

Waiting times for families with children and adults who have applied for protection (asylum)

We are currently working on the following cases

Many applicants have been waiting a long time to get an answer regarding their application for protection. We know that waiting is difficult. Therefore, we are now working on the applications that have been with us the very longest.

There are a number of applicants who applied for protection in 2022 who have not received an answer to their applications. If you are among these applicants, you should have received a letter from us, explaining that more investigation into your case is needed. If you have not received a letter, you will receive a response to your application soon.

Many of those who applied for protection in 2023 have not yet received an answer. There are approximately 1 200 cases from 2023 that have not been processed. These are the cases we are working on now. As a general rule, we process the oldest cases first.

A number of the 1 200 cases from 2023 involve applications from Syrian citizens and stateless individuals from Syria. We are not processing these applications at present, so applicants from Syria will have to wait longer for an answer.

Applications from Syria

[UDI has decided to wait before processing applications for protection submitted by Syrian citizens and stateless individuals from Syria.](#) Many other European countries have done the same. This means that the waiting times will be longer for applicants from Syria.

Everyone will receive an answer to their applications for protection. We will be back with more information when we start processing applications from Syria again.

UDI is working to cut down on the waiting times. We will provide applicants with regular updates on what we are working with and how far we have come.

Why do some applicants receive an answer before others?

There are many people seeking protection. UDI cannot manage to process all of their applications right away. Applications from certain groups of applicants must be processed more quickly than others. This includes:

- applications processed in accordance with the Dublin Regulation, which most often entails that an applicants have to travel to a different European country to have their applications processed.

- those who, in UDI's estimation, clearly do not need protection because, for example, they come from a safe country.
- applications from families with children, and applications from children who arrived without parents or any caregivers.

UDI also sets out to interview as many applicants as possible while they are at the National arrival centre. This is to help to reduce the waiting times over time. We interview applicants from prioritised groups first.

If you are not part any of these groups, you might have to wait a long time for your interview and for your application to be processed. This does not mean anything is wrong with your case; we have not forgotten you.

How does UDI process your case?

What happens at the National arrival centre?

Anyone applying for protection in Norway must first register an application at the National arrival centre. The length of stay at the arrival centre is short because there must be room for newcomers. UDI's goal is to interview most new applicants and process their applications while they are at the arrival centre. Since so many people have come in recent years to seek asylum, we have not managed to do so. Most applicants have to move to an ordinary asylum reception centre where they wait for their interviews and an answer to their applications.

Applicants have no choice or influence in the matter of whether they will be interviewed while at the National arrival centre. It all depends on how many people have applied for protection at the same time.

If you have to move into an ordinary reception centre before UDI can interview at the arrival centre, you should be prepared for a long wait for your interview and an answer regarding your application for protection.

It makes no difference for your waiting time if the reception centre you live in is in one part of Norway or another. If you are staying in a private living accommodation, it is very important that you provide your address and other contact details so that UDI can reach you about your interview and with the answer regarding your application.

What does UDI do with your case while you are waiting?

When UDI receives an application for protection, we place it in a queue until one of our case officers has time to process the case. This means that your case will not be handled by a specific case officer at UDI until you are called in for your interview. No cases are forgotten.

Why does it take so long to get an interview?

The asylum interview is necessary for UDI to be able to assess your application for protection. It is the most important opportunity you have to explain your reasons for why you need protection. UDI allocates a lot of time for asylum interviews and each case requires a good amount of planning and resources. As such, it takes us a long time to interview everyone who comes to Norway.

How long does it take to receive an answer after the interview?

In most cases, UDI is able to provide an answer fairly shortly after an interview. Sometimes, however, we need more time to look into a case. We may need to look more closely at

information in a case, or we might need to find out more about the situation in your home country before we can process your case. In such cases, it can take longer to receive an answer after an interview, but everyone will receive an answer.

What do you need to do?

If you have any identity documents that you have not given to the police, you need to hand them in as soon as possible.

- If you have original identity documents, you are to hand them in to your local police district.
- If you have copies and photos, you are to send them to UDI.

It is important that UDI has all the documents in your case before your interview. In this way, you can help to prevent your case from taking longer than necessary.

What information about waiting times can UDI give you?

There are many people who contact UDI to ask about the waiting time for their cases. We are not able to provide any other information about waiting times over the phone other than what is published on udi.no – that is, the same information provided in this letter.

The people answering as part of UDI's information service are the same people who process the cases

If we need more information from you to process your case, we will contact you.

In order to have time to process more cases, UDI's information service is closed on Wednesdays.

Can your case be moved to the front of the queue?

Most applicants for protection want their case to be processed quickly. However, there must be something very special about your circumstances for your application to be moved to the front of the queue.

Information updates

This information on waiting times applies from 1 September 2025.

The information will be updated on 1 December 2025 or before if substantial changes occur.

