



Norwegian Embassy
Beijing

Exclusive Visa Briefing and Q&A for NBA Members

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Visa procedures

https://www.norway.no/en/china/

ENGLISH | 中文



Norway in China
Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing



Visitor's visa and residence permit

Doing business with Norway

FOR NORDMENN

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- > Reiseinformasjon
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- > Bistand til nordmenn
- > Reiseregistrering via app og nettsted

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Programme

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Division of responsibility with contact information

- Schengen visas – Royal Norwegian Embassy in Beijing
- Exclusive e-mail address: Visumspm.Beijing@mfa.no
- Residence permits – UDI Norwegian Directorate of Immigration
- <https://www.udi.no/en/contact-us/case-or-regulations/>
- Application process – VFS local application centers
- <https://visa.vfsglobal.com/chn/en/nor/contact-us>



Waiting times

- Schengen visas
- Less than 15 days after received at the Embassy in Beijing
- Business cases have an **exclusive priority track**

- Residence permit for work from UDI
- Less than 2 months after submitting application to VFS

- Appointment at VFS
- Less than 3 working days



Visa vs residence permit

- Visa < 90 days \longleftrightarrow residence permit > 90 days
- Work requires work permit even for less than 90 days
- Value creation crucial concept



Exemptions from the work permit requirement

- Commercial travellers – marketing, meetings, conferences, contract negotiations
- Planning, reporting, presentation and handover of results/products and discussion at a more general level relating to a contract or project.
- install, disassemble, inspect, repair, maintain or provide information on the use of machinery or technical equipment
- install, remove or adjust software or when he shall inform about software
- Testing in connection with a product delivery, including acceptance testing of IT deliveries
- Short time need - duties must not be related to the company's ordinary operations in Norway

- All purposes must be exempted

- No employer in Norway



Who is the employer?

- Who pays the salary?
- Who has right of instruction?
- Who represents the company?



Examples

- The foreign national is employed in enterprise A abroad. A has a contract with enterprise B in Norway. B, in turn, also has a contract with enterprise C in Norway for the delivery of a product or service. A shall contribute to this delivery. The foreign national attends meetings with C alone. He/she is then deemed to be authorized to represent B at these meetings on a par with B's employees. The foreign national is therefore deemed to have an employer in Norway (B), although he/she is not formally employed.
- An enterprise in Norway (B) acts as an intermediary between the foreign national's employer abroad (A) and another enterprise in Norway (C) for the purpose of establishing or supporting a collaboration between A and C. The foreign national attends meetings with C alone. The foreign national is not deemed to have an employer in Norway in this case, as he/she will not be representing B's interests at these meetings.



Notification to the authorities

- Foreign nationals who are exempt from the residence permit requirement to install, disassemble, inspect, repair, maintain or provide information shall, prior to entering the realm, give written notification to the police in the district in question. Such notification may also be given by an employer, organiser, or other responsible person.
- If the plan is for the foreign national to stay in the realm for several short periods for the same purpose, this should be stated in the notification submitted in connection with the first entry. If the other periods during which the person in question will be working in Norway are stated, the duty to report can be deemed to have been fulfilled for these subsequent stays.



In-house training

- Foreign nationals who are employed in an international company are exempt from the residence permit requirement when they are to undergo in-house training for a period of up to three months' duration.
- By in-house is meant that an employee of a foreign branch of a company is sent to the Norwegian branch of the company.
- The training can include theoretical tuition and practical work.
- It is a condition that it is the foreign national who is going to receive training. If he or she is going to provide training to employees in the Norwegian part of the company, an application must be submitted for a residence permit.
- It is a condition that the person continues to work for one of the company's branches abroad after his/her stay in Norway and cannot at this time be included in the Norwegian branch's ordinary workforce.
- A person can stay in Norway for in-house training for two periods of 90 days each or several shorter periods totalling 180 days according to the maximum stay of the Schengen regulations.
- Training that is to be given because the Norwegian part of the company has outsourced tasks to the foreign part of the company is not deemed to be covered by this provision, as long as it concerns necessary knowledge transfer for the performance of a contract the company in Norway has with a client. If the training is related to general internal business processes, the provision is applicable.



Impartiality

- To ensure that everyone enjoys legal protection and equal treatment, the Norwegian public administration follows the fundamental principle that external factors must not be allowed to influence its work. A professional approach to conflicts of interest is essential for maintaining public confidence in the reliability and impartiality of the public sector, including the diplomatic and consular missions. The relevant provisions of the Public Administration Act apply in full to immigration cases dealt with by the Foreign Service.
- According to Norwegian law, there is a conflict of interest if there are circumstances that could undermine confidence in the impartiality of a person's professional judgement. In the context of processing visa applications, this means that staff members must assess whether there are any circumstances that may cause others to doubt whether the application can be dealt with properly and whether the due process rights of an applicant will be respected. If there are, staff must consider whether their impartiality could be questioned and whether they should disqualify themselves from dealing with the case.
- If there is a conflict of interest, staff members must disqualify themselves from dealing with the case, and may not make a decision or prepare the basis for a decision on the matter.
- If questions may be raised about a staff member's impartiality, the case must be dealt with either by another employee at the mission or by the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI).
- Applications from friends and acquaintances of mission employees are examples of cases where there may be conflict of interest
- If a superior official is disqualified, the case may not be decided by any directly subordinate official in the same administrative agency, see section 6, third paragraph, of the Public Administration Act. This means that if the head of mission is disqualified in a particular case, all employees at the same mission are also disqualified.
- **Consequences: Visa section cannot handle your application and it must be forwarded to UDI**



Work permits

What type of work will you be doing?

- > Skilled worker with an employer in Norway
- > Employees of international companies who are going on assignment for the Norwegian branch of the company
- > Employees of companies abroad who are going on assignment in Norway
- > Offshore workers
- > Athletes or coaches
- > Religious leaders/teachers
- > Self-employed persons with a company in Norway
- > Self-employed persons with a company abroad

<https://www.udi.no/en/want-to-apply/work-immigration/skilled-workers/?c=chn>



Consequences

- In addition to creating doubts about the application, wilfully or through gross negligence providing materially false or manifestly misleading information in a case could lead to expulsion from all of Schengen.
- According to Immigration Regulations Section 3-4a 1st paragraph, no visa shall be granted where there are circumstances that would have given grounds for refusing the foreign national entry.
- According to Immigration Act Section 17 1st paragraph, a person may be refused entry when (d) lacking a necessary permit.
- According to Immigration Act Section 55 1st paragraph, a person who intends to work in Norway is required to have a work permit.
- Working without a work permit or employment without the salary, working conditions, welfare benefits and taxes required by Norwegian law may lead to expulsion from all of Schengen for 2 years.
- Not complying with the obligation to report to the authorities before starting the work is also a breach of the law.
- Company employing foreigners without proper compliance is fined and may face prison terms up to 2 years



Useful links

- [Embassy in Beijing Visa Section's web page](#)
- [Norwegian Directorate of Immigration - UDI's home page](#)
- [VFS application centers in China](#)
- [Schengen Visa Regulations](#)
- [Norwegian Immigration Act](#)
- [Norwegian Immigration Regulations](#)
- [Exemptions from the requirement of a work permit](#)
- [Impartiality](#)



Q & A

- **Question:**
At present, for a business visa, applicants are required (in most cases) to submit the company's bank statements for the past three months. Since the company usually covers the expenses for the business trip, this requirement often applies. However, company bank statements may contain confidential information that is not appropriate for the applicant to access. Is there any alternative—such as the company submitting the bank statements directly to the Consulate, or the Consulate conducting periodic financial checks for registered companies?
- **Answer:**
The Embassy does ask for the **company business licence** to confirm that the company exists and is a legally registered enterprise. We **do not require company bank statements** and they can be left out from the submitted application. That checklist is outdated and we are working on a new one which will remove that requirement.
- **Question:**
If we have a very urgent application—for example, an employee needs to travel to Norway for an important meeting within one week—is there any channel to request expedited processing?
- **Answer:**
You can ask VFS to **indicate on the first page of the application** that the travel is urgent when submitting the application. We do have a prioritisation track for urgent business cases, in addition to the normal priority track for all business cases, and if we see that the departure date is very soon, we will prioritize the application accordingly. There is **no need to contact any third party or send any emails**—just submit the application and supporting documents as soon as possible through the official process.
- **Question:**
What are the most common mistakes made by applicants that lead to delays?
- **Answer:**
The most common issue is inconsistency. In many business cases, it is very unclear what the purpose of the visit and the role of the applicant is. Making sure that **all information is correct and consistent** across the application and supporting documents will help speed up the process and avoid unnecessary delays. It is also important to include all the relevant information so that no further exchanges about the case will be necessary.





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