

# Transitional rules

The transitional rules for obtaining a residence permit that confers entitlement to take employment for job seekers from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

**Separate transitional rules apply to job seekers from the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria who wish to take employment in Norway:**

- You must obtain a residence permit conferring entitlement to take employment before you may start working
- You can apply for the permit at a Norwegian foreign service mission in your country of origin, or you can apply in person at a police station in Norway
- Your employer can also apply on your behalf

The transitional rules only apply to employees, that is persons who have employment in Norway. The transitional rules do not apply to:

- Service providers (for example, a person employed by an employer abroad who is to perform a service/assignment in Norway on behalf of his/her employer)
- Self-employed persons (persons who run their own business and intend to undertake a business activity in Norway)
- Students
- Persons who have regular periodic benefits or private means
- Service recipients

A permit pursuant to the transitional rules can only be granted to nationals from the above-mentioned countries, not to nationals of other countries who have a work or residence permit in the above-mentioned countries.

## Conditions for being granted a residence permit

You must have a concrete offer of employment in a full-time job before you can obtain a residence permit conferring the entitlement to take employment. Pay

and working conditions shall be the same as what applies to Norwegian employees in the same type of job (wages in accordance with the collective pay agreement or what is normal for the place and occupation in question).

The contract of employment must be signed by both you and your employer.

## Documentation required for applications:

- A completed application form with (passport) photograph
- A certificate of employment or contract of employment with item 5 of the certificate of employment filled in. The contract of employment must be signed by both the employee and the employer.
- You must show your passport or valid ID card when submitting your application

If the employer submits the application, he or she must also enclose:

- A power of attorney (separate form)
- A copy of the applicant's passport

The forms can be obtained from [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no) or from the nearest Norwegian foreign service mission or from a police station in Norway.

## Other information

The residence permit is not connected to a particular type of work, the employee's competence or skill or to a particular place of employment. It is not necessary to apply for a new residence permit if you later start to work for another employer.

## Exemptions from the transitional rules

The transitional rules do not apply to a person who has had legal residence in Norway as an employee for at least the last 12 months.

The forms must be completed in full. Your application may be rejected if you have not included all documentation.

A permit granted pursuant to the transitional rules cannot constitute grounds for a settlement permit. A settlement permit is a permit conferring entitlement to reside in Norway indefinitely. One of the conditions for being granted such a permit is that the applicant must have resided in Norway during the three preceding years with a permit that constitutes the basis for a settlement permit. If you as a national of an EU/EEA country wish to have a settlement permit in the future, you must apply for a permit that constitutes the basis for a permanent settlement permit, such as family reunification or specialist permit, pursuant to the ordinary rules (see separate information about settlement permits at [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no)).

## Frequently asked questions

### Where do I apply for a residence permit?

If you are in Norway, you apply at a police station. If you are in your country of origin, you apply at the Norwegian foreign service mission closest to you.

### Does it cost anything to apply?

There is no fee for nationals of EU/EEA/EFTA countries applying under the EU/EEA/EFTA regulations. If you want to apply for another permit, see separate information at [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no).

### How long does it take to process the application?

It varies. Ask at the place where you submit your application.

### Can I appeal the decision?

Yes. If you appeal, your appeal will be processed by the Directorate of Immigration (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.

### Can an employer apply for a residence permit on my behalf?

Yes. The employer must present a power of attorney from you (separate form). You must nevertheless go to the police in person and show your valid passport when picking up the permit. No one other than your employer may apply on your behalf.

### When can I start working?

When you have been granted the permit. It is illegal to

start working before you have been granted a residence permit conferring entitlement to take employment.

### Can I enter Norway before I have been granted a residence permit?

Yes. You may come to Norway and stay here without applying for a residence permit for up to three months. If you are a job seeker, you may stay in Norway for up to six months.

### What happens after I have been in Norway for three months (or six months as a job seeker)?

It is a requirement that you leave Norway, or apply for a residence permit if you meet the requirements for this, after you have been here for three (or six) months. However, there is no requirement as to how long you must stay out of Norway. You may enter Norway again at will, and stay for another three or six months. However, it is important to realise that if you are resident in Norway you must apply for a residence permit and register with the Population Register.

### More information

If you have questions about the rules you may contact the nearest Norwegian foreign service mission. You can also contact the UDI's applicant information service: telephone + 47 23 35 16 00, e-mail [ots@udi.no](mailto:ots@udi.no), or see [www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no) more information in Norwegian and English.

NAV (Employment Service) answers questions about being a job seeker in Norway. Visit one of their offices or contact the NAV service centre, telephone + 47 800 33 166. See also [www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no).

Your local tax office will answer questions about taxation rules. You can find the address at [www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no).

The Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority answers questions related to working conditions and rights and obligations for employees in Norway. You can find information about the rules at: [www.arbeidstilsynet.no](http://www.arbeidstilsynet.no). The Labour Inspection Authority answers questions by e-mail: [svartjenesten@arbeidstilsynet.dep.no](mailto:svartjenesten@arbeidstilsynet.dep.no), or telephone: +47 815 48 222.

The National Insurance Service answers questions

The Norwegian Directorate of Immigration  
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N-0032 Oslo  
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**UDI**  
Norwegian Directorate  
of Immigration

about social security benefits, [www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no).

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