



Norwegian Agency for  
International Cooperation  
and Quality Enhancement  
in Higher Education

# Pilot call for applications 2020

## NORPART full degree master's scholarships in Norway

### 1. Invitation

The Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku) is pleased to issue this pilot call for applications for NORPART full degree master's scholarships in Norway.

NORPART is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is administrated by Diku. The programme addresses both higher education policy and development policy goals. The programme supports academic partnerships and student mobility with an emphasis on the master's level.

Please note that this pilot call is only open for established NORPART projects, with funding for the period 2017 to 2023.

The applications should be prepared jointly by the project partners in Norway and partner countries.

**The final deadline for submission of applications is 2 March 2020 at 15:00 Norwegian time (CEST).**

### 2. Aim and objectives of NORPART

The overall aim of NORPART is to enhance the quality of higher education in Norway and developing countries through academic cooperation and mutual student mobility.

#### Objectives

The programme shall lead to:

- Strengthened partnerships for education and research between developing countries and Norway
- Increased quality and internationalisation of academic programmes at participating institutions
- Increased mobility of students from developing countries to Norway, including mobility in connection with work placements
- Increased mobility of students from Norway to developing countries, including mobility in connection with work placements

Student mobility through academic partnerships is a core element in the programme, with emphasis on the mobility of students from partner countries to Norway. Mobile students will prosper academically and gain an international understanding, intercultural competence and access to international networks. They will bring new perspectives back to their home institutions, thus contributing to internationalisation at home.

Academic partnerships will benefit both mobile and non-mobile students. Educational cooperation facilitates knowledge sharing, network building and the development of better and more relevant academic programmes. This will lead to enhanced quality of higher education and will strengthen the partners in a long-term perspective. International cooperation will connect the partners closer to global knowledge production and strengthen the education and research at the institutions, better enabling them to effectively address local and global challenges.

### **3. Target groups for NORPART full degree scholarships**

Students that are eligible for a NORPART full degree master's scholarship, must be recruited and selected within the partnership of an established NORPART project.

To support the overall objectives of NORPART, students with a full degree scholarship must be admitted to an international master's programme attended by Norwegian students.

Full degree master's scholarships should be awarded to students with a relevant degree from a partner institution, or staff at the partner institution in a NORPART project. Scholarships may also be awarded to students previously/currently studying in Norway through a NORPART exchange but should preferably be awarded to students who have not yet had the opportunity to study in Norway.

The project partners should facilitate field visits/exchange periods to the student's home institution during the study period in Norway.

When possible, admission of students from a disadvantaged background and/or without a former master's degree should be prioritised.

### **4. Funding framework for the pilot call 2020**

The Norwegian government has allocated NOK 15 million to strengthening of the NORPART programme. The funds are a contribution from the budget of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

The funds will be available from 2020 and onwards to support student mobility from countries in the global south to Norway, making it possible for these students to complete a full master's degree at a Norwegian higher education institution under the framework of the NORPART programme.

Approximately 50 scholarships are available through this pilot call in 2020, for the 46 projects that are currently funded by NORPART.

The budget for a two-year master's degree scholarship is approximately NOK 300 000 per student.

More information and budget guidelines for the administration of NORPART full degree master's scholarships is attached in appendix 1 to this Call.

## 5. Eligibility and selection criteria

### Eligibility criteria

Only established NORPART projects, with funding for the period 2017 to 2023, are eligible for support under this pilot call for applications.

A full degree scholarship is limited to the completion of an accredited international master's degree at a Norwegian higher education institution that is partner in a NORPART project.

Full degree NORPART master's students may be recruited and commence their studies in Norway within the academic year 2020, depending on local requirements and admission deadlines. Alternatively, start of study must be in 2021.

### Selection criteria

The applications will be assessed by Diku according to the following selection criteria:

- a. To what extent the application demonstrates how full degree scholarships will strengthen the project and the overall aim and objectives of NORPART
- b. The extent to which the described recruitment and selection procedures are in line with the Call for applications
- c. The quality of the support system and academic inclusion of the students as outlined in the application

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application, tentatively in April 2020.

Information about contract and reporting obligation will be sent to applicants selected for support.

## Appendix 1

### **Guidelines for the administration of NORPART full degree scholarships, pilot call 2020**

#### **1. Selection of students**

Selection of students must adhere to the conditions set out in section 3. Target groups for NORPART full degree scholarships in the Call for applications.

The Norwegian host institution and their partner institutions in the developing country are jointly responsible for the selection and admission of qualified students to the international master's programme in Norway.

It is the joint responsibility of the partner institutions to set up procedures for selection of qualified students in accordance with these guidelines. The selection procedures and eligibility criteria must be predictable and transparent.

#### **2. Administration of the scholarship**

Diku shall transfer the scholarship budget to the host institution in Norway for each NORPART project that has been selected for funding in this pilot call.

The host institution in Norway shall sign a mutually binding Letter of award with each student selected for a NORPART full degree scholarship. The Letter of award shall state the terms and conditions for receiving and upholding the scholarship.

Payment of the scholarship to the students, shall be administrated by the host institution in Norway, on behalf of Diku. Any additional administrative costs related to the administration of the full degree scholarships, may be covered by the ongoing NORPART project, under the budget heading "Salary and indirect costs".

The host institution in Norway is responsible for the specific follow-up and admittance of the students to the international master's programme, and must secure that the procedures for the intake, retention and student welfare are in line with established practice for international students.

All practical matters and questions regarding the scholarship, payment etc., must be directed to and handled by a NORPART contact person at the host institution.

### 3. Conditions for obtaining a scholarship

To be and remain eligible for a scholarship, a student must:

1. Meet the minimum academic qualifications, including explicitly stated requirements of the master's programme set by the host institution in Norway
2. Obtain and continuously hold a valid residence permit from UDI
3. Accept enrolment into the international master's programme provided by the host institution in Norway, and continuously meet the requirements set by the host institution for upholding his/her student status and right to attend the master's programme
4. Arrive at the host institution's campus in Norway and commence his/her studies in accordance with the Master programme's schedule
5. Keep the study progression set by the host institution in Norway for the master's programme.
6. Scholarship may be terminated in case one or more of the above-mentioned conditions are not fulfilled

### 4. Calculation and payment of the scholarship

The scholarship covers costs for students up to the applicable rate set by the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund. For the academic year of 2019/2020 the monthly rate is NOK 11 020.

The student is personally responsible for ensuring that the scholarship payments satisfies his/her various monetary obligations (housing, fees, etc.) and general living costs. The right to receive the scholarship is for the sole benefit of the student and may not be assigned or otherwise transferred to any third party.

#### Costs covered:

- Total budget covered for a two-year full degree master's scholarship is estimated to approximately NOK 300 000
- The scholarship is calculated to cover ordinary living expenses, including accommodation, meals, personal expenses, daily travel and necessary books and study materials for the duration of 24 months
- Visa costs, study/entry permit
- Start-up grant, paid once, when the student arrives in Norway. The start-up grant is intended to cover part of the deposit in the halls of residence, initial expenses, such as semester fees, household goods and warm clothing. The start-up grant is equivalent to the first month's scholarship 11 020, plus NOK 10 000
- A (return) ticket to/from Norway from the airport nearest to the student's place of residency in home country. For students who cannot pre-finance travel costs, tickets shall be arranged and paid for by the Norwegian host institution

- Other costs to cover unforeseen expenses (not part of the monthly scholarship paid to the student)

#### Funding plan (example):

Scholarships	Year 1	Year 2	NOK Total
Monthly scholarship	132 240	132 240	264 480
Start-up grant	10 000		10 000
Travel expenses*	9000	9000	18 000
Visa costs**	4 900		4 900
<b>SUM - Scholarships</b>	<b>156 140</b>	<b>141 240</b>	<b>297 380</b>
<b>Other costs*</b>	<b>1 310</b>	<b>1 310</b>	<b>2 620</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>157 450</b>	<b>142 550</b>	<b>300 000</b>

\*Travel and other costs must be adjusted to real costs

\*\*Visa costs must be adjusted if the application fee is changed

#### Costs not covered include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Dependents/children in the home country or in Norway
- Travel and accident insurance for the journey to and from Norway
- The cost of shipping extra luggage to Norway
- Travel to/from home and Norway exceeding one return ticket per year

#### Scholarship payment procedure:

Until the student has acquired his/her Norwegian identification number and opened a Norwegian bank account, the host institution shall pay out the scholarship to the student via payment checks, cash cards or other appropriate means of payment in use at the institution.

Upon acquisition of his/her identification number, the student will be required to open a personal bank account with a Norwegian bank and provide the account details to the contact person at the host institution.

Upon receipt of the student's Norwegian banking details, the host institution shall make all subsequent payments to the student's Norwegian bank account.

The Start-up grant shall be paid to the student by the host institution in Norway upon his/her arrival at the campus in Norway. Subsequent monthly payments will be made by the host institution on the date set by the Institution for such pay-outs.

The amount due in rent for the student's accommodation may be paid directly from the host institution to the landlord's designated account until the student has opened a personal Norwegian bank account.

### **5. Delays in study progression**

If there is risk for delay in the student's study progression, the student must as soon as possible consult his/her contact person at the host institution on how to avoid delays and regain the required progression. If delay in the study progression occurs, the host institution must notify Diku, and work together with the student to set up an alternative plan/schedule for completing his/her degree.

Insofar the host institution and Diku decide that such a schedule/plan is likely to lead to the student finishing his/her degree within a maximum of 12 months beyond the normal study progression set by the Institution. The host institution can apply to Diku for additional funds to cover the living costs accrued. Such additional funding will be subject to the student's continued fulfilment of the milestones set in the schedule/plan.

If the host institution and Diku decide that the student cannot realistically complete his/her degree within the time frames mentioned above, the host institution must ensure that the student receives reasonable funds to pay for his/her return journey and to cover reasonable living costs up to the return date.

### **6. Insurance**

The student should be subject to the applicable insurance schemes in use at host institution and have access to the Norwegian health care system on the same terms as Norwegian residents. If the student wishes to acquire any additional insurance cover, such cover must be arranged and paid for by the student.

### **7. Right to stop and reduce payments of the scholarship**

No payment of any part of the scholarship should be made to the student until he/she has arrived on the host institution's campus in Norway. The host institution may stop payment of the scholarship if the student:

- Is in breach of one of the conditions for entitlement to the scholarship
- Fail to maintain the required study progression set by the host institution for the master's programme or follow up a schedule/plan agreed
- The host institution may reduce payment of the scholarship if the student's costs of living are covered (in full or in part) by another public entity in Norway or home/other countries

Before the right to stop or reduce a payment is exercised the student shall be consulted, and the student shall be given minimum 14 days advance notice in writing. Payments made in error (if any) may be unilaterally set-off against subsequent payments.