

Norway Needs Apprenticeships

The Apprentice Promise (Lærlingløftet) is a joint venture between Norwegian authorities and businesses. In an attempt to recruit more companies to take in apprentices, the Apprentice Promise introduces measures such as information campaigns and financial support. The grant for a company to train an apprentice has increased, and in 2014 there was a sign-up bonus of 50,000 kroner for entering the apprenticeship program.

Since its launch in December 2013, the goal of the project has been to increase the number of businesses in the private, municipal and public sectors that welcomes apprentices.

I think it's fun to be a part of the big jigsaw. Although I am a bit green, I feel that I can contribute to the success and growth.

Henrik, apprentice

The Norwegian business world depends on the recruitment of qualified staff. In some industries, there has long been far too few apprenticeships available. Each year, around 6,000 students are without an apprenticeship. To change this situation, representatives from the business world and the government signed an agreement on closer cooperation. The Apprenticeship Promise, which is a part of this work, is aimed at informing employers and motivating them into offering apprenticeships.

The Transition from School to Apprenticeship is Key

The model for vocational education in Norway is based on a four-year educational program, where the first two years are school-based education and the last two years feature training in an actual workplace. The transition to apprenticeship is where many students drop out. Around one quarter of the vocational students from the second year are not registered the following year. This suggests that there is a mismatch between the number of pupils and the number of apprenticeships, thus making it particularly relevant to monitor the transition from school to apprenticeship.