UND Law School
Foreign Summer Program
What is the Norway summer program?

The summer foreign program in Norway is part of a quarter-century tradition at the UND School of Law. The current program is an outgrowth and evolution of an exchange program between the University of North Dakota and Universitetet i Oslo that began in 1983. That program brought more than 400 law students from Norway for study in the U.S. and more than 350 law students from the U.S. to Oslo for a summer program. In 2009, Universitetet i Oslo ended its exchange program. After a year hiatus, the UND School of Law reconfigured the program as a foreign summer study program. The revamped summer program reinstitutes the law school’s long-standing focus on Norway and Norwegian law as a specialty area, and provides a rich and rewarding study abroad opportunity for UND and other law students. In the summer of 2011, three UND law students attended the first summer program to be held in Moss, Norway on the campus of the American College of Norway.

The foreign summer study program in Norway fits squarely within the mission of the UND School of Law. The prior exchange program with Universitetet i Oslo has long been a signature program at the law school, building upon the University of North Dakota’s and our region’s strong ties to Norway.

The program provides students with an opportunity to learn a non-common law based legal system, study international institutions, interact with Norwegian students, and to generally diversify their legal education in a way that is not possible through the classes currently offered at the UND School of Law.

UND’s summer program in Norway will be from May 20 to June 14, 2013. The Program will again be located on the Campus of the American College of Norway in Moss, Norway. Between 8 and 15 students are expected for 2013.

Where is the summer program being held?

The program will be based at the American College of Norway (ACN). ACN was founded in 1990 by Dr. Steiner Opstad. The University of North Dakota and ACN have had a close relationship since its founding. UND faculty teach at ACN each year. ACN has provided study abroad opportunities for students from UND’s undergraduate programs, and UND has been a primary destination for ACN students who decide receive a college degree in the U.S.

Dr. Opstad and ACN Administrative Director Krista Lauritzen regularly visit UND, and have helped to support University programs related to Norway, including the Nordic Initiative and the Norwegian Language Program, as well as high-profile speakers from Norway (in Spring 2008, for example, Dr. Opstad assisted in coordinating the visit of Judge Knut Petterson, a district court judge serving in the central area of the Saami people, to the UND School of Law).
ACN does not have a law school, or any other form of graduate education, but is very familiar with American students, particularly those from North Dakota.

What are the facilities like at ACN?

The classrooms and administrative programs for the program are located on the campus of ACN. The ACN campus maintains three classrooms for regular courses. Each classroom has seating and tables similar to those provided in law school classrooms in the U.S. The rooms have adequate lighting and soundproofing. (Further description can be found at http://www.americancollege.no)

ACN is located in the building in which the armistice negotiations between Norway’s nascent constitutional government and Sweden took place, and where the Convention of Moss was signed in 1814. The Convention of Moss is tied to the ratification of the Norwegian Constitution earlier in 1814, and the formation of the modern Norwegian government. Moss is a short train or bus ride from Oslo, Norway’s capital and largest city. It is anticipated that the program will take full advantage of ACN's historic location as well as its proximity to Oslo.

Is the UND summer program limited to students from the United States?

While the program is not limited to students from U.S. law schools, it is not expected that any such students will be with us in the summer of 2013. The UND School of Law’s summer program usually is scheduled to overlap with ACN's summer courses, so that there will be opportunities to interact with Norwegian students as well as undergraduate students from UND and elsewhere.

What courses will be offered at the summer program?

Norwegian Law and Legal Systems.

This course visits selected topics concerning the Norwegian legal system, its history and traditions, including its special relationship with the European Union. Field trips are planned and some lectures will be given (in English) by Norwegian lawyers and other legal professionals on the Norwegian legal system and institutions. Topics such as the European Free Trade Association, and numerous substantive areas of law and government are also covered. 2 credits

Norwegian law and legal systems will be offered from 9:00 until 13:00 from Monday May, 20, 2013 to Wednesday May 29, 2013, with a two hour exam on May 31, 2013.

Selected Topics in International and Comparative Law.

This selected topics course introduces students to two legal traditions: (1) the civil law tradition that originated in continental Europe and (2) the common law system that originated in England.
The course focuses on how both these traditions are accommodated under international law, particularly the international human rights legal system. To that end, several class discussions introduce the student to comparative and international law, and place both statutory law and constitutional law within comparative and international law frameworks. The course will specifically focus on a few issues, e.g., the treatment of religious rights, to illustrate the various approaches to dealing with similar issues across multiple jurisdictions. Final exam. 2 Credits.

Selected Topics in International and Comparative Law will be offered from will be offered from 9:00 until 13:00 from Monday June 3, 2013 to Wednesday June 12, 2013, with a two hour exam on June 14, 2013.

Special Project in International Law

Those students who wish to continue the exploration of the topics covered in the two classes have the opportunity to complete a special project to be supervised by the faculty. The expectation is that over the summer the student will produce written work that satisfies the writing requirement for students at UND. The topic should relate to the work done during the summer program, and students wishing to earn up to 2 credits for this Special Project option must enroll in a separate summer course at the UND School of Law. All work on the project must be completed by August 2, 2013.

How will the courses be graded?

Student performance in the two classes in Norway will be assessed via a written examination. Student performance on the Special Project will be based on an evaluation of the student’s work product.

Are there any criteria or limitations on course enrollment?

The courses are limited to 20 students. Based on past experience, we do not expect any course to be overenrolled. The only criterion for enrollment is that the student be currently enrolled as a student at a law school in the United States.

Can students from law schools other than UND get credit for courses completed in the UND summer program?

Any credit or grade for courses offered through the summer program is subject to determination by a student’s home school.

Will participation the UND summer program help me to graduate early?

It is unlikely participation that participation in this foreign summer programs may be used to accelerate graduation. Any student interested in acceleration should contact their home schools
to review this issue in light of ABA Standard 305, Interpretation 4.

Who will be teaching the courses?

Bradley Myers, Program Director, and instructor for Norwegian Law and Legal Systems.

Professor Myers received both a B.S. and a M.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles, a J.D. from the University of Oregon and an LL.M. in Taxation from New York University. While in law school Professor Myers served on the editorial staff of the Oregon law Review and was elected to the Order of the Coif.

After law school Professor Myers practiced for three years with Hale Lane Peek Dennison and Howard in Reno, Nevada and for three years with Weiss, Jensen, Ellis and Howard in Portland, Oregon. His practice focused primarily in business and estate planning with a special focus on the issues surrounding the development of low-income housing. Professor Myers joined the faculty at the University of North Dakota School of Law in 2001 and teaches trusts and estates, income taxation, taxation of business entities, and estate planning.

Professor Myers is admitted to the State Bar of North Dakota, the State Bar of Nevada and the State Bar of California and is an inactive member of the Oregon State Bar. Professor Myers serves as one of North Dakota’s commissioners to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform States Laws.

Julia Ernst, instructor for Selected Topics in International and Comparative Law

Professor Ernst earned her Master of Laws and Certificate in International Human Rights Law from Georgetown in 2010, her Juris Doctorate (cum laude) and Master of Arts in world politics from the University of Michigan in 1994, and her Bachelor of Arts (magna cum laude) in political science from Yale University in 1991.

After law school Professor Ernst Professor practiced environmental law in Detroit, Michigan, with the law firm of Dickinson Wright, PLLC, worked as Legislative Counsel with the Washington, DC office of a non-governmental organization and served as Legislative Counsel for Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, directing the bipartisan Congressional Caucus for Women’s Issues.

Julia L. Ernst joined the University of North Dakota School of Law in July 2011. Her courses include Constitutional Law I, Legislation, Health Law, and Gender and the Law. Professor Ernst’s legal research explores the intersections between religious and cultural rights with women’s human rights under the international human rights system.


Who should I contact for more information?

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How much will the program cost?

Subject to final approval by the University, the cost for the program will be $3,300. This covers all tuition and fees for the two classes to be offered in Norway, housing at ACN and transportation for any excursions or other events that are part of the program.

Students should estimate to spend about $100 per week on food. Restaurants in Norway are very expensive so eating out will increase the total amount.

Students wishing to enroll in the optional Special Project must pay for the additional course at the usual tuition rate for the UND School of Law’s summer session. Tuition and fees for the Special Project in International Law will be the same as for the regular Law School summer session:

North Dakota Residents: $693.80  
Non-Residents: $1,492.30  
MN and Contiguous state Residents: $932.86

Are the facilities at ACN, and in Norway generally, accessible to individuals with disabilities?

ACN’s facilities are in compliance with the accessibility laws of Norway, which will be adequate for most students. ACN owns a few small houses that could be used by students whose disabilities may render the housing generally provided to students inaccessible.

Norway, as is typical for Europe, has made great progress in providing accessibility to individual disabilities. However, some barriers to accessibility may be encountered in some places. Any excursions and other activities that are part of the summer program will be accessible in a manner that would be expected in the United States.
Under what circumstances is the program subject to cancellation and what arrangements will be made in the event of cancellation, and prior cancellations?

The program may be cancelled if fewer than 7 students enroll. A decision to cancel would be made by the dean in consultation with the program faculty no later than April 1. Students will be notified that they should make no financial commitments for travel to Norway until after April 1.

The program may also be cancelled if the U.S. State Department issues a travel warning or alert that causes the program director to conclude that travel to or within Norway is unsafe or if the number of students who withdraw from the program because of the warning renders it difficult to fulfill the education mission of the program.

For any cancellation due to under-enrollment, students will be immediately notified by email, as well as through other usual channels of student communication at the law school. If the program has commenced, such as for a cancellation due to a travel warning or alert, students will be personally notified as soon as possible by the on-site Director and the program faculty.

If the program is cancelled after students have paid tuition, any tuition for the cancelled portion of the program will be refunded within twenty days or as soon as feasible. If the program is cancelled after the students have arrived in Norway, the on-site Director and program faculty will assist the students in making arrangements for the return to the U.S., including contacting the U.S. Embassy if necessary. The campus Program Director will use best efforts to help students who have already paid a deposit, if they so desire, to identify and enroll in a similar program.