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MODULE 1: Education. Materials.



ARTICLE: EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE NORDIC COUNTRIES

How to apply to a university in the Nordic Region (Bachelor and master)

Studying is the next step for many young people after finishing high school. Though there are many other options, it can be nice to know your options before making a final decision.

Universities in the Nordic Region generally score high in university rankings, they have many degrees in different languages – but most importantly, many of them are free (if you're an EU or EØS citizen).

If you speak a Scandinavian language, you are allowed to apply to degrees in all Scandinavian languages and do your exams in your own language. You can of course also apply for an international degree – but as the Scandinavian languages are so similar, your options are much greater.

In this article you will find information about each Nordic country and how their educational systems operate.



Remember that studying is not the only thing you can do after high school, we have made a little guide to 10 other things you can do! Check the article “Think about your options”!



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Denmark

In Denmark you usually do a bachelor's and a master's degree – or in Danish a bachelor and kandidat. A bachelor is three and a master's two years.

NB! There are also other kinds of degrees.

You can choose between different institutions, like universities or more work-oriented schools with a practical focus.

Bachelor's: You can apply to a bachelor on either “Kvote 1” or “Kvote 2”. Kvote 1 means that you are applying with your grades from high school, while Kvote 2 means that you will do a test or an interview beforehand, to not only be judged on your grades. This means that you can apply to bachelor's degrees, even if you have lower grades than the average grades for that specific bachelor's degree.

You apply on the website optagelse.dk. Applications open on the 1st of February. Deadline for Kvote 2 is the 15th of March, while the deadline from Kvote 1 depends on the country you are applying from. You will know if you got a spot on the 28th of July.

Master's: When applying to a master's degree in Denmark you will find the link to the application portal on the website of the university you want to apply to. If you already have a bachelor's degree in the same field from Denmark, application will be quite easy, as you are usually eligible to the master's degree – meaning that you are already accepted into the master's program.

If you do not have a bachelor's degree from Denmark, you will be applying with your grades from your bachelor's. There are usually not many spots left and competition can be tough – but if you are applying for a master's degree that does not have an equivalent in the bachelor's program, you will be competing with all others on equal terms.



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Sweden

In Sweden you have a bachelor's and a master's degree, or in Sweden a kandidat and master's (notice that it is the opposite of the Danish terms). You can choose between different institutions and lengths of the programs.

Bachelors and masters:

In Sweden application is very easy, as it is all through the application portal antagning.se or through the specific university. You apply for both a bachelor's and a master's degree on the website, which is very user-friendly.

In Sweden you will apply with your grades from high school.

You can apply for both the spring and the fall semester (though starting in the fall is way more common).

Applications for the fall open on March 15th and deadline is on April 15th. You will know if you got in on the 11th of July.

For some degrees the dates may be different, and we recommend all to do their research before applying.



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Finland

Unless you speak Finnish, you will have to apply to a degree in English to be able to study in Finland. They do have some degrees in Swedish, but the biggest universities are usually in English or Finnish.

As Finnish can be a bit difficult to navigate, they have a database for degrees taught in English.

There are different lengths on the degrees, like the rest of the Nordic countries.

Bachelor's and Master's:

You can apply through the website opintopolku.fi. Applications for English taught degrees usually open in January, while the Swedish and Finnish degrees open on March 15th. Some degrees might have entrance exams and you are responsible to getting to know the requirements for your chosen degree.

You will know if you got a spot in the summer, but the date is based on what kind of program you have applied to.



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Norway

As well as the other countries, you have a bachelor's and a master's degree in Norway. They can be different lengths, and some might combine the bachelor's and master's into one degree.

Bachelor's:

You apply with your grades, but (for the bachelor's) you apply in two different groups. One for people under 21 where only your grades from high school count (førstegangsvitnemål) and one where you can get different points based on age, previous experience and if you have improved your grades from high school (ordinær kvote). The spots in the degrees are divided 50/50 on the two quotas. You apply through the website samordnaopptak.no. The applications open on the 1st of February and usually close on the 15th of March (some might close sooner; check the degree you are applying for). You will get your answer on the 20th of July.

Master's:

When applying to a master's degree in Norway, you usually apply through the university. Each university has a guide on how to apply and what grades you must have. The lowest grade average is usually a C from the bachelor's, but depending on who applies, you might need higher grades. In Norway it is possible to do exams up to three times, meaning that people might take an extra year doing exams to make their grades better. This can make it difficult to get a spot if you have a bachelor's degree from a country who does not allow that.



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Iceland

As the smallest country in the Nordic Region the selection of English taught degrees is not that great, especially on the bachelor's level.

When applying to a degree, the application is through each university, as Iceland does not have an application website for all degrees. This means that the dates and deadlines are different for each university.

You can find the universities and more information on <https://study.iceland.is/>.



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