



UNIVERSITETS- OG HØGSKOLERÅDET

The Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions

MEMORANDUM

To: Whom It May Concern
From: National Council for Higher Education
in Business Administration

Our date: 28 January 2011
Contact person: Mona Majgaard

The bachelor's degree in business administration from accredited Norwegian university colleges

The National Council for Higher Education in Business Administration is organised under the Norwegian Association of Higher Education Institutions. The task of the Council is to coordinate and strengthen higher education and research in the field of business administration. The Council consists of representatives from all of the educational institutions that offer programmes in this field of study.

It has come to the Council's attention that some candidates with a bachelor's degree from Norwegian university colleges have been denied admission to master's degree programmes abroad because it was believed they did not hold an academic bachelor's degree comprised of research-based teaching. The purpose of this letter is to explain the Norwegian educational system so that Norwegian candidates receive the fairest treatment possible when they apply for admission to educational programmes in other countries.

The Act of 1 April 2005 No. 15 relating to Universities and University Colleges applies to all Norwegian universities and accredited university colleges. Pursuant to the Act, the institutions must provide higher education on the basis of the foremost in research, academic development work and empirical knowledge (i.e. research-based education). The institutions subject to the Act are required to conduct research and academic development work, help to disseminate the results of research, and contribute to innovation and value creation on the basis of the results of research and academic development work.

Thus, in Norway there is no distinction between bachelor's degree programmes at universities and university colleges, and all higher education must be research-based.

Regarding the bachelor's degree in business administration, the Council has approved a national educational plan which all the institutions that offer this degree must follow. All candidates who hold this degree from a Norwegian higher education institution are deemed qualified to apply for admission to a master's degree programme in business administration at all Norwegian universities and university colleges. Admission is granted or denied on the basis of the applicant's academic marks.

Sincerely yours,

Iver Braglien
Chair
National Council for Higher Education
in Business Administration

Mona Majgaard
Secretary
National Council for Higher Education
in Business Administration