Pre-departure

Your preparation for Norway begin early.

Nomination?

After receiving your acceptance, you will receive an email from exchange@nhh.no, saying you have been nominated and that you need to complete the application. COMPLETE THAT APPLICATION ASAP!!! Do not wait till the last minute. You will have to upload your transcript which can be found in uOzone and it doesn’t have to be the official one you can use the unofficial one.

First email from NHH

After that you will receive an email from the sweetest person in the world and NHH International Coordinator Norunn Johanne Økland. She will be your main connection in NHH and if you have ever any question go see her.

In the email, she will tell you to apply for housing before the deadline since international students have priority. You will be given a link and a code in which you will use to apply. **It is very important that you apply using this code! If you are having trouble to apply, I would contact Sammen directly**

Second email
In this email, you will receive info about the semester dates which typically are

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring semester</td>
<td>January 4 - June 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(The last day of your semester will depend on your courses and the exam dates - once you have had your last exam, you can leave)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
<td>August 12 - December 20</td>
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<td></td>
<td>(again the same, depending on your exams)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Join the Facebook Group
There is Facebook Group created every semester for exchange students. You most likely be add through your name, if not you will have sent the link. If you do not have Facebook or social media. I suggest getting it to stay in contact. In this Facebook group, you will find info on course, potential roommates, festivals and even starter pack which I will talk in detail under housing.

Third email
This email is super important, since it will contain your acceptance letter which means you can apply right away for your visa. This is when you will begin the process for visa.
VISA Application

Canadian have up to 90 day of a visa free stay in Norway, however your exchange is longer meaning you need to pay for a visa. I applied for my visa when I arrived, however is was super expensive. I would suggest getting it Canada ASAP because it takes time.

https://www.norway.no/en/canada/
and
https://www.udi.no/en/

What most likely they will ask you for

1. passport and copy of all used pages in passport
2. signed cover letter from the Application portal (or application form)
3. two new/recent passport size photos with white background (you can get them done at the university, where grad photos are taken)
4. a letter of full-time admission from an approved educational institution, stating your name, which studies you have admission to, at what level the studies are and how long the program lasts (NHH Acceptance letter and letter of enrollment)
5. documentation that you have sufficient funds for your living expenses (Found in your NHH acceptance letter)
6. documentation that you are able to pay the tuition fees (if you are required to pay tuition fees) (Found in your NHH acceptance letter)
7. documentation which shows that you have somewhere to live in Norway View explanation (Sammen housing contract)
8. UDI's checklist, filled out and signed (this list)

Here is the link for all the info you need for a visa, you will need some document from uOttawa as well like a letter of enrollment. For more specific visit the website since they change every year. You can begin booking flights before you get your VISA.

Flights:
I would book my flight asap as well, I booked my flight the day I can get my apartment. For people going in the spring semester, remember it is the holiday season so they might not be open till the Jan 2nd.
TIP*
Book your flight to arrive in the morning in Bergen, so you can pick up your keys, Sammen closes pretty early around 3 pm, you can check their hours on their website. If you can’t pick up your keys, then you can find someone (another exchange student) to pick them up for you.

Housing

Tip * Apply before the deadline

So here in Norway there is a student housing organization called “SAMMEN”, they are responsible for housing mostly for exchange students and first years. They are a separate entity from the school and should be treated as such. Contract with them begin Jan 1st – July 30th, with that being said you can cancelled your contract for June. Any earlier you need a valid reason to end contract.

Deposit fee (You will get it at the end of your rental period): 5,000 NOK

Website: [https://www.sammen.no/en/bergen](https://www.sammen.no/en/bergen)
(Mostly in Norwegian but google translate can translate the webpage)

You can start looking at the places you can live at but, I recommended living in hatleberg and on the website, you can find more information about what is available

Starter pack?
A starter pack is a “bundle” of used items to furnish your dorm room, they typically come from students from the previous semester. They could include kettle, an Ikea chair and sheet for your room. Sometimes it can be cheaper than going to ikea.
Arrival to Norway

When you arrive in Bergen, you might be confused how to get to the city. There are three main public transport options from the airport to the city centre:

1. The Bergen Light Rail - the slowest, but cheapest (45 min)
2. The Airport Bus - faster, but more expensive (25 min)
3. Taxi - the fastest, but most expensive (20 min)

When you arrive to the city, you have to go pick up your keys in the student center of UiB which is located in the city centre.

After that head, back to the city Centre and from there you can take the bus to NHH/ hatleberg

- 3 Støbotn
- 4 Flaktveit
- 5 Åsane terminal
- 6 Lønborglien
- 83 Øyjorden

Get off the bus at “Handelshøyskolen” and you only have a short walk left before you arrive at NHH or hatleberg.

ACADEMICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program of study: Master of Brand management (marketing)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses taken: 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of credit in Norwegian system: 30 ECT (7.5 ECT each)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Full semester workload: 30 ECTS
One course: 7.5 ECTS (45 lecture hours)
Course registration online after arrival.
Registration deadlines: 1 Sept (Autumn) / 1 Feb (Spring)

Master level
The level I did during my exchange was the master level, I took the marketing master which is called brand management. The classes I took were really fun. Most master level course don’t have a final exam rather they have group work. I would suggest taking sustainable business model which is a really interesting course if you are not in marketing.

Tip*
You can find more info about courses on this part of the NHH website
https://www.nhh.no/en/for-students/courses/bachelor-courses-for-exchange-students/

It will include everything to how the course is graded to what is required to read. Most professors will not make you pay for a textbook rather they will give it to you for free.

Tip*
Download the student id app!
When you have registered in the Studentweb, you may download your digital student ID. This is your virtual student card that will get you discounts in store in the city.

How to log on to wifi
Connect to the Eduroam network. Same way with your uottawa credentials.

Go to the student center to take your photo for the student id card
You can log in at a self-service photo booth and take the photo yourself. Use the pin code from the e-mail you received in student web.

The student ID card is your access card and also functions for registering loans at the library and access to printers. Remember to access the building after opening hours, the pin code sent to you at start of the semester is used. It is possible to change the pin code.

Canvas
Instead of brightspace you will be using a system called Canvas which will contain the homepages for your courses and messages from the professors. Use “Feide log in” (the same user and password as your IT-account). You will automatically have access to courses the day after you have registered for courses in Studentweb.

Budget

Ticket to Bergen from Toronto
$1,508 (round trip with KLM)
Rent
5,000 Kr per month

Textbook
Depends on professor, I spent 0 kr

Transportation
One-way Ticket (Local Transport)  37.00 kr
Monthly Pass (Regular Price)  810.00 kr

Restaurant and Bar prices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NOK</th>
<th>CAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meal, Inexpensive Restaurant</td>
<td>180 kr</td>
<td>27.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal for 2 People, Mid-range Restaurant, Three-course</td>
<td>800 kr</td>
<td>124.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McMeal at McDonalds (or Equivalent Combo Meal)</td>
<td>100 kr</td>
<td>15.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Beer (0.5 liter draught)</td>
<td>82 kr</td>
<td>12.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Imported Beer (0.33 liter bottle)</td>
<td>80 kr</td>
<td>12.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cappuccino (regular)</td>
<td>39 kr</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water (0.33 liter bottle)</td>
<td>24 kr</td>
<td>3.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Groceries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NOK</th>
<th>CAD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Milk (regular), (1 liter)</td>
<td>17 kr</td>
<td>27.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loaf of Fresh White Bread (500g)</td>
<td>20 kr</td>
<td>124.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice (white), (1kg)</td>
<td>29 kr</td>
<td>15.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eggs (regular) (12)</td>
<td>34 kr</td>
<td>12.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Cheese (1kg)</td>
<td>91 kr</td>
<td>12.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chicken Breasts (Boneless, Skinless), (1kg)</td>
<td>106 kr</td>
<td>6.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apples (1kg)</td>
<td>25 kr</td>
<td>3.73</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

School activities and clubs

One of my biggest tip is to get involved even though it is your only semester at the school, this is a good way to get involved with Norwegians and other students. I joined the NHH case club team and I got to work together with Norwegians and got invited to events that most international students don’t go to.
Tip*
Do Frosh week or welcome week as it is formally called, this is where you will have met most of your exchange friends and possible group mates for your class. Also head to the common room once in a while to interact with other students.

Like hiking?
Bergen is known for their mountains, so bring your hiking boots and raincoat since there is rain most of the time here. It is warmer than Canada during the winter so bring a coat that can go to – 10.