

Norway

National Higher Education Equity Policy

Governance

The Ministry of Education and Research, with a Minister of Research and Higher Education and a Department for Higher Education, Research and International Affairs, is responsible for defining national policies in higher education?

Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- Act relating to universities and university colleges, 1 April 2005
- Gender Equality Act, 1978

Equity in Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- “Universities and university colleges shall make active, targeted and systematic efforts to ensure gender equality in all categories of employment at the institution.” (Section 6-2, Gender Equality)
- “that premises, access roads, sanitary facilities and technical installations are designed in such a way as to enable persons with disabilities to study at the institution.” (Section 4-3, Learning Environment)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Gender groups
- Students with disability

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- No, Norway takes a more universal approach rather than a targeted approach for higher education support.

Is there a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education?

- No

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

Monetary Policy Instruments

- **No tuition fees or low fees in public institutions / No fees for certain groups:**
 - students in public universities do not pay fees (although students may need to pay a membership fee for the local student welfare organization).
- **Needs-based scholarships and grants / Other grants targeted for equity groups:**
 - Universal grants for full-time students
- **Student loans:** publicly subsidized loans

Non-Monetary Policy Instruments

- **Flexible pathways and transfers / Recognition of prior learning:**
 - Students who complete an upper secondary vocational program and do an additional one-year course of general education can transfer into HEIs; they can also transfer from a vocational program to a general education track part way through upper secondary schooling
 - For students above 25, formal, non-formal and informal training are taken into consideration
- **Reformed admission procedures / Affirmative action programs:**
 - students from under-represented groups can be awarded extra points in the admission procedure

Financial Resources

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

Quality Assurance

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Not available

Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency

Norway does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Sources

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