

This article is written by Oslo VO Servicesenter for the website <https://felles.oslovo.no>.
The article is revised April 2018.
Kindly note that this is a simplified description of these rules and regulations.
Sources/read more (in Norwegian): Introduksjonsloven (The Introduction Act).

Free or paid courses in Norwegian language and Social studies, - and other rules.

The Introduction Act

The Introduction Act describes the rules for Norwegian language and Society training for adult immigrants, and applies to most of the immigrants who have received their first residence permit as of 01.09.2005 or later who were granted a residence permit that forms the basis for permanent residency

In some cases, it may also apply to persons who received their first residence permit before 01.09.2005, but have received a new type of permit later.

The law and its regulations regarding Norwegian language and Society training are compiled in a “circular” (*rundskriv*) from the government. The law and regulations are often revised. The latest circular is called [G-01/2016](#). This circular is not completely updated per April 2018.

The Introduction Act is closely linked to the various requirements of Norwegian language and Society knowledge when applying for a permanent residence permit (Utlendingsloven / *the Immigration Act*) and citizenship (Statsborgerloven / *the Citizenship Act*).

From January 01.01.2017, some changes in the rules, including age groups and new requirements for Norwegian and Social knowledge skills, apply.

Kindly note that the following article will provide a simplified description and, in some cases, Oslo Adult Educations interpretations of the rules, per April 2018. See the Circular.

The Introduction Act and its regulations determines which categories of immigrants who

- are entitled to free training in Norwegian language and Society
- have to pay for the training
- have mandatory tests

The Act also regulates

- the age groups various rules apply for
- rules on time-limits, and other limitations for free training
- alternative documentation of skills and other requirements for Exemption/“*Fritak*”) from the “duty”.

Does the Introduction Act apply to you?

You can check the information in the residence permit you have received from the UDI/Police, or you can enquire at The Adult Education in your municipality.

Who has a right and a duty to Norwegian language and Society studies?

Persons with a right and a duty are entitled to free tuitions based on the Introduction Act and its regulations. The main groups are:

- Persons with a refugee status
- Resettlement refugees (*overføringsflyktninger*)
- Persons with residency based on
 - Humanitarian grounds (*humanitært*)
 - Compassionate grounds (*sterke menneskelige hensyn*)
 - Independent grounds (*selvstendig grunnlag*)
- Persons who have family reunification with:
 - a person in one of the groups above
 - a person who has a permanent residence permit
 - Note: special rules apply for calculating the time limit for free training for persons who have family reunification with a work immigrant who later is granted permanent residency
 - a Norwegian citizen or a Nordic citizen
 - Note: special rules apply for persons reunited with Nordic citizens, see www.udi.no, or contact UDI for more details
- • Individuals under collective protection
 - If a person under collective protection has a residence permit that forms the basis for permanent residency, her/his family members with family reunification permits are granted a right and a duty.

For persons with right and duty to (free) tuitions who were granted first residence permit from and including 1.9.2013, test in Norwegian and the Social studies test are mandatory.

Who has only a right (without duty) to training?

Persons with the right (without duty) are mainly the persons in the right and duty groups who are between 55 and 67 years. The rules of right without duty to training apply only to persons who were granted their first residence permit before 1.1.2017. Persons with a right are granted free training, but do not have a duty to complete training/pass tests to apply for a permanent residence permit. However, from 2017, new rules for requirements of Norwegian and Social knowledge for citizenship for applicants up to 67 years apply also to such persons.

Persons, who have right and duty to training and were granted their first residence permit from and including 01.01.2017, must meet the requirements of Norwegian and Social knowledge skills when applying for a permanent residence permit until they are 67 years old. No one has a right to free training after the age of 67 years. See also "Time limits".

Who has a duty (but no right) to the tuitions in Norwegian language and Social studies?

Persons with a duty (without a right to free training) have to pay for the training themselves. The main groups are

- Labour immigrants from countries outside the EFTA/ EEA/ EU area
- Persons with residence permits based on family reunification with resident immigrant workers who do not have a permanent residence permit and are from the countries outside the EFTA / EEA / EU area

How many hours of training?

Persons granted first residence permit as of 01.01.2012 and later, with right and duty or right to free training, have a right and duty or right to 600 hours of free training (550 hours of Norwegian and 50 hours of Social studies).

Persons granted first residence permit before 1 January 2012, with the right and duty or right to free training, have right and duty or right to 300 hours of free training (250 hours of Norwegian and 50 hours of Social studies).

Time limits: The main rule is that the 300 /600 hours of training are free for three years from when the first residence permit that forms the basis for permanent residency was issued. (See also "Family reunification" below.)

Persons with a duty (without right) to training, regardless of when they received their first residence permit, have a duty to complete 300 hours of training (250 hours of Norwegian and 50 hours of Social studies), and have to pay course fees. No time limits.

Family reunification with immigrant workers

Kindly note that the rules for rights, duties and time limits for persons with family reunification with an immigrant worker who later is granted a permanent residence permit are complicated and have a different procedure than some years ago.

For such persons with family reunification permit, their status changes from duty to right and duty from the date she/he is granted a renewed residence permit after the work migrant (their "reference person") has been granted a permanent residence permit.

The time limits for free Norwegian training, however, are calculated from her/his first residence permit, although she/he at that time had a duty only and had no right to free training. Thus, many persons with permit based on family reunification will be entitled to a "right" to free training that has expired when they actually get it. If the status of a person with family reunification permit is changed from duty to right and duty, the requirement for mandatory training changes from 250 to 550 hours of Norwegian training (and 50 hours of Social studies). A previously fulfilled duty to complete 300 hours is no longer valid. The person must complete 250 more Norwegian lessons.

See also the article “Exemption from the duty” at the page [RULES and regulations for Norwegian language and Society](#).

You can contact the municipal Adult Education for more information.

OTHER RULES

Age: Right /Right and duty / Duty

The Introductory Act applies to persons between 16 and 67 years. Persons over the age of 67 years do not have a right to Norwegian language courses, although they may have had a right before they reached 67 years.

A right without a duty only applies to persons in the right and duty-groups who got their first residence before 1.1.2017 and who are between 55 & 67 years old.

See also time limits for free training.

Time limits and frames for free tuition

Participants with the right to free training, after completing 550 hours of Norwegian lessons, can apply for additional Norwegian training (“*behovsprøvet opplæring*”). It is up to the municipality/school to determine whether a participant is in need of such additional training. The municipalities will normally provide additional training if it is necessary for the participant in order to achieve the goals in her/his individual plan (IP).

Additional training have these limitations:

- passing a Norwegian language test at level B1
- completing 3000 training hours
- more than 5 years since the participant received first residence permit granting right to this tuition.

Municipal duties

The Municipality shall provide training to persons who have a right and duty, or duty, or right, to such training. This also applies to persons with a duty, for whom the municipality is entitled to offer payment courses (a minimum 250 + 50 hours). (Such persons may also buy courses from private approved schools.) The Municipality shall provide the training within three months after the immigrant has applied/is registered for the training. The training shall be adapted to the background and prerequisites of the participant. The respective schools shall prepare and revise the participant’s individual plan (IP) in cooperation with the participant.

Persons without right and without duty to tuition in Norwegian and Social studies

To some groups of immigrants, the Introduction Act does not apply. Such persons are required to pay training fees if they wish to study Norwegian language. They do not have a

duty to take Norwegian and Social studies classes for application for permanent residency. This applies to:

- Foreign students
- Embassy personnel
- Au pairs and others with a temporary residence permit that does not constitute grounds for permanent residency
- Norwegian and Nordic citizens
- Individuals with residence permit under the EFTA/ EEA regulations
 - The main sub-group is EU citizens, who have not obtained a residence permit through family reunification.

New requirements for Norwegian and Social society knowledge for permanent residence and citizenship.

Kindly note that some of the rules for permanent residence and citizenship have been changed from 2017.

You can read articles about “Permanent residency” and “Citizenship” at the page [RULES and regulations for Norwegian language and Society](#)

For those living in Oslo

Please note that only citizens of Oslo can apply for free training in Oslo VO. You can read more about the training provided by The Oslo Adult Education here at <https://felles.oslovo.no>.

Application and information about possible rights and/or duties at Oslo VO Servicesenter, Karoline Kristiansens vei 8, Fyrstikktorget at Helsfyr.

The opening hours of the Servicesenter can also be found at <https://felles.oslovo.no>.