Knowledge changes everything
Welcome to the University of Oslo
Towards the Future

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the University of Oslo has two main tasks: creating the workforce of tomorrow and conducting research of high international quality within the realm of natural sciences and technology. Looking ahead, we develop our activities on a long and proud tradition within research and education in Norway dating back to 1861.

In particular, we have developed a wide range of international studies that attract students from all over the world. As a student, you can select among more than 30 different study programs on different levels and be part of a flowering student environment on campus. As an institution located in Oslo, the capital of Norway, the surroundings offer a huge variety of possibilities for social interaction and culture, both for students and employees.

The Faculty has several excellent research environments and competent researchers, many who are conducting cutting edge research within their areas of specialization, both nationally and internationally. A huge number of research projects are conducted together with partners abroad, and we address research questions of great importance for sustainable development of the earth and life.

My personal experience as an exchange student dates back to 1987 when I spent a year abroad, most of the time at the University of Utah in the U.S. This stay has been of great value to me in later life, both professionally and privately. I strongly recommend young people to take part of their education abroad. The world gets “smaller” and we are all an important part of it.

Looking forward to seeing you in Oslo!

Morten Dæhlen
Dean of Faculty
The Faculty’s subject areas include Astronomy, Biology, Molecular Biosciences, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Computational Science and Engineering, Modelling and Data Analysis, Geosciences, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Materials Science and Nanotechnology, Meteorology, Network and System Administration and several areas within Informatics.

DEPARTMENTS AND CENTRES:
- Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics
- Department of Biosciences
- School of Pharmacy
- Department of Physics
- Department of Geosciences
- Department of Informatics
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Mathematics
- Centre for Entrepreneurship
- Centre for Materials Science and Nanotechnology

“Torunn Kjeldstad (25)
University of Oslo, Norway.
Student, Materials Science and Nanotechnology.

We have a close-knit student community and good teachers, which makes it easy to learn a lot in the various subjects as well as to enjoy the breaks. If you speak English, it will not be difficult to manage at the university or in everyday life, as most Norwegians love to speak English.

For me, the best bit about studying at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has been the social part and the way the Faculty accommodates their students. The Faculty’s student association, Realistforeningen, lets you meet other students of the natural sciences while having a cup of coffee in the café or a beer in the pub. The Association is run by students, and international students are made especially welcome as all information is also given in English. This is the perfect way to get to know Norwegian students too.”
Tradition and Innovation in Research

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences focuses on research-based teaching, and the students will be able to take part in research groups and to be in dialogue with the academic staff.

Computing in Science Education (CSE)
The goal of the CSE project is to include computing as a natural tool for all science and engineering students from the first semester of their undergraduate studies. Not as a substitute for more traditional approaches, but as an extension of the classical toolbox. Computer simulation has become such a fundamental tool in research and industry that it should be introduced to students already in their first math and science courses. Surprisingly, the use of computers to solve mathematical problems still has little impact on university education around the world, particularly on undergraduate level. However, given today’s dominance of numerical simulations among professionals, we think it is paramount to integrate numerical tools at all levels in the education system.

A particular achievement of the CSE project in Oslo is that we have managed to implement the computer-based methods by modifying existing science courses, in contrast to the more common approach where modernization is taken care of in new “computational science” programs with separate courses. (Source/further reading: http://www.mn.uio.no/english/about/collaboration/cse/)

The University Centre in Svalbard (UNIS) is the world’s most northern institution for higher education and research. UNIS offers courses at all levels in Arctic in Arctic Biology, Arctic Geology, Arctic Geophysics and Arctic Technology. About 450 students from all over the world take one or more courses every year at UNIS. The student body consists of approximately 50% Norwegian and 50% international students.

Centres of Excellence (CoE)
The Research Council of Norway has initiated a Centres of Excellence scheme with the intention of bringing more Norwegian researchers and research groups up to a high international standard. The centres are affiliated with Norway’s top universities and premier independent research institutes. The CoE title is obtained in strong competition and is assigned for a period of up to ten years, with a minimum duration of five years.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences hosts five Norwegian Centres of Excellence, of which one is split between the University of Oslo and the University of Tromsø. The Faculty also plays an active part in five CoEs hosted by other faculties at the University of Oslo or other institutions.

CoEs hosted by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences:
• Physics of Geological Processes (PGP)
• Centre of Mathematics for Applications (CMA)
• Centre for Ecological and Evolutionary Synthesis (CEES)
• Centre for Theoretical and Computational Chemistry (CTCC)
• Centre for Earth Evolution and Dynamics (CEED)

(Source/further reading: http://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/about/centre-focus/sff/)

The Centre for Research-based Innovation (SFF) is the largest joint Nordic research and innovation initiative to date. The initiative aims to involve the very best agencies and institutions in the Nordic region, and to promote research and innovation of the highest level, in order to make a Nordic contribution towards solving the global climate crisis.

NCoE hosted by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences:
• Stability and Variations of Arctic Ice
• Nordic Centre for the Study of Climate Change (NordICC)

(Source/further reading: http://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/about/centre-focus/nordic/)

Centre for Research-based Innovation (SFF)
The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences hosts one Centre for Research-based Innovation, the Innovative Natural Gas Processes and Products (inGAP). The purpose of Centres for Research-based Innovation is to build up and strengthen Norwegian research groups that work in close collaboration with partners from innovative industry and innovative public enterprises. inGAP’s vision is value creation in natural-gas processes through rational design of processes and products based on atomistic and mechanistic insight in catalyst and reactor parameters under operative conditions.

(Source/further reading: http://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/about/centre-focus/sff/)

Nordic Centres of Excellence (NCoE)
The Faculty also hosts two Nordic Centres of Excellence and plays an active part in two Centres hosted by other institutions in the Nordic countries. The Top-level Research Initiative (TRI)
Our aim is that every international student should feel welcome as an important part of the Faculty’s social and academic life. At the beginning of each semester, we invite the new exchange students to a welcome party, where they will get to know us and each other. In addition, all exchange students will be part of a buddy group under the guidance of a more experienced student from the Faculty, who will introduce them to all parts of campus life.

Realistforeningen is the student association for all students at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The association’s purpose is to create a good and active student environment, and they run a pub/cafè, organize lectures and debates on popular science topics, and arrange a wide range of other events.

“Coffee Hour is arranged every Friday at Chateau Neuf. It is a place where international and Norwegian students can meet for discussions, planning of the weekend activities, fun and laughter.”

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The University of Oslo and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences have numerous student associations, and we encourage all students to participate in social activities at campus to get the most out of their stay here.
Mariella Evelyn Güere

UiO is a great university, and there is a lot of things to do here. The international environment gives you the opportunity to learn inside and outside the classrooms. Also, there are several facilities for the students, such as the library, student societies, seminars, etc. Oslo is a unique city with many things to see, to do, and to enjoy. The nature is around the corner.

From the beginning, the university showed a good commitment with the student. UiO is always concerned about the well-being of their students in both academic and personal aspects. There is always something going on in the campus, and they are posting other activities through the special events Facebook page.

No one can deny that UiO is a prestigious university. Maybe that is the main reason why many students move here. Many good courses are completely offered in English, and their content is very good. The professors are friendly, accessible and willing to help you. Everything converges to be a great experience for any student.

UiO is very international. You are able to find people from everywhere, with different backgrounds. Another feature is that it is really organized; you will not have major difficulties with your paperwork. In addition, there are several activities developing, both academic and social, so I think it will suit anyone.

"UiO is very international. You are able to find people from everywhere, with different backgrounds."

Louis Marcel

Don’t be misled by the weather and the sunset time in winter, in Oslo the day life is full of sunshine! You will really have a good time at the University of Oslo. It is one of the very well ranked universities of Europe, and don’t forget that you will study in one of the best places of the continent, except from the United Kingdom, to practice your English. Here, you will be able to speak with anybody in the streets of the city!

You should notice that all the days of your student life will be taken! At the campus, you have all the infrastructures you need: one library in each faculty, cafeteria, book store, supermarket, gymnasium and every faculty has its own pub. The number of hours of class is very reasonable so you will have plenty of time to enjoy sport, arts and so on. On your arrival, a buddy group will take care of you and they will be your friends for all your time in Norway – and longer.

It should be noted that Oslo at night is a very nice city and you will discover new places every week.

At the University of Oslo you will find classes of really good quality in every faculty, you will have a wide choice of courses in all kinds of fields and the research centres in Norway are numerous and full of meaning. Students in each course are not very numerous, which enables you to be very close to the teacher. You will be helped in your work as an exchange student and guided in the choice of your courses by the Erasmus Student Network.
Today, the Faculty has a total of 153 exchange agreements, 179 incoming exchange students and 44 departing students.
Cyril Hok-Man Tang (20)
University of Sydney, Australia.
Exchange student, Chemistry.

If you’re looking for a fun and fruitful exchange experience in a unique country, then look no further than Norway, a country which may seem tucked away in a corner of the world, but once you’re there, will feel like the centre of a mind-blowing universe. With a long cultural history involving vicious Vikings and a landscape broken by breathtaking fjords, what better way to experience it all than by going on exchange here? The University of Oslo is smack-bang in the middle of the vibrant capital, so you get a decent share of all the action in Norway. The friendliness of the local inhabitants will definitely make you feel at home straight away. Whilst there are rumours flying around about the expensiveness of Norway, if you dig a little deeper in your pockets and piggybanks, you’ll find that the little bit of extra money spent here will pay itself back again and again during a priceless exchange experience.

For me, the social life here has been a vibrant and active one. The buddy groups formed during the Orientation week, which put you together with other exchange students from your faculty and several student “leaders” from the University itself, have been a brilliant way to get to know not only the University, but the whole of Oslo as well. My group has been very active in arranging social events throughout the semester, ranging from simple barbeques at Sognsvann Lake or the Bygdøy peninsula, and on several occasions, extended trips to other fantastic destinations like the majestic Sognefjorden on the west coast of Norway and even Copenhagen in Denmark. Moreover, there is a plethora of student pubs around the campus which are great places to relax and catch up with your friends, and very often they host special events also. And if you are wise enough to join a sporting group or one of the many student societies, be prepared to make another bunch of friends and have a great time.

The environment at the University of Oslo is an exciting and stimulating one. Whether it be the professors and lecturers or the very fun Norwegian courses, the teaching here really engages you. The social dimension, ranging from student societies to sporting groups, has been great, and my buddy group has been completely amazing and an important social network formed at the beginning of the semester. Furthermore, the gym facilities and local transport systems are very reasonably priced, so there’s no excuse for not keeping fit and nosing around in the city to find its hidden secrets. Sit against a wonderful backdrop of Nordic wilderness just minutes from the city centre, lakeside barbeques and hiking trips are an invigorating way to get another perspective on the city, and a great excuse to catch up with friends. There is just so much to do here in this corner of the world that if you do decide to come here, be prepared for a whirlwind of learning and social outings that will make the semester seem to pass by in the blink of an eye.

“The friendliness of the local inhabitants will definitely make you feel at home straight away.”
Practical Information for Exchange Students

Available Courses for Exchange Students

Courses in English are open for exchange students at all departments. For lists of courses, please see the departments’ web pages (links given at page 22). Some courses at undergraduate level are offered in Norwegian and some in English, while most of the courses at graduate level are offered in English.

All courses have an individual course code consisting of letters and numbers. The first number indicates the level of the course. Course codes beginning with 1, 2 or 3 are undergraduate courses and courses beginning with 4 or 5 are graduate courses. In many cases, undergraduate students can be admitted to courses on graduate level after an individual assessment.

It is also possible for exchange students to take courses at faculties other than the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, but this should be requested at an early stage of the student’s application process.

Credit Load

A full-time student will take 30 ECTS credits each semester. All courses have a credit value between 5 and 20 ECTS credits. The majority of courses are 10-credit courses, so in most cases, a student will register for three courses per semester.

It is not recommended to take more than the full study load, but students willing to make an extra effort are allowed to sign up for additional courses.

Academic Calendar

The academic year for most programmes of study at the University of Oslo is divided into two semesters:

- Autumn semester: From the middle of August to the middle of December.
- Spring semester: From early January to the middle of June.

The exact dates for the start and end of each semester may vary from year to year and between the different study programmes and courses.

All new international students are invited to an orientation week, one week prior to the official beginning of the semester.

My field, mathematics, knows no borders. Many of our students and professors are educated wholly or partly abroad, and thus we know from our own experience the benefits of international exchange.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences hosts several Centres of Excellence, their topics ranging from ecological and evolutionary studies to mathematical finance. In addition, our researchers participate in a number of other such, and similar, centres. Our professors teach courses at all levels, giving also undergraduate students the opportunity to meet and interact with ongoing research at a high international level. We believe this to be a valuable experience for the future careers of the students.

“My field knows no borders!”

Here at the University of Oslo, we welcome international students. We believe that we have a lot to offer, by way of courses, culture, and nature. Furthermore, we believe that having a mixed student body greatly enhances our learning environment.

Ragni Piene
Professor of Mathematics

“Welcome to UiO The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences”
We ask our partner universities to nominate their exchange students through our online nomination system. Students should contact their home university in order to be nominated.

For information about how to nominate students, please see http://www.uio.no/english/studies/admission/exchange/nomination.html.

For general information about applying for exchange studies at the University of Oslo, please see http://www.uio.no/english/studies/admission/exchange/.

The nomination and application process must be completed by the following dates:

- **1 May** for the Autumn semester (August–December)
- **1 November** for the Spring semester (January–June)

Letters of Admission will be sent out late November for the Spring semester, and late June for the Autumn semester.

Student housing must be booked before 25 November for the Spring semester and 25 June for the Autumn semester. Students who follow the directions are guaranteed housing in one of the student residences in Oslo.
The Departments

Institute of Theoretical Astrophysics
PO box 1029, Blindern
0315 Oslo
Norway
studieinfo@astro.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/astro/english/

Department of Biosciences (formerly the Department of Molecular Biosciences and the Department of Biology)
PO box 1041/1066, Blindern
0316 Oslo
Norway
studieinfo@imbv.uio.no
studieinfo@bio.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/imbv/english/
http://www.mn.uio.no/bio/english/

School of Pharmacy
PO box 1018, Blindern
0316 Oslo
Norway
studieinfo@farmasi.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/farmasi/english/

Department of Chemistry
PO box 1033, Blindern
0315 Oslo
Norway
studieinfo@kjemi.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/kjemi/english/

Department of Mathematics
PO box 1035, Blindern
0315 Oslo
Norway
studieinfo@math.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/math/english/

Department of Physics
PO box 1048, Blindern
0316 OSLO
Norway
studieinfo@fys.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/fysik/english/

Department of Genetics
PO box 1029, Blindern
0316 OSLO
Norway
studieinfo@genet.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/genet/english/

Department of Informatics
PO box 1080, Blindern
0316 Oslo
Norway
studieinfo@ifi.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/ifi/english/

Centre for Entrepreneurship
PO box 1049, Blindern
0316 OSLO
Norway
info@sfe.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/sfe/english/

Contact Us!

MN International Office
PO box 1032, Blindern
0315 Oslo
Norway
international@mn.uio.no
http://www.mn.uio.no/english/

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences

Application procedures for exchange students:
www.uio.no/english/studies/admission/exchange/

Student housing:
www.uio.no/english/studies/new-student/housing/

List of courses given in English at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences:
www.uio.no/english/studies/courses/mathnat/

List of Master’s degree programmes in English at the University of Oslo:
www.uio.no/english/studies/programmes/

Application procedures for Master’s degree admission:
www.uio.no/english/studies/admission/master/

Norwegian language courses:
www.uio.no/english/studies/new-student/norwegian-courses/

Orientation week for new international students:
www.uio.no/english/studies/new-student/orientation-week/

Buddy system for new international students:
www.uio.no/english/studies/new-student/buddy-new-student/

Budget and cost of living in Oslo:
www.uio.no/english/student-life/budget/

Student societies at the University of Oslo:
www.uio.no/english/student-life/societies/

The Foundation for Student Life in Oslo:
www.uio.no/english