

SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES

Are you a refugee?

You are considered to be a refugee if you are a foreign citizen and have been granted protection (asylum) in Norway. You must be registered with refugee status with the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI).

You may be eligible for support

If you are a refugee, you may be eligible for support for all education in Norway that has been approved for support from Lånekassen.

Exceptions:

You will not be eligible for support from Lånekassen if you live at a refugee reception centre, except for grants for course materials that young people in upper secondary school can get. You may be eligible for other support when you have been granted protection (asylum) and you have left the refugee reception centre.

Refugees may be eligible for refugee grants

Refugees who have not completed primary, secondary or upper secondary school may be eligible for refugee grants for this purpose. If you are eligible for a refugee grant, most or all of the money will be disbursed as a grant. If you are taking higher or other education, you will not be eligible for a refugee grant but you can apply for ordinary support for education in Norway on an equal basis to Norwegian citizens.

Refugee grants are disbursed for a maximum of three years

You may receive a refugee grant for a maximum of three years, but the number of years depends on how soon you start your education after being granted protection (asylum).

If you start your education within three years of being granted protection, you could get a refugee grant for three years. If you start within four years of being granted protection, you could get a refugee grant for two years and if you start within five years, you could get a refugee grant for one year.

The period during which you may receive a refugee grant may be extended by up to two years if you already have children or have a child during the period in which you were eligible for a refugee grant. You must start your education before the child turns ten years of age. If you are entitled to primary and secondary education before starting upper secondary education, you may still receive a refugee grant for a period of three years, even if you did not start your education until after five years

Introduction benefits affect eligibility for support

You are not eligible for a refugee grant during the period in which you receive introduction benefits. If you do not receive introduction benefits for the duration of the academic year, you may be eligible for a refugee grant for the period during which you do not receive introduction benefits.

How much money can you get?

If you attend upper secondary education with statutory rights as a young person¹, support will be calculated in the same way as for Norwegian pupils. The difference is that the full amount is disbursed as a refugee grant, with the exception of additional loans and loans for tuition fees. If you are attending primary or secondary education or you are attending upper secondary education without statutory rights as a young person, the amount will be calculated in the same way as for Norwegian students in higher education. The difference is that the basic support is disbursed as a refugee grant.

Note: The refugee grant may be converted to a loan if you have income, social security benefits or assets above certain thresholds, see separate section concerning this below. Additional loans and loans for tuition fees cannot be awarded as refugee grants.

¹ Young people who have completed primary and secondary education or equivalent have a statutory right to upper secondary education. The statutory rights of young people apply until the end of the academic year that starts in the year during which you turn 24.

Education	How to apply	Amount if you are in full-time education
Primary and secondary education for adults. Education to which you are entitled pursuant to Section 4A-1(1) of the Norwegian Education Act.	Use the application form for higher and other education.	Refugee grant: NOK 58,585 per semester.
Primary and secondary education for pupils with statutory rights of young people. Section 4A-1(2) of the Norwegian Education Act.	Use the application form for upper secondary education.	The same amount as for upper secondary education with statutory rights of young people, but at the lowest rate for the grant for course materials. See below.
Upper secondary education with statutory rights as a young person.	Use the application form for upper secondary education.	Grant for course materials: NOK 1,118-4,603, depending on education programme. Housing grant: NOK 4,979 per month if you have to live separately from your parents. Persons over the age of 18 who live away from home may be eligible for an additional amount of NOK 3,467 per month. Income-dependent grant: NOK 1,163 – 3,489 per month if your parents/guardians have a low income. Whether you are eligible and how much you may be eligible for depends on your parents' income. The amounts you may be eligible for, for housing grants, income-dependent grants and loans will be disbursed as refugee grants.
Upper secondary education without statutory rights as a young person.	Use the application form for higher and other education.	Refugee grant: NOK 58,585 per semester.
Higher or other education. University or University College. Other education includes folk high school, vocational college, art college or IT college.	Use the application form for higher and other education.	You cannot receive a refugee grant for higher and other education. However, you can receive support under the same rules as Norwegian students, i.e. up to NOK 58,585 per semester in basic support for full-time education. Up to 40 per cent of the basic support may be converted to a grant if you do not live together with your parents. Read more at www.lanekassen.no If you are a full-time student in higher education or vocational college education, you may be eligible for more support.

In addition to the amounts listed in the table, you may be eligible for

- a child grant and additional loan if you care for children
- an additional loan if you are over the age of 30
- an additional loan for tuition fees
- an additional grant due to disability

The refugee grant may be converted to a loan

All or parts of the refugee grant may be converted to a loan if you have income, social security benefits or assets above the thresholds set down in the regulations. If you care for children, the child grant will also be reduced or stopped if you or your spouse/cohabitant have income, social security benefits or assets above the thresholds set down in the regulations.

Means testing against income, social security benefits and assets takes place during summer/autumn in the year after you received support, when your tax assessment notice is ready.

Read more at www.lanekassen.no.

How to apply for support

There is no separate application form for refugee grants. You must use the application form for support, which can be found at www.lanekassen.no.

If you are or will be participating in the introduction programme during the period for which you are applying for support, you need to submit **a copy of the decision from the local authority or the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) showing the period during which you will receive introduction benefits.**

If you have completed the introduction programme, you need to submit **confirmation from the local authority or the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) showing the date on which you completed the introduction programme.**

Lånekassen collects information about your residence permit from UDI (the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration). Therefore, you do not need to submit documentation from UDI unless we specifically ask for it.

Response to the application for support

You can follow the application and view the decision in Dine sider at www.lanekassen.no.

Disbursement

Before you can receive any money, the following three things must be in order:

1. Your school must confirm that you have been accepted for the course of education and that you have started your education.
2. You must have provided a valid Norwegian bank account number that belongs to you. This is done in the application. You can change your bank account number via Dine sider.
3. The support agreement must be signed.
 - If you are aged 18 or over, you must sign the support agreement yourself.
 - If you are under the age of 18, your parents must sign the support agreement.
If you are an orphan or if your parents live abroad, your guardian must sign the support agreement.
If you receive a loan, both your parents/guardian and you must sign the support agreement

If you discontinue your education

You must notify Lånekassen immediately if you discontinue your education. More information can be found at lanekassen.no

