



Resolution on Immigration Regulations

Summary

After being accepted to study in a higher education institution in Norway, the international student must go through the student permit application process. The process differs for those from countries in the Schengen area compared to those from outside of the European Union (EU). International students from outside the EU experience a costly and tedious process when applying for or renewing a student permit in Norway, and are then subject to strict regulations. There are several notable issues with the immigrations regulations for international students from outside the EU in Norway.

Student Permit Renewal Cost

The cost to renew a student permit is 3,200 kroner has increased in the last five years. While the cost of the initial student permit application of 3,200 kroner seems to be justified for the amount of work registering the student, this should not be the case for when an international student renews their permit. The application fee when renewing a student permit should be significantly lower for two reasons. The student's information is already in the system so there is less work behind the application for renewal. Second, 3,200 kroner is a significant amount of an international student's budget, especially considering students from outside the EU can come from several low-income countries.

Financial Amount Required

In order to qualify for a student permit, an international student from outside the EU must display that they have over approximately 100,000 kroner in their bank account, or that they will make this amount through a work contract. This amount is a significant amount for an international student to show they possess at any given time.



Punishment

An international student from outside the EU is entitled to 20 hours of work per week alongside their full-time studies and they can have full-time work during the holidays. If the student works over the allowed time, they are expelled from the country without any warning and in the middle of their studies, regardless of their personal welfare. This punishment is extreme and could be avoided with a less severe punishment or a warning.

ISU believes

- The cost to renew a student permit should not be as high 3,200 kroner and should be reduced when applicant renews their permit.
- That the required financial amount of over 100,000 kroner is an excessive amount to show at one time for an international student.
- The 20 hours work per week limit given by the immigration authorities, is reasonable and fair, however we believe that if this amount is exceeded ,the international student should not be expelled from the country for their first offense. ISU believes that rather than expelling the international student for their first time breaking the 20 hour per week work allowance, that the student should be given a warning or a far less severe punishment.