

Congratulations on your acceptance to the Norwegian Folk Music / Norwegian Folk Art for International Students Programme!

Welcome as a student at USN Campus Rauland!

In this letter you will find important information related to
your study programme.

We look forward to meeting you!



Hi!

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Campus Rauland in August!

The Norwegian Folk Music / Norwegian Folk Art for International Students programme offers an immersive introduction to Norwegian folk traditions and cultural history, combining practical and theoretical learning. Participants engage with music, dance, and handcraft through hands-on experiences, complemented by lectures, seminars, excursions, and projects. The programme, held at Campus Rauland, provides a unique opportunity to study in a scenic rural mountain setting, surrounded by the traditional arts and lifestyle of the region. The campus fosters a vibrant, active student community with numerous extracurricular activities, including folk dance and woodcarving clubs, house concerts, and craft evenings.

According to a 2025 national survey of post-secondary students in Norway, Rauland was voted [Norway's second-best student town](#). A whopping 93% of students have stated that they were satisfied with the study environment at Campus Rauland!

Campus Rauland prioritises internationalisation, welcoming exchange students from many different countries each year. The Rauland Winter Festival, held annually in week 7, is a highlight of the programme, with additional excursions to festivals and events enhancing the cultural experience. The engaging study environment not only encourages academic growth but also offers rich opportunities for cultural exchange and social involvement.

Norwegian Folk Music Students

Main Instrument

All Norwegian Folk Music students receive individual lessons on their main instrument. If you know what instrument(s) you are interested in having lessons on, please let us know as soon as possible via email (laura.e.ellestad@usn.no) – this will help us begin planning the semester. You can also let us know any preferences you might have regarding a secondary instrument. If you need to rent an instrument, let us know as well.

Norwegian Folk Art Students

Area of Specialisation

All Norwegian Folk Art students must select an area of specialisation (textiles, metalwork, or woodworking). Please let us know your preferred area of specialisation as soon as possible via email (laura.e.ellestad@usn.no) – this will help us begin planning the semester. (If you have already done so, please disregard this).

Drawing Materials

For the Drawing Module you will need two drawing pads (A3 and A4), brushes (3 round and 3 flat in different sizes), pencils (HB, 2B, 4B, 6B), marker pens (0.05 mm, 0.3 mm, 0.5 mm, 1.0 mm), a ruler, kneaded rubber, and an eraser. It is possible to purchase some drawing supplies on campus.

Arrival

The first day of classes for all study programmes at Campus Rauland is on Monday, August 17. On Sunday, August 16, you are also welcome to participate in “Open Sunday” from 12:00–15:00. This is an event for all new students. There will be a guided tour of the campus, information stands, and complementary food and drink. The whole program for the first week of the semester will be posted here: <https://www.usn.no/english/new-students/semester-start-programme/campus-rauland/>

Many extra social activities will be organised during the first two weeks of classes, including concerts, hikes, barbecuing, and icebreaker activities.

Course schedule

While most other exchange programmes at USN use TimeEdit to display course schedules, your course schedule will be posted in the Canvas room for NOFA1 (folk art students) or NOFM1 (folk music students) once it is available. In order to access Canvas you must first [activate your user account](#).

Preparing for your studies

Computer and Software

All USN students are required to have their own computer for use during lessons and exams. Read more about USN’s computer requirements here: <https://www.usn.no/english/usn-faq/it-support/>

Housing

Be sure to apply for student housing as soon as possible. This should be done through the [Student Welfare Organisation of Southeast Norway \(SSN\) website](#).

If you are on the waiting list for a room at the student dorms or need assistance with finding private off-campus housing, contact Student advisor Ingrid Hamberg via e-mail: ingrid.hamberg@usn.no

You can also check the Facebook page [Studenthybler i Rauland \(privat utleige\)](#) for listings of private apartments for rent in Rauland.

Student Residence Permit (Visa)

All students from outside the EU and EEA countries are required to apply for a student residence permit when studying in Norway. This also includes non-EU/EEA citizens already studying in another EU/EEA country. Please visit www.udi.no for more information about the residence permit fee and application requirements. More information can also be found

here: <https://www.usn.no/english/usn-fag/for-international-students/do-i-need-a-study-permit-student-visa>

Facebook groups for incoming international students and Rauland students

We recommend joining the Facebook group [USN Welcomes You Autumn 2026](#). The group is a space where you can ask questions, receive information, and access webinars which will help you prepare for your studies in Norway.

We also recommend joining the Facebook group [Rauland SFO \(Studentfritidsordning\)](#). This is a group for present and past students at USN Rauland where information about student activities, etc. is shared.

We want to help you succeed as a student

USN offers many support schemes for students, including an [academic writing centre](#), [health reimbursement](#), a [student psychologist](#), [student discounts](#), [financial support for student activities](#), etc.

Special needs?

Our students represent a broad diversity and everyone should have the opportunity for equal education. We will make sure that students with disabilities will succeed in their studies as far as possible. If you have vision loss, hearing loss, mobility problems, dyslexia, psychosocial difficulties or other challenges in your everyday life, you may be entitled to facilitation. Students in need of facilitation are requested to submit an electronic application. More information can be found at the link below, and by contacting your Student advisor.

<https://www.usn.no/english/academics/special-needs/>

Getting to Campus Rauland via Public Transportation

The best way to get to Rauland via public transportation is by bus from Oslo. Plan to arrive at Oslo Gardermoen Airport. After arriving at the airport, you will first need to take a train or bus to Oslo Central Station (Oslo S). Trains and busses run very often; the fastest option is to take the train, which takes about 25 minutes. You can take the Airport Express Train ("Flytoget") (www.flytoget.no/en), which runs more often, but is more expensive, or you can take one of the local train routes, which run less often, but are a little cheaper (search at www.vy.no/en with the departure station "Oslo Lufthavn" and arrival station "Oslo S").

Once you arrive at Oslo S (Oslo Central Station), you can catch a bus to Rauland. The Oslo bus terminal building is right next to the central train station, and it takes about 5 minutes to walk between the two buildings.

The bus trip to Rauland takes about 4.5 hours. You can search for bus schedules here: <https://entur.no/>

- Search with the departure station "Oslo bussterminal" and the arrival station "Universitetet USN Rauland"

- Depending on which day of the week you are traveling, the bus to Rauland has two or three daily departures from Oslo (only one on Saturdays)
- When you search on entur.no you will see more than two daily departure times - we recommend choosing one of the itineraries with only 1 bus transfer (the other options involve more transfers and sometimes take longer)
- You will need to change busses at the "Åmot Vinje Kro" station. From here, you take a local bus from Åmot to Rauland (this last leg of the trip takes about 20-25 minutes). Tell the bus driver that you want to get off at USN campus Rauland/Raulandsakademiet.
- It is possible to purchase bus tickets for the second leg of the trip via entur.no. To purchase a ticket for the first leg of the trip (from Oslo bussterminal to Åmot Vinje Kro) entur.no will direct you to this website: <https://www.nor-way.no/en#/?step=2> It is also possible to purchase tickets on board the bus, but tickets are usually cheaper if you buy them in advance.
- There is a student discount for the bus fare from Oslo to Åmot Vinje Kro (to check if you qualify, see here: <https://www.nor-way.no/en/travel-information/ticket-categories/>). To get the discount you need to present valid student identification. You can get your student ID card by activating your USN user account and downloading the "Student ID" app: <https://www.usn.no/english/usn-faq/semester-start/where-can-i-get-my-student-id-card>

Once you have made your travel plans, please send [Laura Ellestad](#) the information about your arrival time in Rauland, so that we can arrange for someone to meet you when you arrive and help you find your dorm room.

Do you have any questions?

If you have any additional questions before the start of the semester, please get in touch! For questions related to your study programme, contact your Programme Coordinator. For practical matters, contact your Student advisor.

Laura Ellestad, Programme coordinator

Tlf: 35026525, e-mail: laura.e.ellestad@usn.no

Ingrid Hamberg, Student advisor

Tlf: 35026604, e-mail: ingrid.hamberg@usn.no

Zoom meeting for Norwegian Folk Music/Norwegian Folk Art 2026/2027

We will be hosting a Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, June 9 at 15:00 CEST** for all incoming students to the Norwegian Folk Music / Art programme (autumn semester/full year). The meeting is for all of you, so we can briefly introduce ourselves, and we can help you with any questions you might have. We hope to see you there!

<https://usn.zoom.us/j/69058407812?pwd=TF0eHEvi7H6RoZOejNaEnXHDrl7EjP.1>

Meeting ID: 690 5840 7812

Password: 842653