

This article is written by Oslo VO Servicesenter for the website <https://felles.oslovo.no>.

The article is updated 25.10.2020, and replaces the version from April 2018.

Rules for the actual training in Norwegian language and Society for adult immigrants in the Introduction Act - and rules in Oslo Voksenopplæring

In this article, you will find a simplified description of some of the rules that apply for this training:

Absence, leave.

Limitations for free training.

Requirements for Norwegian language and Society for a permanent residence permit.

For a broader overview, you can read the other articles on Norwegian language and Social knowledge available on oslovo.no.

The rules are found in the Introduction Act and its regulations. See lovdata.no. You can find more detailed information about absence and leave in a circular called G-01/2016. Please note that this circular is not updated on changes in the rules from 2017 and 2018.

Please note also that there are simplifications and interpretations of the rules in this article. It is the law and the regulations and interpretations from the ministry that apply.

THE INTRODUCTION ACT OR THE INTEGRATION ACT?

It is planned that a new law, **The Integration Act**, “integreringsloven”, will apply from 1.1.2021. The main rule is that it shall apply to persons who receive the first residence permit that gives a right and duty, or duty, to training in Norwegian language and Society from and including 01.01.2021.

It will also apply to those who have received their first residence permit before this date, but who do not arrive in Norway before 2021.

The Introduction Act, introduksjonsloven, will continue to apply to those who have been granted a first residence permit with a right and duty, or duty, between 1.9.2005 and 31.12.2020 and who arrived in Norway before 01.01.2021.

THE INTRODUCTION ACT, INTRODUKSJONSLOVEN

This article is about the Introduction Act.

The rules for Norwegian language and Society studies in this Act are closely linked to the requirements for Norwegian and Society when applying for a permanent residence permit for applicants under the Introduction Act. See also “Permanent residence permit” on oslovo.no.

RULES FOR ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCE

Kindly note that the participants in the Introduction program follow the rules of attendance/absence in the Introduction program when they attend training in Norwegian language and Society.

In Oslo, the urban districts are responsible for the Introduction program.

NORWEGIAN SOCIETY COURSES

Absence from the 50-hour course:

Both persons with duty, and with right and duty, need to complete 50 hours of social studies. (See also «Exemption».) Most people who are absent from this course in Oslo VO, get the opportunity to make up for hours they are away later.

NORWEGIAN COURSES, PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE ONLY A DUTY (NO RIGHT) (PAYING PARTICIPANTS)

Rules for attendance and absence

- You must be present in 250 hours of Norwegian
- Only hours you are present are counting
- You must make up for all absences
- If you are absent from the class, you must have a medical certificate (sick leave) to cover the missed hours later for free.
- If you do not have a medical certificate to document your absence, you must pay to cover the missed hours in order to complete the required 250 hours of Norwegian.
- Self-notification (egenmelding) is not accepted.
- No leave is accepted except for documented sick leave
- There is no time limit for completing 300 hours of training.

NORWEGIAN COURSES, PARTICIPANTS WITH RIGHT AND DUTY (RP)

Rules for attendance and absence for participants with a right and duty within the first 600 hours.

The first 600 hours of Norwegian Language and Society are free for up to 3 years from the first residence permit that gave the right to the training.

- You must attend training of 550 hours in Norwegian language and 50 hours of Norwegian Society
- Only hours you are physically present in the class count
- You must cover all absence from classes
- Absence of 10 percent of these 600 hours is accepted and the missed hours can be completed free of charge on a later date
 - In case of missed Norwegian classes, you are obliged to complete the missed hours in Norwegian

- In case of missed Norwegian Society classes, you are obliged to complete the missed hours in Norwegian Society
- In case of absence above 10%, for whatever reason, you must submit a medical certificate for all absence to cover the missed hours for free later
- If a medical certificate is not presented to document your absence beyond 10 %, you must pay for the missed hours in order to complete the 600 hours

Leave of absence for participants with right and duty

Rules for leave of absence (“permisjon”) are fixed, and apply both within the first 600 hours and if you are granted “additional training” hours. You must apply for all types of leave of absence and provide your intended leave dates.

Missed course hours due to leave of absence do not count when applying for a permanent residence permit.

Leave due to birth, for course participants ("Fødselspermisjon")

The Introduction Act, § 13: *After giving birth, parents who participate in training in Norwegian and Society have, upon application, the right to care leave. Leave can be granted for up to ten months of the child's first year of life.* (Translation by web-master)

This applies only to participants who have the right and duty to the training.

- The first 600 hours of Norwegian and Society are free for up to 3 years from the first residence permit that gave the right to the training. In the case of leave during this period, there are no more free hours up to 600 hours if the leave lasts longer than the 3-year deadline.
- For participants on “additional training”: Maximum leave is up to 5 years from the first residence permit.

Thus: Leave does not provide prolonged deadlines.

Paternity leave ("pappapermisjon") for course participants who have a right and duty

Oslo Voksenopplærings interpretation of the rules: a father who attends courses can receive up to ten months parental leave from the education, given that the child’s mother does not attend courses.

We emphasize that maternity / paternity leave does NOT extend the deadlines for free education of three and five years. The advantage of having been granted leave is that you do not have to apply for a place again after the leave. Participants with leave will be given priority at the first intake after the leave is over.

You can choose to leave the course, instead of applying for leave. Inform the school! In that case, you must apply formally for a place again when you want to start courses again.

Leave on social grounds (Velferdspermisjon) for those with a right and duty

Welfare leave can be granted both within the first 600 hours, and in “additional training”. These are short leaves. The most common legitimate reasons to get a short leave approved are the following:

- Appointment at a doctor/dentist
- Kindergarten/school start-up for children
- Job interview
- Marriage/partnership
- Death in the family
- Two religious holidays

These leaves do not require a medical certificate. There is a maximum of 10 days leave per calendar year.

A leave on social grounds can be a full day or a half-day leave. Hours missed must be taken later, they are free within the 3 and 5-year time limits. Hours of absence do not count if you need to document completed hours when applying for permanent residency or citizenship.

THREE LIMITATIONS APPLY FOR FREE ADDITIONAL TRAINING FOR PERSONS WITH RIGHT AND DUTY:

Either

- A maximum of 5 years from the first residence permit that granted a right to free training

Or

- Passed Norwegian test 3 / Norwegian test at level B1
(Exception: You can get more free Norwegian training beyond level B1 within the first 550 hours, if you have a right to 600 hours.)

Or

- Completed 3000 hours

When you meet ANY of these three limitations, you lose the right to free Norwegian training. Example: 5 years from first residence permit, completed 400 hours: no more free training.

EXEMPTION from the obligation to training and to pass exams

The rules apply to both persons with right and duty and with duty. See separate article about “Fritak” on oslovo.no

PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT

Most of the rules for applying for a permanent residence permit apply to both persons with right and duty and with duty. But there are different requirements for Norwegian language and Society for applicants with only a duty and for applicants with right and duty. See separate article on Permanent residence permit on oslovo.no. See also UDI.no.

Do not apply for permanent residence until you have all the documentation about Norwegian and social studies. You need to attach the following to the application to the UDI / Police:

- Confirmation of a sufficient number of completed hours in Norwegian language and Society
- If you have the right and duty and have received the first residence permit after 31.08.2013: Test certificate on passed tests on the required level in Norwegian language and in Norwegian Society (Samfunnskunnskapsprøve)

Or

- Decision on exemption from the duty to Norwegian language and / or Society / or exemption from taking test(s) (granted by your municipality/Adult education).

Useful to know:

- You can contact the Adult education in your municipality (kommune) for information on how many hours you are obliged to complete, and if you are obliged to take exams. You will also find this information in the latest decision letter about training in the Norwegian language and Society you have received from your municipality.
- You must apply for an exemption from the duty at the adult education in the municipality in which you have registered your address. See separate article on oslovo.no on exemption.
- You must ask the school(s) for documentation of the completed lessons yourself
- Documentation of passed exams (exam certificate) are available at the last place you took the exam in Norwegian or in Norwegian Society.
- If you move, remember to report your new address to Oslo VO, the Post Office and the National Population Register (Folkeregisteret).
- Remember to put your name on your mailbox.
- You must submit documentation of the completed lessons and tests as an attachment to the application for permanent residence.
- There is a fee (costs money) to apply for a permanent residence permit. Make sure that your period of residence and all documentation, not only about Norwegian language and Society, is ok before you apply.