



The
Information
Hub

Education Guide



About Education Guide

Dear reader,

this education guide contains information and guidance about the education system, and education in Rana municipality. It is tailored for children and youths moving with their parents or guardians from abroad to Norway, specifically Mo i Rana.

This guide include guidance about essentials with references to official websites and resources available for newcomers. There is an Questions and Answered (Q&A) section about education with most things you must wonder about.

Hope this guide will be useful for you!

Sincerely,

The Information Hub.



**The
Information
Hub**

Table of Content

Page 1: Overview

Page 2: Resources

Page 3-4: Kindergarten

Page 5: Compulsory school

Page 6-7: Upper secondary education

Page 8: Higher education

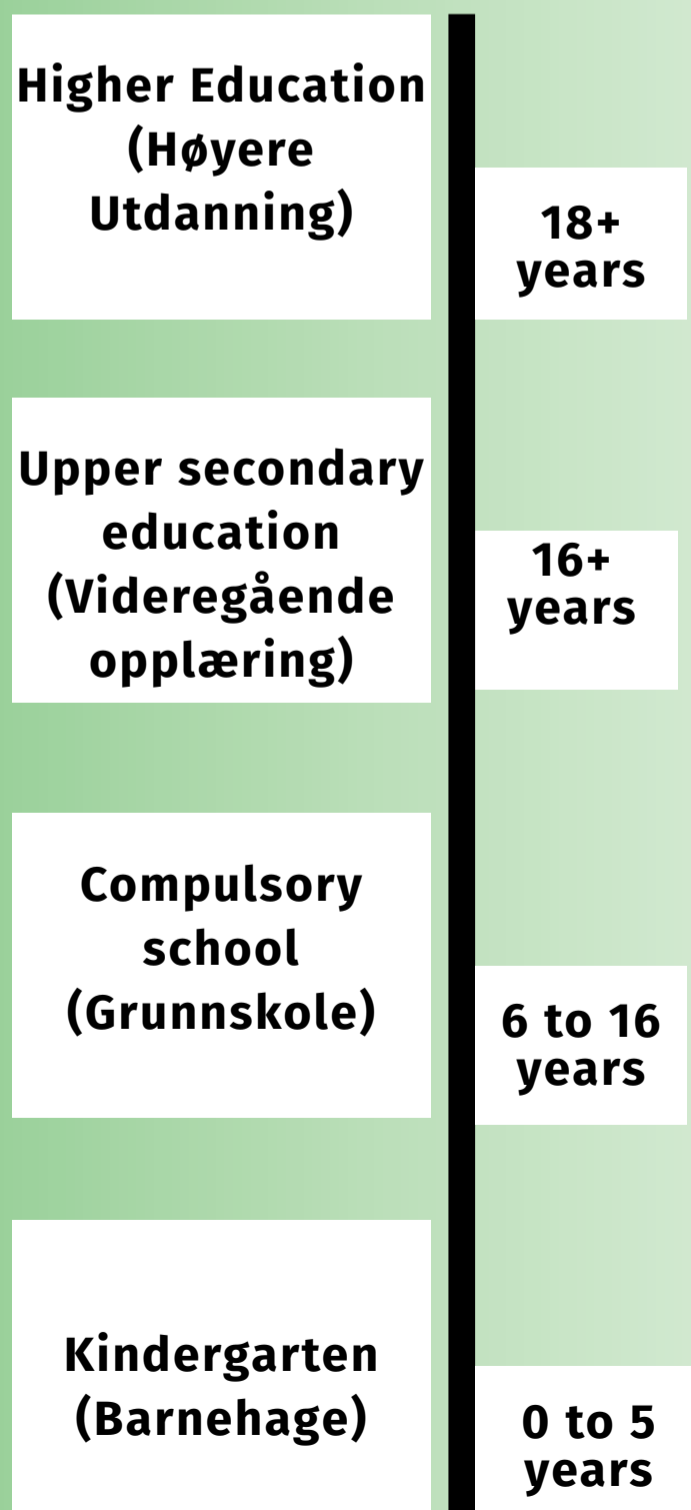
Page 9: Websites & Guidance

Page 10-12: Q&A Education

Overview

The Norwegian education system is structured by kindergarten, primary and secondary school, upper secondary education, and higher education in Norway.

Kindergarten (Barnehage) is optional for children (0-5 years old). Primary and secondary school (Grunnskole) equals compulsory education (6-16 years old). Upper secondary education (Videregående opplæring) and higher education (høyere utdanning) is optional for youths in Norway.



Links

Use these links below to find an overview of the education system.

[Go to the English website to the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills.](#)

[Go to the English website to The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training.](#)

[Go to the English website to upper secondary education and training in Norway.](#)

Resources

Information in several languages

Use the English website to UDIR to find information in English and several other languages.

There you will find guidance to newly arrived parents and guardians about the education system.

[Use this link here.](#)

Norwegian - English Glossary

Use the English website to UDIR to find a [Norwegian - English Glossary about education system in Norway.](#)

Minority children have the right to receive adapted language training in school!



The right to education

All children under compulsory school age has the right to receive education, if they are living more than three months, and regardless of residence in Norway.

All children have the right to receive obligated education, facilitation of teaching and training, healthcare, and transportation. Minority children have the same rights as majority of children during education.

Youths over the age of 16 years old must have approved residence where they meet requirements to attend upper secondary education and higher education in Norway.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten (Barnehage) is a part of the voluntary preschool education and childcare for children (0 to 5 years old) in municipalities in Norway. This is a normal practice for parents and children under compulsory school age in all municipalities in Norway. It helps the parents to study and work in their everyday lives, and gives education and social growth to children. It is an equal and mandatory right for children in Norway. Its the municipalities that are responsible for kindergartens and spots in Norway.

Kindergartens in Rana Municipality

Rana Municipality is responsible for providing enough kindergartens and kindergarten spots for children under school age in the municipality. All children under school age are entitled to a kindergarten spot when they are residing in Rana Municipality. There are nine public kindergartens and thirteen private kindergartens plus open kindergarten in Rana Municipality. Kindergartens are spread across the municipality.

How to apply for a kindergarten spot

The main requirement to be able to apply for a kindergarten place is that the child or children must be registered in the National Population Registry and living in Norway. Other requirements are related to the child or children's date of birth, documentation, and attachments to the application. You apply for a kindergarten spot(s) by the municipality's application portal with an online form.

[Use this link if you are applying for a kindergarten spot in Rana Municipality.](#)

Checklist when applying

- The application deadline is the same every year: **April 1st.**
- The child must be born before December 1st last year.
- Child must have post address in Rana Municipality.
- Documents must be translated into Norwegian or English.
- Waiting list is an option if there are no available spots yet.

Good to know

You can apply for a kindergarten spot without being registered yet living in Norway. That is if you and your family members have post adresse in Rana Municipality.

Contact the kindergarten manager in Rana Municipality, to receive information and guidance about admission into kindergarten.

Financial costs and support

Financial costs and support for kindergarten vary between years in Norway. It is set by the Norwegian Parliament (Stortinget) annually in terms of maximum ceiling for what you must pay for a full-time kindergarten place. Reduction of maximum price is given when you have more than one child in the same kindergarten. It is the parent(s) income or combined income which decides discounts of price(s) in kindergartens in Norway.

[Find more information about financial costs and support in kindergarten here.](#)

Education and additional costs

It is required to follow the Framework Plan for content and tasks which contains guidelines for values and work methods in kindergartens in Norway. It is required for kindergartens to have a pedagogical leader and head teacher in which both must be qualified teachers. The purpose is to ensure that all children receive equal and high education regardless of background and status in Norway. There may be additional costs such as appropriate clothes, shoes, accessories, equipments, and food for children in all kindergartens in Norway.

[Find more information about the Framework Plan for kindergartens here.](#)

Good to know

It is normal for kids to be playing and learning outdoors in nature, and for kids to bring their own lunch and drinks with them to kindergartens.

If you have any question, ask the staff in the kindergarten in Rana!

The Packing List for kindergarten

- Winter clothes (Vinterdress).
- Warm clothes (fleece/ull).
- Rain clothes and rain boots (regndress, gummistøvler og votter).
- Accessories (Buff/Balaclava/lue/votter/hansker).
- Indoor shoes (Innesko).
- Jacket and pants (summer).
 - Lunchbox (Matpakke).
- Water bottle (Vannflaske).
- Name tags (Navnelapper).
- Stroller (Barnevogn).
- Diapers and creams (bleier, kremer, kuldekrem/solkrem).



Compulsory school

Compulsory school is primary and secondary school which is mandatory and free of charge based on equality regardless of background of children in Norway.

It is called "Grunnskole" in Norwegian. Children start primary school the year they turn 6 years old, and start secondary school the year they turn 13 years old.

Children finish secondary school the year they turn 16 years old in Norway.

It is the municipalities who are responsible for ensuring the quality of primary and secondary schools for children residing in Norway.

Enrollment into school

Rana Municipality has seven primary schools, two combined schools, and one lower secondary schools, plus two private schools. Children are enrolled into school according to their residential address in terms of school districts in the municipality. This is called "nærhetsprinsippet" which means that children have the right to attend the closest school according to address in the municipality. All schools have the same curriculum in terms of requirements and needs for children in the municipality.

[Here you can find more information about school curriculum in schools in Norway.](#)

Rights for children in school

- Adapted training environment according to requirements and needs in curriculum.
- School health service, dental service and environmental healthcare.
- Free transport to school through school bus when in need for it.
- Homework help and aids for exams, and necessary school tools.

These rights are most important to remember for children in school.

Guidelines and rights

Children intending to stay more than three months are obligated to attend compulsory school in Norway.

This means that children does not need to have legal residence to attend primary and secondary school.

Links

[Education system in Norway](#)

[Primary and secondary education](#)

[International education programme](#)

Upper Secondary Education

Upper Secondary Education is a voluntary right for youths after they have finished primary and secondary education in Norway. It is owned and maintained by the counties and not by municipalities in Norway.

In Upper Secondary Education, we separate between general studies and vocational training, which is voluntary choice according to rights for youths in Norway. The timeline is between 3 to 5 years in Upper Secondary Education.

The right to upper secondary education

The right to upper secondary education require legal residence in Norway. Youth under the age of 18 years old have the right to upper secondary education, while they are waiting for their approval of residence in Norway. Youths must deliver documents showing that they have fulfilled the requirements for primary and secondary education in another country which is approved by the Norwegian authorities in Norway. Keep in mind that this varies between countries in Norway.

Contact the admission office in Nordland to receive more information about it.



Admission and deadlines

Application deadline is **February 1st** for those who are relocating from abroad to Norway. This means that documents and application must be delivered and applies for all schools.

Use this link to get an overview of deadlines for applications and admission calendar in Norway.

Polarsirkelen upper secondary school

Polarsirkelen upper secondary school is located in Mo i Rana. It is a brand new, public school with over hundred of students and professional qualified teachers. The school offers a variety of academic programs and courses for students, including general education, vocational training, and specialized programs in the region.

Admission into school

Here are the most important steps to remember about admission into school.

- Start the application process at least **6 months** before application deadline. The application deadline is February 1st each year for students moving to Norway.
- **Contact** the admission office in Nordland to receive information and guidance about attached documents to the application in the process.
- Explore academic programs in Polarsirkelen upper secondary school.



Admission office in Nordland

E-mail: inntak@nfk.no

Phone number: +47 75 65 02 10

www.nfk.no

Contact Polarsirkelen VGS

E-mail: polarpost@vgs.nfk.no

Phone number: +475 65 30 00

www.polarsirkelen.vgs.no

Academic programs

General studies.

Art and sports subjects.

Technology and industrial courses.

Information technology and media production.

Building and construction techniques

Health and care courses.

Restaurant and food courses.

Electro and computer technology courses.

Higher Education

Campus Helgeland

Campus Helgeland is located in Mo i Rana with two universities located in the same building with a variety of programmes and courses for Norwegian and international students. Nord University and Arctic University of Norway is located here.

[Click here to find more information about Arctic University of Norway in Mo i Rana.](#)

[Click here to find more information about Nord University in Mo i Rana.](#)

Did you know that the Vocational school in Nordland offers programmes and courses through the battery school?

[Use this link to find more information about the battery school in Nordland!](#)

Academic programmes and courses

- Engineering
- Science
- Technology
- Art
- Economy
- Business
- Healthcare



Links

Go to the official website **www.studyinnorway.no** to read and learn more about studying in Norway.

Websites & Guidance

Primary and secondary education in Norway

[Info Norden about childcare, schools and child benefits.](#)

[The Norwegian Government about kindergarten in Norway.](#)

[The Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training \(UDIR\).](#)

Upper secondary education in Norway

[Vilbli.no about upper secondary education in Norway.](#)

[Info Norden about upper secondary education in Norway.](#)

Higher Education in Norway

[Info Norden Guide to study in Norway.](#)

[Info Norden Higher education and tertiary vocational education.](#)

[The Norwegian Universities and College Admission Service.](#)

Useful information guidance

[Education in Rana Municipality.](#)

[Campus Helgeland in Mo i Rana.](#)

Q&A Education

Where can I ask for information and guidance about education? Me and my family members are relocating to Mo i Rana!

You can ask the Information Hub Mo i Rana for information and guidance.

Where can I find information about the education system?

Go to the official English website to the Norwegian Directorate for Education and Training (UDIR) to find information in other languages about the education system.

What are the rights to minority children in the Norwegian education system?

Minority children who doesn't have Norwegian as their mother language, have the right to receive adapted teaching and training in the Norwegian language, and to receive learning about the Norwegian system and society in Norway.

What are the rights to minority youths in the education system?

The general rule is that minority youths over the age of 16 years old must have approved residence, or on the path of getting approved residence in order to attend upper secondary education and higher education in Norway.

What is the "Young Person's Right" (Ungdomsrett) in the education system?

The "Young Person's Right" (Ungdomsrett) is the right to apply for upper secondary education and higher education for all young people who have completed primary and secondary education in Norway, or the equivalent in the education system.

What is the "Adult's Right" (Voksenrett) in the education system in Norway?

The "Adult's Right" (Voksenrett) means that everyone who has completed primary and secondary education or equivalent, but has not completed upper secondary education, is entitled to upper secondary education from the year of their 25th birthday. Keep in mind that there are variations in terms of regulations for application, admission, and organisation of adult education, depending on different counties in the Norwegian education system.

Q&A Education

Is it normal for children and youths spending time in outdoor activities during time in kindergarten and school in Norway?

This is a normal practice where kindergartens and schools arrange days of outdoor activities for children and youths in all municipalities and counties in Norway. This is why it is important for children and youths to have proper clothes and equipment. There is "no bad weather only bad clothes" when you are living in Norway!

Is it normal for children and youths to bring their own food and drinks from home?

By old Norwegian tradition, it is normal to bring your own "matpakke" (cold lunch) with you to kindergarten, school and work in Norway. A "matpakke" usually consist of slices of bread with meat and cheese on top, accessories like vegetables and fruits, and something good to drink such as water, juice, and milk in your own bottle. Sometimes kindergartens, schools and work-places contribute with extra treats and goods on special occasions, but this is less common practice in Norway.

How can I apply for a kindergarten spot for my child in Rana?

Contact the kindergarten manager in Rana Municipality!

How can my child enroll into a school place in Rana?

Contact the head of department of Bilingual unit in Rana Municipality!

What is the concept about SFO and does it exist in primary schools in Rana?

"SFO" (Skolefritidsordning) means after and before school activities for children in early primary school (1st to 4th grade) offered in Norwegian municipalities. Visit the official website to Rana Municipality to find more information about SFO.

Q&A Education

How can my youth apply for upper secondary education?

It is Nordland County who is responsible for upper secondary education, and not Rana Municipality. Contact the admission office in Nordland County!

What kind of additional costs should I calculate into my personal finances?

It is necessary to calculate additional costs such as proper clothes and equipment, and social activities during school time and leisure time in Rana Municipality.

Are there any cost differences between public and private schools in Norway?

There might be some cost differences between public and private schools in Norway. Private schools may offer specialized teaching and training for children who have a need of particular learning, and social environment with social activities.

It is common for private schools to charge pupils for annually tuition fees.

How can my child(ren) receive help with homework during school time?

You have the right to ask special teachers for help with homework during school time, if your child(ren) is struggling with subjects in school. This applies for primary and secondary education and upper secondary education in the education system.

How can I follow holidays and school-free days in Rana?

All Norwegian public holidays are school-free days. It is recommended to ask the school for an overview of public holidays and other school-free days in Rana.