

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

We are currently working on the following cases:

There are many applicants who have been waiting a long time for an answer to their applications for protection. We know that it is difficult to wait. Consequently, we are now processing the applications that have been with us longest.

UDI still has close to 340 cases from 2022 that we have not finished processing. For many of these cases, the interview has already been held. We are giving priority to completing applications from 2022 and notifying the applicants of the decision. This applies both to those who are part of a family and to those who arrived alone.

UDI is also now working on processing applications from the first half of 2023. There are approximately 450 cases from that period. As a general rule, we process the oldest cases first. Many of the applicants in these cases are still waiting for an interview.

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 we process your case at UDI

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 happens with your case at UDI while you wait?

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.

Is there anything I need to remember 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 regarding 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 April 2025.

We will provide another update on 1 June 2025 or before if the situation changes significantly.

