

# VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM OF GEORGIA (ISCOG)\* -

CELEBRATING 30+ YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

*proudly presents*

LET'S TALK ABOUT NORWAY

WITH



**Signe is the Consul for Business Promotion at the Royal Norwegian Consulate in New York. Honorable Signe Astrid Engli** She has a long and distinguished career in promoting Norwegian business interests internationally, from Singapore, Brussels and now New York. She holds a master's degree in economics and business administration from the Norwegian School of Economics, in addition to a master's degree in management of technology from the National University of Singapore.

Signe started her career at the Bergen High Technology Center in Norway working with startups and promoting technology cooperation internationally. This gave her a unique understanding of what it takes to succeed for a tech start up and the importance of international partnerships. Norway is a small market and companies will have to work internationally from the very beginning. The US is an important ally of Norway and would like to see more business partnerships going forward.

**JOIN US ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025, 2:00 – 3:30 P. M. (EASTERN TIME)**

Registration

**For a 90-minute interactive program in which diplomat Engli will introduce the historical, contemporary and cultural aspects. Students attending the program will gain global competency skills to help them succeed in a dynamic and highly interdependent global economy. The program will also offer opportunities for career exploration, including government internships, for students attending schools in the consortium.**

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Please contact Consortium Executive Director Rajgopal Sashti - [raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu](mailto:raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu) - for any additional information.

**\*Consortium Universities and Colleges:** Reinhardt University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Houston Community College System (TX), Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.

## **THE VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM**

The main objective of the Virtual Visiting Diplomat Program is to have a direct impact on the talented and accomplished students at Consortium universities/colleges and increase their knowledge and understanding regarding a country or a region or a global topic. The focus of the 90-minute interactive program (one hour of presentation followed by 30 minutes of question and answer) will be international and cross-cultural in nature. Visiting Diplomats will serve as presenters and resource persons for the program and will introduce the region/country and its social, cultural and economic footprint in the United States in general and the Southeast in particular to young men and women.

As a part of the program, the featured presenter will share his/her professional career trajectory to stimulate students to be creative and innovative and encourage them to aspire and reach higher levels of leadership as they pursue their own academic and professional goals. The purpose of the program is to provide students with unique experiences and opportunities not available in a textbook or in a classroom setting. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist young men and women acquire global competency skills and help them to adapt and succeed in a dynamic and highly interdependent global economy.

### **Why Should American Students Learn about Norway?**

American students should learn about Norway because it represents a model for a highly developed social democracy with a strong focus on environmental sustainability, excellent quality of life, free public education, and a unique cultural perspective on work-life balance, all of which can provide valuable insights into different approaches to governance and societal priorities compared to the United States.

### **FACTS AND OVERVIEW**

Europe's northernmost country, the Kingdom of Norway is famed for its mountains and spectacular fjord coastline, as well as its history as a seafaring power. Other facts include the following: **Population:** 5.4 million; **Capital:** Oslo; **Languages:** Norwegian, Sami plus Kven, Romani, Scandoromani.

It also enjoys one of the world's highest standards of living, in large part due to the discovery in the late 1960s of offshore oil and gas. The country is a major oil exporter and has resisted the temptation to splurge its windfall, choosing instead to deposit the surplus wealth into its oil fund - now the world's largest sovereign wealth fund. What to do with the money is a hot political issue: whether to use more of it to improve infrastructure or keep it for a rainy day and future generations. Norway also plays an active international role. It has mediated between Israel and the Palestinians as well as in the Sri Lankan conflict and has participated in military action in Afghanistan and Libya. Ex-premier Jens Stoltenberg is NATO's former Secretary General. It defies a global ban on commercial whaling, along with Japan and Iceland.

### **Economy of Norway**

The Norwegian economy has proved to be robust over the years. This is largely because the business sector has been flexible and able to adapt, and because Norway has had business-friendly policies. Norway's substantial oil and gas revenues are managed to the benefit of society. A large proportion of these revenues is channeled into Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the Government Pension Fund Global. When the oil runs out, the returns from the Fund will continue to provide substantial revenues that can then be used to benefit the population.

### **US-Norway Relations**

The United States established diplomatic relations with Norway in 1905, following Norway's separation from its union with Sweden. The two countries enjoy a long tradition of friendly relations based on democratic values and mutual respect. Norway is a co-founder and steadfast strategic ally in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It hosts and participates in NATO exercises and in operations with Allies and Partners.

### **American Companies Doing Business in Norway**

Norway and the US have a long-standing tradition of collaboration. The US is Norway's closest and most important ally, a bond that is further strengthened through excellent business relations and economic partnerships. Some of the major US companies doing business in Norway include ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips Scandinavia, National Oilwell Varco Norway AS, Cargill Inc. AS (WOS), GE Healthcare AS, Alcoa Norway ANS, Halliburton AS, etc.

### **Norwegian American Companies in the United States**

Some major Norwegian American companies in the United States include Statoil (now Equinor), DNB, and Kongsberg.