



Norwegian Agency for  
International Cooperation  
and Quality Enhancement  
in Higher Education

## NORPART 2022 - 2026 Call for applications 2021

### 1 Invitation

Diku is pleased to issue this call for applications for funding of projects between higher education institutions in Norway and selected partner countries, under the Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART). The programme is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Education (MER) and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA).

- This call for applications is open to project partnerships up to or 5 years. The project period is from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2026.
- The total funds available in this call are NOK 170 million, including NOK 30 million for financing of full degree master's scholarships in Norway for students from the partner institutions in the Global South.
- Each project may be awarded up to NOK 6 million in project funding. In addition, each project can apply for funding of a limited number of full degree master's scholarships.
- Projects funded in former NORPART calls may also apply, provided that the application includes new project elements with regards to aims and results.
- In addition to the 39 eligible partner countries, this call is open for applications for partnerships with selected institutions in South Africa. A list of eligible countries and South African institutions can be found in Appendix 1 to this document.
- The final **deadline** for submitting applications is **27 May 2021 at 12:00 CEST**.

Below you will find information about the objectives and funding framework of the programme, eligibility and selection criteria, and an outline of the administrative process of project selection under the programme.

## 2 Background

NORPART was established in 2016. The programme supports Norwegian higher education policy, and development policy, through funding from MER and the MFA.

NORPART acknowledges that global challenges require global cooperation. The relevance and quality of higher education will improve in Norway and in the partner countries in the Global South as a result of international cooperation.

NORPART aims to contribute to all aspects of the 2030 Agenda, however the programme is particularly relevant to SDG 4 – ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; SDG 5 – achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls; and SDG 17 – revitalising the global partnership for sustainable development.

Please see the [NORPART programme](#) document 2022-2026 for more information about the purpose and expected results of the programme.

## 3 Goals and priorities

### Programme goals

The overall aim of NORPART is to contribute towards enhancing the quality of higher education in Norway and selected partner countries in the Global South, through academic cooperation and mutual student mobility.

To reach this overall aim, the programme shall fulfil four objectives:

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

NORPART supports close academic cooperation and mutual student mobility between higher education institutions in Norway and in the partner countries, based on common academic interests and strategic priorities of the institutions. NORPART supports North-South-South cooperation.

As far as possible, the academic degrees of the students from the partner countries shall be issued at a partner university in the South or as a joint degree. In cases where the partner institution does not yet offer an accredited study programme at the relevant level, Norwegian institutions may issue the degree. In such cases, the application must clarify the reasons for this, and a description of plans/strategies for developing relevant academic programmes at the partner institution must be included.

## 4 Expected project results

Diku will monitor project results and the degree to which project activities contribute to achieve the objectives of the programme. Applicants are requested to describe the expected results and indicators of progress of the project as detailed as possible. Please see the “NORPART Result Framework” in the Programme document for suggestions of project activities, results/outputs, outcomes and impact that may contribute to achieving the objectives of the programme.

To increase the projects’ contributions to the aim and objectives of NORPART, the projects are expected to disseminate project results, promising practices, experiences, and lessons learned, both within and outside the institutions involved in the project.

## 5 Project funding

### Activities

Support may be granted to activities that contribute to fulfil the programme’s objectives. The applicants should design the project in the way they consider best suited to achieve the project’s goals and the programme’s objectives.

Projects may include all fields of education and involve multiple fields and disciplines (multidisciplinary projects). Activities that can be supported (but not limited to) are:

- Joint curriculum development
- Joint development of courses, study programmes and degrees
- Development of educational methods and materials (including digitalisation)
- Improvement of systems for approval and recognition of education from partner institutions (credit transfer)
- Dissemination activities
- Student participation in research activities/projects
- Joint teaching and supervision, incl. guest lecturing
- Joint project assignment for students
- Joint field courses, intensive courses, and summer schools
- Joint workshops/seminars

- Courses/trainings/study visits for academic and administrative staff
- Collaboration with partners from public and private sectors, NGOs, and local communities
- Student work placements

### **Student mobility**

NORPART supports student mobility that contributes to achieving the overall aim of enhanced quality in higher education. NORPART focuses on master's and Ph.D. students, and includes physical and virtual mobility as well as blended mobility. Student mobility at bachelor level cannot be funded by the programme.

All projects shall include plans for student mobility, with substantial numbers of mobile students from partner countries to Norway for stays of minimum 3 months' duration.

All projects shall also include plans and strategies for recruitment of Norwegian students for mobility stays at partner institutions in the South, and measures for how their experience and knowledge will be shared with non-mobile students upon return to Norway.

### **Full degree master's scholarships for students from the Global South**

In this call each project can apply for full degree master's scholarships for students from the partner institution in the South. These scholarships should be earmarked for students without a former master's degree and students from under-represented or marginalised groups. The scholarships can also be offered to staff members at partner institutions in the Global South who need or wants to improve their academic credentials. It is required that the selected candidates for these scholarships are documented students or staff at the partner institution.

A full degree master's 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.

### **Budget**

Funds may be shared between the applicant and the partner(s), based on agreements between the institutions. The proposed budget may include the following costs:

- Student mobility/Scholarships
- Travel and accommodation, student/staff
- Direct and indirect project costs
- Procurement of services
- Equipment
- Other operating expenses

Please see the attached budget guidelines in Appendix 2 of this document for more information. The budget guidelines include specifications of length of stays and rates for mobility scholarships.

The proposed project budget in the application must only include funds applied for through this call. Diku may reduce the amount awarded based on assessment of the individual applications.

## 6 Eligibility and selection criteria

### Eligibility criteria

To be eligible, applications must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must be an accredited Norwegian higher education institution.
- The application must include at least one partner that is an accredited higher education institution in one of the NORPART partner countries (see Appendix1).
- A curriculum vitae (CV) for the project coordinator from the applicant institution must be uploaded.
- Applications must be written in English and be submitted fully completed, including attachments, through Dikus's online platform for applications and reporting ([Espresso](#)) within the call's final deadline.
- All project activities described in the application must be completed within the project period.

Please note that failure to meet the above-mentioned requirements will lead to dismissal of the application.

Attached Letters of Commitment from the project partners, including the applicant institution, will be assessed as part of the application. Applications without such letters are at a competitive disadvantage but are still eligible.

### Selection criteria

The eligible applications' relative strength will be assessed on the degree to which they are deemed able to meet the following selection criteria:

1. **The project's relevance to the overall aim and objectives of the programme, including:**
  - The extent to which relevant needs for the project have been identified and will be met by the project
  - Correspondence between the goals of the project and the aim and objectives of NORPART
  - To what extent the project is complementary and will create added value to other initiatives or projects at the partner institutions

2. **The impact, dissemination, and sustainability of project results, including:**
  - Potential impact for the target groups
  - The extent to which appropriate dissemination activities and involvement of target groups are planned for
  - The extent to which appropriate measures to monitor and evaluate project results have been defined
  - The likelihood that project results may be sustained beyond the project period
  
3. **The quality of the partnership, including:**
  - Complementarity, experience, and expertise of the project team
  - Level of formalised commitment and potential for long-term collaboration between the partners
  - The extent to which management structures and division of responsibilities are appropriate
  
4. **The quality of implementation plan, including:**
  - The extent to which the work plan is clear and coherent
  - Correspondence between project goals, proposed activities, milestones, and budget allocations
  - The project's feasibility, including the feasibility of the plans for student mobility
  - Quality of the risk analysis and the assessment of gender equality and inclusive practices
  - Demonstration of cost-effectiveness
  - If relevant; the quality of the plans for student recruitment and follow-up of full degree master's students

Please note that the selection criteria correspond to various compulsory fields in the online Espresso application form, and that the application's ability to meet these relative criteria will be assessed based on the descriptions provided.

To ensure coherence and a logical order in the description of your project, please read the relevant help texts in the online application form carefully.

## **7 How are the applications evaluated?**

Applications that meet the eligibility criteria will be assessed by three evaluators appointed by Diku, representing both the Global South and the Global North.

Applications will receive a grade on a scale from 1 (poor) to 7 (outstanding) for each of the four assessment criteria mentioned above. The applications will be ranked based on the average of the sub-grades. Diku makes the final funding decision based on the ranking.

In cases where two or more applications are given the same average grade, applications with the highest sub-grade on the criterion “Project relevance to the overall aim and objectives of the programme” will be ranked above the others. If there still are two or more applications with the same grades, these will be ranked according to the sub-grade they have been awarded on the three remaining assessment criteria in the following order: 1. “Quality of the implementation plan”, 2. “Impact, dissemination, and sustainability of the project results” 3. “Quality of the partnership.”

Applications that receive an average grade of less than 4, or less than 4 for one or more criteria, will be rejected.

Applications that receive an average grade and sub-grades that exceed the minimum grant thresholds but for which there are not sufficient funds to offer a grant will be placed on a waiting list prioritised in accordance with the grading. Any approvals of applications on the waiting list will be announced once any complaints have been considered and settled.

#### **Feedback to applicants**

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process, tentatively by the end of September 2021.

The final decision will be communicated in a decision letter to each applicant, including information about the reasoning behind the final, consolidated grade and information regarding the right of view the case documents and the right to appeal. Information regarding how appeals are processed can be found here: [Legal information](#)

## **8 Composition of the partnership**

The application may include higher education institutions, public or private enterprises, research institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other organisations in Norway or in the NORPART partner countries. At least one partner must be an accredited higher education institution in a NORPART partner country.

Partners outside Norway or the NORPART partner countries may in certain cases be included, if they bring essential added value, but play a limited role in the project as a whole. NORPART recognises both North-South and North-South-South partnership as important means to reach the partnership goals.

## 9 Contract and reporting obligations

The applicant will be required to enter into a contract with Diku. The contract will be subject to Diku's standard terms and conditions and must be signed by a representative holding the requisite authority to legally bind the applicant. The obligations on part of the applicant include a duty to submit progress reports, project accounts, and a final report upon completion of the project.

Until a binding contract has been entered into, Diku reserves the right to at any time revisit any evaluation and decision on the basis of newly discovered facts which may adversely affect the planned implementation of a project.

## 10 How to apply

Applications must be written in English and be submitted through Diku's application portal Espresso. The application must include:

1. Completed application form in Espresso, including budget.
2. Attachments, uploaded as PDF files:
  - a. CVs for project coordinators
  - b. Letters of commitment from all project partners, including the applicant institution.

## 11 Guidance and contact

In the application form you will find help texts that provide detailed guidance on what kind of information you need to provide in the various fields. In Appendix 2 you will find the budget guidelines. For other questions please contact: [norpart@diku.no](mailto:norpart@diku.no)

## Appendix 1

### NORPART Partner Countries 2022-2026

- Afghanistan
- Bangladesh
- Burkina Faso
- Colombia
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Haiti
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Myanmar
- Nicaragua
- Pakistan
- Peru
- Somalia
- Sri Lanka
- Tanzania
- Vietnam
- Zimbabwe
- Angola
- Bolivia
- Cameroon
- Cuba
- East Timor
- Ethiopia
- Guatemala
- Indonesia
- Liberia
- Malawi
- Mozambique
- Nepal
- Niger
- Palestine
- Rwanda
- South Africa\*
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Uganda
- Zambia

#### \*Eligible institutions in South Africa (HDIs)

- University of Fort Hare
- University of Limpopo
- University of Venda
- Walter Sisulu University
- University of Western Cape
- University of Zululand
- Mangosuthu University of Technology
- Sefako Makgatho University of Health Sciences

## Appendix 2

### NORPART Budget Guidelines 2022-2026

Project budgets will be assessed based on their cost-effectiveness and reasonableness. The official Norwegian travel regulations (Statens reiseregulativ) will be used as a starting point in the assessment of the reasonableness of budgeted travel and accommodation costs. Where available, moderately priced alternatives for travel and accommodation should be chosen.

The calculation of the budgeted amounts must be clearly explained in the application in Section 3.1 Budget 2022-2026, Budget specifications. Please note that the budget for all types of expenses may be subject to revision if the project is granted funding.

#### 1 Student mobility/Scholarships

The tables below describe eligible costs that may be included in project applications regarding student mobility to/from Norway. Student mobility at bachelor level cannot be funded through the programme.

The rates for student accommodation and living costs are based on rates and net amounts paid out to students from the State Educational Loan Fund/Lånekassen (master) and the Research Council of Norway (Ph.D.). The rates cover the individual student's costs. Additional funding for dependents/family members may not be included in the budget. Please note that scholarships for Ph.D. students may be subject to taxation.

Student mobility stays of 3-12 months' duration at the master level and 3-18 months at the Ph.D. level will be possible from institutions in the partner countries and Norway. Stays of less than three months may also be covered in relation to other project activities.

In cases where the partner institution does not yet offer an accredited study programme at the relevant level, the Norwegian institution may issue the degree and the mobility period(s) in Norway may be extended to a maximum of 18 months at the master and 24 months at the Ph.D. level. In such cases, the application must clarify the reasons for this, and a description of plans/strategies for developing relevant academic programmes at the partner institution must be included in the application.

Costs related to mobility between partner institutions outside Norway (South-South mobility) may also be covered, albeit to a limited extent. Students' expenses related to studies or research at the home institution or in the country where the home institution is located (e.g., fieldwork expenses,

laboratory fees) may only be included in the application if these expenses are incurred in connection with joint project activities that include students from more than one country involved in the project.

Cost related to South-South mobility should be granted according to local (University) regulations and must be covered under budget item 2. Travel and accommodation.

In this call each project can apply for full degree master's scholarships for candidates from the partner institution in the South. This is in addition to the maximum amount of 6 000 000. The amount for scholarships is 350 000 NOK.

**Please ensure that the project budget distinguishes between mobility up to 4 weeks and mobility exceeding 4 weeks.**

Mobility up to 4 weeks	Master and PhD
<b>To/from Norway</b>	Project applications may include accommodation and living costs for students related to the planned project activities (e.g., intensive courses, field work, workshops, supervision, research activities, excursions, work placements, etc.)

Mobility exceeding 4 weeks	Master and PhD
<b>To Norway</b>	<p>Master: Project applications may include scholarships to cover accommodation and living costs for students up to the applicable rate set by the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Lånekassen).</p> <p>For the academic year 2020/21 the monthly rate is NOK 11,229</p> <p>PhD: Project applications may include accommodation and living costs associated with the Ph.D. students' stay in Norway up to the applicable monthly rate set by the Research Council of Norway: <a href="#">Overseas Research Grants</a></p> <p>In 2021 the rate is NOK 20,000. Additional grants for dependents are not given.</p>

<b>Mobility exceeding 4 weeks</b>	<b>Master and PhD</b>
<b>From Norway</b>	<p>Master: Project applications may include scholarships to cover costs which are not covered by student funding attainable from the State Educational Loan Fund. Such extra costs are limited to NOK 7,000 per student per month. These rates also apply to international mobility for work placements.</p> <p>PhD: Project applications may include specified cost items which are not covered by other external funding up to the applicable monthly rate set by Research Council of Norway: <a href="#">Overseas Research Grants</a> for individuals.</p>

<b>Full degree master's scholarship</b>	<b>Master candidates from the Global South</b>
<b>To Norway</b>	<p>Project applications may include scholarships to cover accommodation and living costs for two years for students, up to the applicable rate set by the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (Lånekassen). For the academic year 2020/21 the monthly rate is NOK 11,229</p> <p>The max. amount the project can apply for to cover the expenses related to a full degree master's scholarship is NOK 350,000 for 2 years. The scholarship to the students must include: living cost and accommodation, travel expenses from home country to the admitting institution in Norway and return, start-up grant, excess luggage, medical insurance, field work expenses (if applicable), tuition fees (if applicable), and visa.</p>

## 2 Travel and accommodation

### Staff

The official Norwegian travel regulations (*Statens reiseregulativ*) will be used as a starting point in the assessment of the reasonableness of budgeted travel and accommodation costs. Where available, moderately priced alternatives for travel and accommodation should be chosen. Projects may include:

- Travel costs and expenses for academic and administrative staff related to the project activities.
- Travel costs, accommodation, and other expenses (e.g., work placements/teaching practice, fieldwork, intensive courses, workshops, supervision, research activities, etc.) for students related to the project going to and from Norway.

Costs related to participation in conferences not clearly linked to the planned project activities may not be included.

In case of staff visits/mobility between other partner countries and institutions than Norway, coverage is based on the regulations of the home country or home institution. Travel in home country/other partner countries should be estimated in accordance with the national regulations or regulations established by the home institution, but not exceeding the official Norwegian regulations.

Please note that travel costs for staff (and students) to/from countries that are not part of the project may as a general rule not be included (for instance participation in conferences/seminars in non-partner countries).

### Students

The rates cover the individual student's costs. Additional funding for dependents/family members may not be included in the budget. As the relevant rates are adjusted annually according to the retail price index, the rates may be adjusted accordingly for the coming years.

Travel, visa, and insurance costs incurred in connection with student mobility may be supported if not covered by funding attainable from the State Education Loan Fund or other external funding sources. These costs may be covered in addition to the rates for accommodation and living costs (please see specification of rates in tables above). Please check the conditions for compulsory or voluntary membership of the National Insurance Scheme (Folketrygden) for mobility to and from Norway.

Visa costs for students doing internships abroad may be costlier than for students going on a regular student exchange. Costs related to this may be covered by the project. Students participating in internships may also get

insurance for occupational injury covered by the project if the company or organisation is not covering this locally.

In case of student mobility to/between other partner countries and institutions than Norway (south-south mobility), coverage is based on the regulations of the home country or home institution. Travel in home country/other partner countries should be estimated in accordance with the national regulations or regulations established by the home institution, but not exceeding the official Norwegian regulations.

### 3 Project costs

#### Direct and indirect costs

Direct and indirect costs are defined as costs related to actual work hours and other costs that are necessary for the execution of the project. The definition of direct and indirect costs is:

**Direct costs** are salary costs for project staff working directly on the project where resources have been set aside specifically for the implementation of the project. Direct staff includes projects managers, project participants, as well as administrative staff who are directly supporting the project activities. All costs related to salary needs to be reflected in the institutions own accounting system. The funds may be shared between the applicant and the partner institutions, based on agreement between the institutions. Please specify how these costs have been calculated and how many months of work will be carried out by whom.

**Indirect project costs** encompass use of general resources within the institution that the project benefits from. Indirect project costs include the project's share of the office space rental cost, IT/telephone, and other joint administrative services at the institution where project activities are carried out.

#### Procurement of Services and Equipment

It is possible to include relevant costs for consultants, experts or different types of services offered outside the partner institutions (e.g., experts in digital pedagogy, workplace mentors or teaching facilitators).

Costs for purchasing of equipment necessary for the project should be justified and explained in the application and should be fully depreciated by the end of the project period. Equipment considered as investments will not be covered. (Investments can be equipment that will not be fully depreciated by the end of the project period or services that surpass the end date of the project).

Please note that investments in infrastructure such as buildings and physical structures/components and scientific equipment may not be included in the

application. The same applies to costs related to research activities not clearly linked to educational activities at master and Ph.D. level.

#### **Other operating expenses**

This budget line includes all costs that are necessary for the execution of the project that do not belong under the other cost categories and may include costs for:

- Dissemination activities such as seminars, user-oriented activities, dissemination of project results and promising practices, experiences, and lessons learned.
- Costs related to scientific publications relevant to the project.
- Costs related to digitalisation of educational activities, such as licenses/fees for learning platforms etc.
- Activities to make data and other information from the project accessible.
- Other materials and expenses that are not covered under other cost categories.

#### **4 Transfer of funds to partner(s)**

The applicant institution may transfer funds to other partner institutions. All transfers of NORPART project funds to partner institutions must be made by bank transfers and the applicant must ensure that recipients of such transfers undertake the necessary steps to provide sufficient documentation to comply with its accounting and reporting obligations. The applicant bears the costs of transfer costs charged by its bank.

#### **5 Funding plan**

The Funding plan's purpose is to indicate the project's total funding and capacity. If the total budgeted project costs exceed the limits set out in the call for applications, you should indicate how the difference will be covered in the Funding plan. Differences may be covered through own financing from the institutions and partners, other types of contributions, or grants from other sources. Own financing may comprise both cash financing and in-kind resources to cover project costs. The plan should clearly indicate how much of the funding is covered by NORPART and how much of the funding will be provided from other sources.