

Citizenship

Citizenship entails affiliation to a state with rights and obligations in relation to that state.

If you are resident in Norway, you must submit your application for Norwegian citizenship to the police. Norwegian citizens can apply for Norwegian passports.

You must, as a rule, meet the following conditions in order to acquire Norwegian citizenship:

- Have documented or clarified your identity
- Be at least 12 years old (or have parental consent if you are under the age of 18)
- Live in Norway and intend to continue living here
- Meet the conditions for a settlement permit. This does not apply to applicants with permits pursuant to the EEA/ EFTA regulations
- Have spent a total of seven years in Norway during the last ten years
- Have shown good conduct
- Be released from your original nationality.

See also the section below on dual nationality.

Other requirements for period of residence

Other requirements for period of residence apply to, among others, former Norwegian citizens, applicants who are married to, are a registered partner or cohabitant of a Norwegian or Nordic citizen, are children under 18 years of age or persons who are stateless.

If you have been convicted of a criminal offence, more than seven years' residence in Norway may be required.

Dual nationality

As a general rule, persons applying for Norwegian citizenship must be released from their previous nationality. Exceptions may however be made in certain cases. Exemptions can be made if:

1. The fee for being released from a previous nationality is unreasonably high.
2. The process of release takes an unreasonable length of time.
3. For reasons of personal security, the applicant should not contact the authorities in his/her home country.

If the fee exceeds four per cent of the applicant's income, the release fee is considered to be unreasonably high. In such cases it is possible to retain the previous nationality.

This also applies if the applicant has daily care and control of children under the age of 18 and the release fee, including any release fees for children, exceeds two per cent of the applicant's income. A release fee of up to NOK 2,500 is nevertheless not deemed to be unreasonably high.

Orphans are not required to be released from their previous nationality if the authorities in their original home country demand a fee.

The following documents must be enclosed with the application:

1. An original birth certificate or baptism certificate (applies to applicants born abroad)
2. A copy of the applicant's tax certificate
3. A police certificate of good conduct (which you obtain from the police). This also applies to children aged 15 years or more.
4. Original marriage certificate/confirmation of cohabitation/partnership certificate*
5. Separation or divorce certificate*
6. An overview of all stays abroad during the last ten years if the applicant has resided in Norway for so long
7. Copies of all the pages in old and new travel documents for the last ten years.** This also applies to children.

* Applies if the applicant is or has been married, is a cohabitant or lives in a registered partnership.

** Or for as long as the applicant has resided in Norway, if less than ten years.

Children's applications for citizenship shall also include:

1. Their original birth certificate or baptism certificate showing their parents' names (applies to children born abroad)
2. Confirmation from the children's school that the children attend tuition, if the children are of school age.

3. Documentation from an official body of who has parental responsibility (this applies if one of the parents does not have parental responsibility, or if other persons than the parents have parental responsibility)
4. If the applicant has joint parental responsibility with another person, the other person's consent is required unless already given on the application form
5. Overview of children's stays abroad and copies of all the pages in their travel documents for the last ten years.*

*Or for as long as they have been resident in Norway, if less than ten years

Requirement for Norwegian language skills

Everyone applying for Norwegian citizenship after 1 September 2008 must be able to document that they have completed 300 hours of tuition in the Norwegian language and social studies or be able to document that they have sufficient knowledge of Norwegian or Sami.

New Nationality Act

The applications of applicants who applied before the new Nationality Act entered into force on 1 September 2006, will also be assessed pursuant to the previous Nationality Act if this is to the applicant's advantage.

Notification of receipt of application

When you apply for citizenship you will receive notification in the post that the immigration authorities have received your application. The notification will include information about the expected case-processing time.

Frequently asked Questions

Where do I apply for Norwegian citizenship?

You apply for citizenship at the police station where you live. The police are responsible for providing guidance and taking receipt of your application and the documents to be enclosed. The police prepare the case. This can take some time. After that the police send the application to the UDI for a decision.

If you reside abroad, your application is submitted to a Norwegian foreign service mission. If your application is to be submitted in Oslo, you can phone the Police Immigration Department and obtain the account number for the payment of the fee (see below). The

phone number to the police in Oslo is (+47) 22 34 21 00.

What does it cost to apply for citizenship?

An application for Norwegian citizenship costs NOK 2,500. The fee must be paid when you submit your application to the police or foreign service mission (cash/card). You can also pay the fee in advance (bank transfer). You are then required to enclose the payment receipt with the application, whether you send it in the post or hand it in yourself. The account number can be obtained from the police or foreign service mission. Payment is made to the police/ foreign service mission, not the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI). Applications must therefore never be sent directly to the UDI.

How long does it take to process an application?

It varies. See the UDI's web site www.udi.no/case-processing_time for updated information, or contact UDI's Information Service by e-mail ots@udi.no or phone (+47) 23 35 16 00.

Can I appeal if my application is rejected?

Yes. UDI will first process your appeal. If UDI does not reverse the rejection, the appeal will be processed by the Immigration Appeals Board. The processing of appeals is free of charge.

Can I obtain a Norwegian passport when I have been granted Norwegian citizenship?

When you have been granted Norwegian citizenship you can apply for a Norwegian passport from the police. You must present the letter confirming citizenship status, which you have been given by the police.

Can my Norwegian citizenship be revoked?

Yes. If you have failed to give important information to the Norwegian authorities, you may lose your Norwegian citizenship.

The same applies if you have been granted

Norwegian citizenship on the precondition that you are released from your original nationality and you fail to document your release within the stipulated deadline.

If you apply for citizenship of another country after you have been granted Norwegian citizenship, you will automatically forfeit your Norwegian citizenship.

Further questions?

If you have any more questions, you can contact the police or the Information Service for applicants in UDI by e-mail: ots@udi.no or phone 23 35 16 00. If you are living abroad, please contact your nearest Norwegian foreign service mission.

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