The Norwegian Study Centre in Great Britain

Study Programme
2014–2015
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The Norwegian Study Centre (NSC) in Great Britain was established in cooperation with the University of York. It serves primarily, but not exclusively, Norwegian institutions of higher education, and is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research through the University of Bergen. The NSC is under the management of a Norwegian Board of Studies and has a Norwegian-based Director, but is otherwise staffed by British university lecturers and administrative personnel.

The NSC functions as a permanent Study Centre for students from Norwegian universities and colleges. In addition, it offers in-service courses for practising teachers of English at all levels. Courses for various groups from the public and private sectors may also be available on request.

The NSC is affiliated to the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York, and has offices and teaching rooms in Quantum House, in the York Science Park, on the edge of the Heslington campus. Accommodation on campus, consisting of 38 single rooms, is reserved for NSC short course participants.

York

One of England’s most beautiful and colourful cities, York is situated in North East England, amidst countryside which is rich in cultural and historical features. An important city in Roman times, it has also preserved to an unusual degree the stamp of its medieval heritage. The city is encircled by white stone city walls with their impressive gateways, while the imposing Minster, one of Europe’s largest medieval cathedrals, towers over the countryside. Countless buildings of historical and architectural

Left to right: Lisbeth Mathers, Dr Beck Sinar, Tim Vicary, Dr Lalita Murty, Professor Gweno Williams, Felicity Jones, Kåre Rugesæter, Dr Megan Roughley.

York city walls with York Minster in the background
interest stand in streets which appear to have changed little in 500 years, while old market places offer scenes of lively town life and a wide variety of goods. But York is also a modern city with good facilities for today’s town-dweller. The city has cinemas, theatres, concert halls and exhibition centres, as well as museums which are among the most notable in Britain.

York is an excellent starting point for the study of many aspects of British life and culture. The city lies in the Vale of York, traditionally an agricultural region, but the large urban sprawls and industrial towns of Northern England – Leeds and Bradford in particular – are barely an hour away. Also close at hand are the beautiful and sparsely populated Yorkshire Dales and North Yorkshire Moors. Interested students will therefore find all they could wish for, from rare geological formations to large industrial areas and mining communities, to specialised intensive farming and sheep farms in isolated valleys. York or Jorvik, as it was once called, was a Viking city, the most important centre of the Norsemen’s western settlements. Countless place-names bear witness today to the intimate connections which existed in earlier times between Scandinavia and this part of Great Britain.

The University of York

The University of York was established in 1963 and is now considered one of the top universities; it was awarded University of the Year in 2010 and in 2012 it was rated the top University under 50 in the UK and eighth in the world. The main campus is about three kilometres from the centre of York and the total student population is now more than 15,000.

The University is organised around eight colleges, most of which have their own teaching rooms and laboratories, common room, cafeteria, dining room, computer rooms, bar and residential rooms with small kitchens. All students are allocated to a particular college, and will usually live there for a large part of their university career. The University also has modern sports facilities and a brand new sports centre called York Sport Village (a small fee is applicable) and three concert halls. Norwegian students are free to use the facilities in any college on campus.

Central Hall and lake on the University campus
Academic courses at the NSC

A. YorkCourse at 200 level

The NSC, in cooperation with the Department of English and Related Literature at the University of York, offers a three-module course programme in English at 200 level. The course is offered twice a year, in autumn (September to January) and in spring (January to May). It is recognised as contributing 30 study points in English towards a Bachelor’s degree in Norway.

The course is open to students who have either completed 60 study points (or more) of English studies at a university or college in Norway with an average of a good C or better, or completed between 30 and 60 study points of English Studies at a university or college in Norway with an average of a B or better.

The course has the following three modules, each carrying 10 study points:

1. Linguistics    2. Culture    3. Literature

Students who wish to complete their Bachelor’s thesis whilst in York may replace one of the traditional modules with a research extension module.

The deadlines for application are 1 November for the spring course and 1 May for the autumn course. Further details and application forms are available from the NSC website.

Students on the YorkCourse may apply, while they are at the NSC, to stay on to take a second course the following semester, thereby staying in York for a year.

B. Master’s programmes

In the Spring Term of 2015, the NSC will administer two 30 study point Master’s programmes, one taught by the Department of English and Related Literature and the other by the Department of Language and Linguistic Science. These are for students registered in an English Master’s programme at a Norwegian institution. Prospective applicants should have completed 30 study points at 200 level. A high grade from the Bachelor’s degree is required.

The teaching period is from early January to the middle of May. Successful applicants may choose two MA courses offered by either Department, and will be integrated with the British and other international MA students.

On application, students who are accepted for this study programme will be given various kinds of financial support from Lånekassen. Further details and application forms are available from the Norwegian universities and the NSC website. The deadline for applications is 1 October.
C. Short courses
The NSC offers two main types of short course:

1. Courses of one or two weeks’ duration for students of English at Norwegian universities and colleges.

Most of the teaching will focus on English literature, English language in use, and British culture/current affairs, and for teacher-trainees, teaching-related topics are also covered. The NSC uses the English-speaking environment to do what cannot easily be done in Norway, often through project work and visits to appropriate venues in and around York.

Teaching at the NSC is generally a combination of small-group seminar teaching (in groups of up to 15-20) and lectures, from NSC staff and, on occasion, from outside experts. English is used at all times, and small group work is integral to the teaching and learning style. Students are encouraged to participate as actively as possible. Project work will usually involve an oral presentation at the end of the course, and in some cases, will be written up in Norway as an assignment for the home institution.

It is not normally possible for students on these short courses to take classes offered to British degree students.

To achieve the best possible results, it is essential that the Norwegian tutor(s) in charge of each group of participants discuss their aims with their students and the NSC well in advance of their course, and that the content and aims of the course should be carefully planned at the Norwegian institution, in close cooperation with the NSC. An information pack on the NSC’s study programme, with details of administrative procedures, is sent to the institutions involved, well in advance of the course. The goal is to make the course in York a central and integrated part of the study programme in Norway, and the NSC presupposes high motivation and, where necessary, preparation from the students who come to York. A certificate, which is dependent on good attendance and satisfactory academic work, is awarded at the end of each course.

2. In-service courses (one to two weeks’ duration) for teachers working in the Norwegian school system.

In addition to topics on language and British culture, these courses include one or two sessions on teaching methodology in accordance with the principles of K2006 and the needs of the participants.

The content of short courses will vary according to the needs of the user groups, but it will take a serious academic approach at all times.
Fees and funding (short courses only)

Students normally pay the cost of study fees and travel themselves. In some cases, the English department of the appropriate institution offers funding. Information on this is available from your home institution.

Lånekassen has special provision to offer loans to students taking short courses at the NSC. Applications should be sent collectively and must be vouched for by the Norwegian institution. Please consult Lånekassen’s website for up-to-date information.

Fees for 2014 – 2015 are as follows:

- NOK 1.700 per student per week (ie from Sunday to Friday) for those placed in Eden’s Court and similar standard accommodation and for students sharing in guest houses or other accommodation if Eden’s Court is full.

- NOK 1.800 per week for teacher trainee students staying in Eden’s Court or elsewhere if Eden’s Court is full, who opt for school visits. Included in this fee are costs for the school visits and transport to and from the schools. (NOK 1.900 if only one week course.)

- NOK 3.000 per week for shared accommodation in guest houses. This is for students who choose guest houses even when Eden’s Court is available, and for in-service students who want a better standard of accommodation. (Add NOK 100 per week if school visit included.)

Special courses will pay the actual cost of the course + overheads.

Excursions can be arranged but these are not covered by the course fee. As it has become increasingly difficult to find schools willing to take visitors, we strongly advise that only students who want to be teachers and teachers on in-service courses should be offered school visits. Please be aware that all students who visit schools must have a criminal records check before they arrive. Even though we will do our utmost to arrange school visits for those who want them, they cannot be guaranteed.

Cancellation conditions

If a course is cancelled, without rescheduling within four weeks of the original booking time, a cancellation fee will be imposed. Numbers have to be confirmed no later than 14 days before the start of the course.

Students staying in guest houses will have to pay the full cost of accommodation if cancelling less than 14 days before arrival.

Cancellation charges

Individual students (staying in Eden’s Court):
0 – 2 weeks before starting date: NOK 1000

Groups
2 – 4 weeks before starting date: 25% of tuition fee
0 – 2 weeks before starting date: 50% of tuition fee
Enrolment and payment

Participants should enrol through the English department at their university or college. Please note the closing dates for enrolment. Payment is made to the course coordinator in Norway.

Other payments should be made as follows:

a. Payment for travel in Norway, or between Norway and Britain by the individual, or to the travel agency (where this is applicable)

b. Study fees are to be paid collectively, directly to the NSC in York. The course leader will be presented with an invoice after arrival at the NSC, and payment should be made by bank transfer on the leader’s return to Norway

c. All leaders’ accommodation to be paid to the NSC in York

d. Other payments according to agreement with the group leader, directly to the NSC in York.

Travel

If travelling by air, there are several options available. One may travel to Newcastle, Stansted, Heathrow, Manchester or Leeds/Bradford. Onward travel to York is possible by both coach and rail.

Travel by train in Britain is more expensive than by coach. The NSC can book coach transport to and from the appropriate airport for groups of eight or more who are travelling together provided two weeks’ notice is given of numbers and arrival times.

Groups should plan their journey so that they do not arrive in York between 12.00 midnight and 6.00am. Approximate coach journey times are as follows: four hours from Stansted to York; five hours from Heathrow to York; two to two and a half hours from Newcastle; two and a half hours from Manchester; one hour from Leeds/Bradford.

Please note that all travel must be arranged and paid for in good time. Travel insurance is essential.

Travel details are correct at the time of writing but should be checked before making arrangements.

Accommodation

All participants will be placed in single bedrooms in Eden’s Court on campus. Where large groups are concerned, some will be accommodated in twin- or triple-bedded rooms in a guest house.

Extra nights can be added for a fee but must be cleared by the NSC. One week courses are entitled to six nights.
Information

Details of the NSC are available from the English department at your place of study, or contact:

The Norwegian Study Centre,
Quantum House,
University of York,
Heslington,
York YO10 5DD,
England

Tel: +44 (0)1904 323 235
Email: nsc@york.ac.uk
Website: www.york.ac.uk/nsc

You can also contact the Chair of the NSC Board.
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