



NOTED

Call for applications 2021

Four-year project funding

1 Invitation

Diku is pleased to issue this call for applications for funding of four-year projects under the *Norwegian Partnership Programme for International Teacher Education* (NOTED). The programme provides funding for educational cooperation and mobility between teacher education institutions in Norway that offer five-year master's degree programmes for teachers in primary and lower secondary school (*grunnskolelærerutdanning, GLU*) and abroad.

The call is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and is administered by Diku.

- The total funds made available in this call are NOK 20 million.
- This call for applications is open to project partnerships for four (4) years. Applicants may define the project period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025.
- Projects that include schools in Norway and/or abroad as partners may apply for up to NOK 3 000 000. Projects without school partners may apply for up to NOK 2 500 000.
- The final **deadline** for submitting applications is **24 September 2021 at 12:00 CET**.

Below you will find more 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

NOTED was established in 2017 as part of the implementation of the Norwegian Government's strategy "[Promotion of the status and quality of teachers – joint effort for a modern school of knowledge](#)" (*Lærerløftet – på lag for kunnskapsskolen*) and in connection with the introduction of five-year master's degree programmes for teachers in primary and lower secondary school (*grunnskolelærerutdanning, GLU*). International cooperation and dialogue for students and staff is also promoted in The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Researches White paper No. 7 (2020–2021) - "[A world of](#)

[possibilities. International student mobility in higher education](#)". In order to reach the goal of increased student mobility in higher education in Norway, the white paper calls for a cultural change and establishment of necessary structures for making exchange the rule rather than the exception. The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Researches White Paper No. 4 (2018–2019) "[The Norwegian Government's Long-term plan for research and higher education 2019–2028](#)" also states that international cooperation is a prerequisite for quality in Norwegian higher education, and strengthens the individual students' own development.

Student mobility supported by establishing strategic partnerships is a core element in the programme. All projects must include plans to increase mobility of students between partner institutions, including mobility in connection with teaching practice. Projects should be designed to increase student mobility not only within the project period, but also for being sustainable in the longer term.

Education is a key factor in Agenda 2030 for sustainable development, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, that includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Quality education is a goal in itself, but education, research and innovation are also essential components for achieving the other SDGs, as expressed in SDG 17– "Partnerships for the goals". International cooperation is a prerequisite for achieving Agenda 2030. The SDGs demonstrate that the major economic, social and environmental challenges facing the world today require international cooperation and global solutions. Knowledge collaboration in the form of broad international partnerships that include actors across disciplines and sectors is an important part of the solution. All countries are significant stakeholders in achieving these goals.

3 Objectives and funding framework of the call

3.1 Objectives

The overall aim of NOTED is to improve the quality of Norwegian teacher education and schools in Norway. The programme seeks to achieve this through supporting projects that lead to:

- Enhanced quality and strengthened international partnerships within areas of mutual and strategic interest between Norwegian teacher education institutions and partners abroad
- Increased student mobility within the framework of strategic partnerships between Norwegian teacher education institutions and partners abroad, including mobility in connection with teaching practice
- Increased staff mobility within the framework of strategic partnerships between Norwegian teacher education institutions and partners abroad

3.2 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 of the project as specifically as possible. Project results that may contribute to achieve the objectives of the programme include, but are not limited to:

OBJECTIVE	EXPECTED PROJECT RESULTS
<p><i>Enhanced quality and strengthened international partnerships within areas of mutual and strategic interest between Norwegian teacher education institutions and partners abroad:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or improved curriculum, tools or methods developed through international cooperation and integrated into Norwegian teacher education programmes • International joint courses or educational activities that are integrated into teacher education programmes in Norway and abroad • New or improved international semesters and mobility windows with clear communication lines towards students and staff in Norwegian teacher education programmes, included in long-term and sustainable plans • Co-publications between teacher education institutions in Norway and abroad • Improved frameworks for international teaching practice and supervision of teaching practice, and approval of exchange processes and agreements • New or improved courses, curriculum, tools, or methods fostering interdisciplinary topics such as democracy and citizenship, sustainable development and public health and wellbeing and/or key knowledge and competences for implementation of Agenda 2030
<p><i>Increased student mobility within the framework of strategic partnerships between Norwegian teacher education institutions and partners abroad, including mobility in connection with teaching practice:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or improved exchange agreements between teacher education institutions in Norway and abroad • Using blended mobility as a tool for reaching the aims of the programme • Increased number of exchange stays abroad for teacher students from Norway that are recognised at the home institution, both within and beyond the project period in long-term plans • Increased number of international teacher students completing courses in Norway • Students' participation in an international learning environment that give them an international perspective on their own education and profession • Creating long-term and sustainable structures for mobility for students
<p><i>Increased staff mobility within the framework of strategic partnerships between Norwegian teacher education institutions and partners abroad:</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased number of academic and administrative staff from Norwegian teacher education institutions undertaking staff mobility to partners abroad for teaching or training • Increased number of international academic and administrative staff undertaking staff mobility to Norwegian teacher education institutions for teaching or training • Staff establish and use their international networks to internationalise education and help create an understanding of the benefits of mobility among staff and students

3.3 Project funding and activities

Projects that include schools in Norway and/or abroad as partners may be awarded up to **NOK 3 000 000**. Projects without such partners may be awarded up to **NOK 2 500 000**. Diku may reduce the amount awarded based on an assessment of the individual applications.

Applicant institutions and/or project partners must make available resources equivalent to a **minimum of 20 per cent of the total project budget**. These contributions may be in cash or in kind. See Appendix (“Own contribution”) for further information.

Support may be granted to activities that contribute to achieve the objectives of the programme. Applicants should design their projects in the way they consider best suited to achieve the objectives of the programme.

The project may include funds for salaries and indirect expenses (including administration and overheads). The funds may be shared between the applicant and the project partners.

Projects selected for support will be expected to participate in workshops during the project period for the purposes of developing and sharing best practice related to international cooperation in teacher education. The project funding from Diku should be budgeted to cover expenses for travel and accommodation costs related to these workshops.

For more information on eligible costs, please see the Appendix (“Budget guidelines”). Guidelines on calculations are also available in the application form.

Please note that investment in scientific equipment and infrastructure is not an eligible cost and may not be included in the application. The same applies to costs related to research activities not clearly linked to educational activities.

4 Eligibility & selection criteria

4.1 Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible, applications must meet the following requirements:

- The **applicant** must be an accredited Norwegian higher education institution that offers five-year master’s degree programmes for teachers in primary and lower secondary school (study programmes known as GLU 1-7 and GLU 5-10).
- The application must include at least one **partner** that is an accredited higher education institution outside Norway.
- The institutions must contribute with own funding (in cash or in kind) amounting to a **minimum of 20 per cent of the total project budget**.

- The following attachments must be included:
 - A **curriculum vitae** (CV) for the project coordinator must be uploaded. The CV should not be longer than two A4-pages.
 - **Letters of commitment** from the main partners (preferably from all project partners), including applicant institution and main partner outside Norway, documenting their interest in and commitment to the project by the leadership at the relevant level.
- Applications must be written in **English** and be submitted fully completed, including attachments, through Diku's application platform ([Espresso](#)) within the call's final deadline.

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

4.2 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:

- The project's relevance to the overall aim and objectives of the programme. (See item 3.1)
- The quality of the project design, including:
 - the application's overall clarity and quality
 - correspondence between project goals, proposed activities, budget allocations and expected project results
 - demonstration of cost-effectiveness
 - the project's feasibility
 - potential for increasing student mobility of minimum 3 months' duration
- The quality of the partnership, including:
 - complementarity, experience and expertise of the project team
 - level and quality of involvement from schools (if relevant)
 - level of formalised commitment
 - potential for long-term collaboration between the partners
- Impact and dissemination
 - sustainability of project results
 - expected impact on the participants and participating institutions and schools
 - quality of the plan for dissemination of project results

Diku presumes that all projects adhere to a high ethical standard in research and higher education. Diku emphasises the importance of gender equality, inclusive practices and anti-corruption measures in all project activities.

Please note that these 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 on the basis of the description provided. In order to ensure coherence and a logical order in the description of your project, please read the relevant help texts in the online application form as well as the Appendix ("Budget guidelines") carefully. Remaining questions may be directed to Diku (item 8).

5 Composition of the partnership

The application may include higher education institutions, schools, public or private enterprises, research institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other organisations in Norway or abroad as partners. At least one partner must be an accredited higher education institution outside Norway (cf. item 4.1 above).

6 Application and attachments

Applications must be written in English and be submitted through Diku's application portal [Espresso](#). The applications must include:

1. Completed application form in [Espresso](#), including budget.
2. Attachments, uploaded as PDF files:
 - a. **CV** for the project coordinator from applicant institution. The CV should not be longer than two A4-pages.
 - b. **Letters of Commitment** from the applicant institution and main partner outside Norway, documenting interest in and commitment to the project by leadership at relevant level (cf. item 4.1 above).

Other types of attachments will not be taken into consideration.

7 Administrative process

7.1. Assessment of applications and feedback to applicants

Applications that meet the minimum requirements for the call will be assessed by two evaluators with the relevant competencies. Diku appoints evaluators who will constitute a committee facilitating the review of the applications.

Applications will receive a grade on a scale from 1 (poor) to 7 (outstanding) for each of the four selection criteria mentioned above (item 4.2).

The committee will rank the applications based on their assessment and the selection criteria. Diku makes the final funding decision based on the assessment committee's recommendation.

In cases where two or more applications are given the same average grade, applications with higher partial grade on the criterion "Project relevance" including long-term student mobility, may be ranked above the others. This is followed by "Impact and dissemination" including sustainability of project results, "The quality of the project design" and finally "The quality of the partnership".

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation process, tentatively in December 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 on the right of access to the case documents and the right to appeal.

7.2 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.

8. Contact information

Questions regarding the programme or how to apply can be directed to:

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Appendix

Budget guidelines

Project budgets will be assessed on basis of their cost-effectiveness and reasonableness. The official Norwegian travel regulations (*Statens reiseregulativ*) will be used as a starting point in Diku's assessment of the reasonableness of budgeted travel and accommodation costs. Where available, moderately priced alternatives for travel and accommodation must be chosen. Please explain the budgeted amounts as necessary in the *Specification of budget items* field in the application.

Student mobility

The tables below describe eligible costs that may be included in project applications with regard to incoming/outgoing student mobility.

Mobility up to 4 weeks

ELIGIBLE COSTS	
	Project applications may include accommodation and living costs for students from all countries, related to the planned project activities (e.g. work placements/teaching practice, intensive courses, workshops, supervision, research activities, etc.).
To/from Norway	Costs related to participation in conferences not clearly linked to the planned project activities may not be included.

Mobility exceeding 4 weeks

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Project applications may include scholarships to students from all countries.

As a general rule, scholarships to students from [Erasmus+](#) and/or [Nordplus](#) countries should be covered by funding from these programmes if possible. Costs that constitute an exception to this rule must be clearly justified in the application.

To Norway

The scholarships are meant to cover accommodation and living costs in Norway. The scholarships may not exceed the applicable rate set by the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (*Lånekassen*). In 2020/21, the monthly rate is NOK 11 229.

[Erasmus+](#) and/or [Nordplus](#) funding for student mobility may be supplemented by funds applied for through this call.

Project applications may include scholarships to students from Norway (to any country) to cover costs which are not covered by student funding available from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (*Lånekassen*).

The scholarships may not exceed **NOK 7 000 per student per month**. These rates also apply to international mobility for teaching practice for students.

From Norway

As a general rule, extra scholarships to students from Norway going to [Erasmus+](#) and/or [Nordplus](#) countries should be covered by funding from these programmes if possible. Costs that constitute an exception to this rule must be clearly justified in the application.

[Erasmus+](#) and/or [Nordplus](#) funding for student mobility may be supplemented by funds applied for through this call.

The rates for student accommodation and living costs are based on rates and net amounts paid out to students from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (*Lånekassen*). The rates cover the individual student's costs, and 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 inflation, the rates may be adjusted accordingly for coming years.

Travel, visa and insurance costs incurred in connection with student mobility may be supported if not covered by funding attainable from the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund (*Lånekassen*) or other external funding sources.

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

Travel costs for staff (including PhD students)

Projects may include travel costs and expenses for academic and administrative staff related to the project activities. Please note the general guidelines set out above regarding reasonableness and cost levels.

For outgoing staff mobility to countries in Europe, funding from [Erasmus+](#) and [Nordplus](#) must be used and applied for when available. Costs that constitute an exception to this rule must be clearly justified in the application.

[Erasmus+](#) and/or [Nordplus](#) funding for staff mobility may be supplemented by funds applied for through this call.

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

Infrastructure and scientific equipment

Investments in infrastructure and scientific equipment may not be included in the application.

Project related salary costs

The projects may include cost of salaries, remuneration of consultants, honorariums and indirect costs involved. The amount may be shared among the project partners, based on agreement between the partners. Please specify how these costs have been calculated and how many months of work will be carried out by whom on basis of the costs budgeted.

All such costs must be included under the budget items “Salary, remunerations of consultants and honorariums” and/or “Indirect costs”, not as part of the individual activities.

Own contribution

Applicant institutions and/or project partners must make available resources equivalent to a minimum of 20 per cent of the total project budget, which means NOK 750 000 for projects that apply for MNOK 3 (the project will then have a total budget of MNOK 3, 75). These contributions may be in cash or in kind. Any contributions from the applicant and other project partners must be specified in the application form.