

# WORKING IN THE ENGINEERING SECTOR IN NORWAY

*(Updated June 2017)*



## About the engineering sector in Norway

Norway has been experiencing several downsizings in Oil & Gas companies since 2014 because of a lower oil price and fewer investments. There are currently not many jobs available in the Oil & Gas sector and there are currently surpluses of engineers within oil and gas disciplines.

### Demand for workers

There is still a certain demand for engineers in Norway in the following fields: Construction, civil works (road and railway), water management, HVAC, ICT (system developers and programmers), Education and Research (University teachers and PHD candidates). Several municipalities are also in need of qualified engineers.

### Civil Engineers

There is currently a demand for civil engineers within construction, roads, bridges, railroads and water management, but these kinds of jobs require a good knowledge of the Norwegian language (Before you apply) and of the Norwegian building norms.

### The companies require:

- An engineer diploma (Bachelor or Master degree)
- 3+ years of work experience in the engineering field
- A very good command of English (written and spoken)

### The companies offer:

- Good working conditions
- Permanent work contracts or project contracts
- Career development

## How to find work?

All the job vacancies published by The Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) are on the European job mobility portal [EURES](#).

You may also contact the national contact point, NAV Service Centre EURES, to enquire about job vacancies:

- phone: (+47) 55 55 33 39 - Monday- Friday, 08:00 to 15.30 (CET)

- e-mail: [eures@nav.no](mailto:eures@nav.no)

- [chat](#): every Friday, 10:00 to 13.00(CET)

Most job vacancies in Norway are written in Norwegian. There are though job vacancies written in English, you can find them [here](#).

Note that it is common in Norway to send open job applications, directly to companies of interest. Most companies have a website and you can find companies in the industry here: [Yellow Pages](#).

You might also look up vacancies at [www.finn.no/jobb](http://www.finn.no/jobb) [www.tu.no/jobb](http://www.tu.no/jobb).

More tips for your job search on [work in Norway](#).

You can also look up trainee programs at [www.trainee.no](http://www.trainee.no).

## **Language, education and training requirements**

In some parts of the engineering sector English is the work language. But we recommend for both safety and social reasons that you motivate yourself to learn some Norwegian. In the municipalities and in the construction sector the companies will require Norwegian skills. The Norwegian companies accept in general both Bachelor and Master's degree candidates. As said above, the most important is your technical competence.

Norwegian language courses: there are various providers of language courses in Norway, and online courses. You can find most of them at [Skills Norway](#), the National Agency for Lifelong Learning.

## **Wages**

In Norway there is no legal minimum wage that applies for all branches and professions. To get information about wages for engineers you might check the pages of the trade unions. You will also find wage statistics at [www.ssb.no](http://www.ssb.no).

## **Trade Unions**

In Norway, the trade unions play an important role in working life. Over 50% of the employees in Norway are members of a trade union. You may wish to contact a trade union to get more information about working in this industry.

These are the 2 main trade unions for engineers:

- [www.nito.no/english](http://www.nito.no/english) NITO (the Norwegian Society of Engineers and Technologists)
- [www.tekna.no](http://www.tekna.no) TEKNA (the Norwegian Society of Graduate Technical and Scientific Professionals).

## **Important things to consider**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

In general your CV should be written in Norwegian if you speak Norwegian (or Swedish or Danish), otherwise it might be written in English.

Your CV should be as detailed as possible. Details on your engineer studies, details on your previous jobs (also traineeships during the studies), details on your technical competence, details on courses and certificates etc.

The Norwegian companies are primarily looking for engineers with work experience in specific field of engineering.

When reading your CV, a Norwegian recruiter will first of all look for your technical competence. He/she will be looking for “what is this candidate good at that my company needs?”

### **The Norwegian working culture**

Norway has very little hierarchy, meaning that there are few intermediates between an employee and his/her manager. Employees are encouraged to show self initiative and to make the right priorities concerning the job or the task to be done. One should be able to work independently and in a team.

### **Warning: recruitment frauds**

There are fraudulent companies or individuals who send e-mails to job seekers offering them a job contract, and asking them to pay money in advance, for example to arrange a work visa or a plane ticket. Often too, these fraudsters pretend to be a renowned company and they even use the company’s logo.

## **Related Information**

### **Information about industrial sectors in Norway**

On the website of Norway Exports [www.norwayexports.no](http://www.norwayexports.no), in “Publications”, you can find many different brochures (for free downloading) about several industrial sectors in Norway. Most of the brochures are in English.

Find companies via these pages:

- [www.norwayexports.no](http://www.norwayexports.no), the official trade portal. Find relevant information on the various “Norwegian sectors”, with links to companies in each sector.
- [www.gulesider.no](http://www.gulesider.no)

## **Taxes, working conditions and relocation**

Visit [Work in Norway, the official guide](#) to get step by step information about registering, paying taxes and working conditions.