at a Norwegian foreign service mission in your country of origin or in the country where you have had legal residence for the last six months. If you are visiting a boyfriend or girlfriend and returning home after the visit, you may apply for a visitor's visa for up to 90 days.

May I go to Norway before I have been granted family immigration?
Normally you may not enter Norway until your permit has been granted. If you are required to have a visa, you may, however, enter the country and apply from Norway in certain cases. These include when:

- Your spouse is a Norwegian national who resides or who intends to take up residence in Norway.
- Your spouse has a settlement permit or a permit which can constitute grounds for a settlement permit

Children you have with your spouse and who are not Norwegian nationals may also enter the country and apply from Norway. The same applies to a child/children you have from a previous relationship, provided that you have documents that show you have parental responsibility alone or together with the other parent, and the other parent consents to the child/children settling in Norway.

If you are in any doubt as to whether you and your child may enter Norway before the permit has been granted, you should enquire at the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you.

If you are required to have a visa, you may apply for a restricted entry visa for family immigration with your spouse by enquiring at a Norwegian foreign service mission. This type of visa is only granted in special cases and to a limited group of applicants. The embassy decides the case, but a rejection can be appealed to the UDI.

Is there a fee for applying for family immigration?
The fee must be paid to the police/embassy when submitting the application. Children under 18 years of age do not pay a fee. For updated fee rates see the UDI's website or contact the foreign service mission closest to you.

How long does it take to process the application?
You can obtain information about the case processing time from the Norwegian foreign service mission. See also www.udi.no for updated information in Norwegian and English or call the UDI's applicant information service (OTS).

Can I appeal if my application is rejected?
Yes. If you appeal, your appeal will be processed by the UDI and then by the Immigration Appeals Board (UNE) if the UDI does not reverse its previous decision. The processing of the appeal does not cost anything.

Must I renew my residence and work permit granted on the basis of family immigration?
The permit is generally granted for one year at a time. If it can be renewed, you must apply for renewal. It is important to apply for a renewal before the permit expires. A fee must be paid on renewal (children under 18 years of age do not pay a fee.) After three years you may apply for a settlement permit.

Can I have travel expenses covered for family members who are granted family immigration?
Normally not. Only people who have been granted asylum or have the status of resettlement refugee in Norway and who have little or no income may have travel expenses covered for family members.

Would you like to know more about family immigration into Norway?
If you would like to know more about Norwegian family immigration, contact the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you. If you are in Norway, you can call the applicant information service (OTS) at the UDI, which answers questions in Norwegian, English and other languages on telephone +47 23 35 16 00 or send an e-mail to ots@udi.no.

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