

SWEDISH STUDENT FINANCE FOR STUDIES IN SWEDEN

for foreign citizens

CSN FAKTABLAD ENGELSKA

This fact sheet tells you about which foreign citizens may be entitled to Swedish student finance (study allowance, apprenticeship allowance, education entry grant and student aid) while studying in Sweden. Remember that this fact sheet is for your general information and it is not a legal text.

SWEDISH STUDENT FINANCE

When you apply for student finance, CSN will investigate whether you are entitled to Swedish student finance under the applicable Swedish regulations or whether you can be considered to be equivalent to a Swedish citizen under EU law. If CSN decides that you are entitled to Swedish student finance or that you are equivalent to a Swedish citizen under EU law, we will then consider whether you fulfil other conditions in order to receive student finance.

WHO MAY BE ENTITLED ACCORDING TO SWEDISH REGULATIONS?

You may be entitled to Swedish student finance if you live in Sweden and fulfil any of the following conditions:

You have a permanent residence permit

If you have been granted a permanent residence permit (PUT) by the Swedish Migration Agency, you may be entitled to Swedish student finance.

You have a child/children with a Swedish citizen and a valid residence permit

If you have a child/children with a Swedish citizen and you live together in Sweden, you may be entitled to Swedish student finance. You must also have a valid residence permit based on a family relationship with that Swedish citizen.

You have refugee status or the equivalent in Sweden

If the Swedish Migration Agency has decided you are a refugee, a person in need of protection or if you have been granted a residence permit on the basis of particularly distressing circumstances, you may be entitled to Swedish student finance. If you are an asylum-seeker, you are not entitled to student finance.

You have right of residence and permanent affiliation to Sweden

If you have right of residence and permanent affiliation to Sweden, you may be entitled to Swedish student finance. Normally, you have right of residence if you are

- a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland
- married to or cohabiting with a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland (not a Swedish citizen) who has right of residence in Sweden.

You may be granted permanent affiliation to Sweden if you

- have worked in Sweden for at least two years
- have been married or cohabiting in Sweden for at least two years.

If you have been working here, you must have worked at least half-time (50 %) for two years. You must also have lived in Sweden during that time. Your period of work is counted from the date on which you last came to Sweden in order to live here. 'Work' means

- employment in Sweden
- working for your own company which is registered in Sweden
- caring for your own children under the age of 10 years
- being registered as unemployed by the Swedish Public Employment Service
- participating in labour market training
- studies in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) or studies in Swedish at no higher than compulsory school level
- the time during which you have been receiving sickness benefit, activity compensation or similar.

WHAT IS SWEDISH STUDENT FINANCE?

Student finance can be given in the form of study allowance, apprenticeship allowance, student aid or education entry grant. Below, we describe in brief the different forms of student finance. You can read more at www.csn.se.

STUDY ALLOWANCE

Study allowance is a grant for people studying at an upper secondary school, adult education college (Komvux) or folk high school. You can receive study allowance up to and including the spring term of the year you turn 20.

APPRENTICESHIP ALLOWANCE

Apprenticeship allowance is a grant for those who study an upper secondary school apprenticeship programme. You can receive apprenticeship allowance up until the spring term of the year you turn 20.

STUDENT AID

Student aid is a grant and loan which you can apply for when you are going to study at a folk high school, adult education college (Komvux), vocational college, university college or university. You are free to decide whether you wish to apply only for the grant or whether you would also like to borrow money.

EDUCATION ENTRY GRANT

Education entry grant is a grant that an unemployed person may be able to get for a limited period of time in order to study an upper secondary school programme and increase their chances of finding employment. In the first instance, it is the municipality where the person is resident that decides who belongs to the education entry grant target group. That is also where you make your application.

If you are married to or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen, you must have lived together in Sweden for at least two years. A shorter period of time may be accepted if you have lived together for four years, of which at least one year in Sweden, or if you have children together. You may also be granted permanent affiliation to Sweden if you have lived with a foreign citizen in Sweden for at least the last two years. In such a case, your husband, wife or cohabitant must themselves be entitled to Swedish student finance under Swedish regulations. A shorter period of time may be accepted if you have children together.

You were under 20 years of age when you came to Sweden

If you were under the age of 20 when you came to Sweden in order to live here, you may be entitled to Swedish student finance if

- you have right of residence in Sweden and your parent(s) have employment in Sweden. Read more about right of residence and what is considered comparable with work in the section above.
- you and your parent(s) have a valid residence permit based on a family relationship with a person who lives in Sweden
- you have been placed in a family care home or in an institution by a Swedish authority
- you have a specially designated custodian in accordance with the Children and Parents Code.

WHO CAN BE CONSIDERED TO BE EQUIVALENT TO A SWEDISH CITIZEN UNDER EU LAW?

You may be considered equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you fulfil the conditions in one of the following sections:

You work or have worked in Sweden

If you are a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you can be considered to be equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you are a migrant worker or self-employed in Sweden.

To be considered a migrant worker or self-employed, you must have worked for a sufficiently long period of time and for a sufficient number of hours per week. You must also continue to work while you study. For the work to count, you must have or have had employment in Sweden. You must be receiving or have received a salary or other remuneration for your work.

In the case of self-employed persons, your company must have an F-tax certificate and be registered with the Swedish Tax Agency. You must also actively work for your company.

If you have stopped working, you can in certain cases retain your status as a migrant worker or self-employed person in Sweden. You can normally retain this status for a certain period of time if you fulfil any of the following conditions:

- You are studying or are going to study a vocational course and there is a link between your work in Sweden and your studies in terms of content.
- You are temporarily unable to work because of illness or an accident.
- You have been involuntarily made redundant from your work in Sweden and have registered as a job-seeker with the Swedish Public Employment Service.

You are a relative of a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland who works in Sweden

If you are related to a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland who is a migrant worker or a self-employed person in Sweden, you can be considered equivalent to a Swedish citizen.

You may be considered a relative if you are:

- a husband, wife, cohabitant
 - a child under the age of 21
- and in some cases if you are*
- financially dependent on your parent(s)
 - financially dependent on your child.

If you are married to and living together with or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen, you cannot normally be considered as a relative of an EU citizen. This is because a Swedish citizen is not normally a migrant in their own country. However, a Swedish citizen can in certain cases be considered a migrant worker in accordance with EU law if he or she along with their family use their right to free movement and settle in another EU/EEA country or in Switzerland and thereafter return to Sweden and work here.

You have a permanent right of residence in Sweden

If you are an EU/EEA citizen, you can be considered equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you have PUR (permanent right of residence) in Sweden. If you have been living lawfully and continuously in

Sweden for at least five years, you will normally have permanent right of residence. If you are not an EU/EEA citizen but are related to one (not a Swedish citizen), you may also be considered equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you have been granted a permanent residence card by the Swedish Migration Agency. You may also have permanent right of residence if you are related to an EU/EEA citizen (not a Swedish citizen) and you have both been living lawfully and continuously in Sweden for at least five years.

In some cases, you may be granted permanent right of residence earlier. Contact CSN for more information.

You have the status of being permanently resident

You may be considered equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you

- are a citizen of a country outside the EU *and*
- have been granted a residence permit by the Swedish Migration Agency because you have the status of being permanently
- resident in Sweden or another EU country.

Special rules

There are special rules for people who are the children of guest researchers in Sweden, children of Turkish citizens working in Sweden, or people related to a person with an EU blue card in Sweden. Contact CSN for more information.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find out more about study allowance, apprenticeship allowance and education entry grant at www.csn.se. There, you can also read about how to apply for student finance. If you would like to speak to someone at CSN, you can call us on +46 (0)771 276 000, weekdays 08.00–16.30.

The EU countries are:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

The EEA countries are:

the EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.