

# SWEDISH FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDIES IN SWEDEN

for foreign citizens

CSN FAKTABLAD ENGELSKA

*This fact sheet explains which foreign citizens may qualify for the basic right to Swedish financial aid for studies (study allowances and student grants) in Sweden. An EU citizen refers here to a citizen of another EU/EEA country or Switzerland. Please keep in mind that this information is of a general nature and is not legislative text.*

If you apply for Swedish financial aid, CSN will determine whether you have a basic right to financial aid for studies according to Swedish regulations or whether you may be comparable to a Swedish citizen under EU law. If CSN decides that you meet one of the two criteria above, we will examine whether you fulfil the other conditions with respect to finances, the scope of your studies, study outcomes, etc. We will also determine whether the study programme you have applied for qualifies for financial aid.

## WHO IS ENTITLED TO FINANCIAL AID ACCORDING TO SWEDISH REGULATIONS?

CSN can normally only grant you the right to Swedish financial aid if you have moved to Sweden for a reason other than to study. If you are a visiting student, you must pay for your own studies. You can receive the basic right to Swedish financial aid if you are registered as living in Sweden and fulfil the conditions of one of the sections below:

### If you have a permanent residence permit

If you have been granted a permanent residence permit (PUT) by the Swedish Migration Board (Migrationsverket), you may be entitled to Swedish financial aid for studies, but at the earliest the same week you receive your PUT. If you have a child with a Swedish citizen with whom you are living in

Sweden, CSN can exempt you from the requirement of having a permanent residence permit. In that case, you must have a valid residence permit based on close family ties with the Swedish citizen.

### If you have refugee status in Sweden

If the Swedish Migration Board has determined that you are a refugee or in need of protection, or if you have received a residence permit due to particularly distressing circumstances, you may qualify for Swedish financial aid for studies. If you are an asylum seeker, you do not qualify for financial aid.

### If you have right of residence and long-term ties in Sweden

If you have right of residence and long-term ties in Sweden, you may qualify for Swedish financial aid for studies. Normally you have right of residence if you are a citizen:

- of an EU country
- of a country outside the EU and are married to or cohabiting with a (non-Swedish) citizen who has right of residence.

You generally have long-term ties if you have worked in Sweden at least half-time for two years. You must also have lived in Sweden during that period. Work includes:

- employment in Sweden
- running your own business that is registered in Sweden
- taking care of your own children under the age of ten years
- being registered as unemployed with a Swedish employment office
- participation in a labour market training programme
- participation in a Swedish for Immigrants programme or Swedish studies at compulsory school level
- receiving sickness benefit, activity compensation, etc.

Your period of work begins on the first day that you last came to Sweden to live here.

If you do not meet the condition of having worked for two years but are married to and living with, or cohabiting with, a Swedish citizen, you may still qualify for Swedish financial aid. In that case, the two of you must have lived together in Sweden for at least two years. You may also qualify if the two of you have lived in Sweden for at least one year and abroad for at least three years or if the two of you have a child together.

You may also qualify for Swedish financial aid if you are married to and living with, or cohabiting with, another foreign national. In that case, the two of you must have lived together in Sweden for at least two years and your spouse or partner must be entitled to Swedish financial aid in accordance with Swedish regulations. A shorter period than two years may be acceptable if you have a child together.

### If you were younger than 20 years when you came to Sweden

If you were younger than 20 when you came to Sweden to live, you may qualify for Swedish financial aid, assuming that

- you have right of residence (see the section "If you have right of residence and long-term ties in Sweden")
- you and one of your parents have a valid residence permit based on close family ties with someone who lives in Sweden
- a Swedish agency has placed you in a foster home or institution
- a special guardian has been appointed for you under the Children and Parents Code.

If you are younger than 20 and studying at upper secondary school level, CSN may pass on your application for a study allowance to the Social Insurance Office (Försäkringskassan), which will decide whether the question

of family benefits can be coordinated with other EU/EEA countries or Switzerland.

### **CAN YOU BE COMPARABLE TO A SWEDISH CITIZEN UNDER EU LAW?**

If you do not qualify for the basic right to Swedish financial aid for studies according to Swedish regulations, you may be comparable to a Swedish citizen under EU law in certain circumstances. In that case, you must meet the same conditions as Swedish citizens in order to receive financial aid.

You may be comparable to a Swedish citizen if you meet the conditions of any of the following sections:

#### **If you are working or have worked in Sweden**

If you are an EU citizen, you may qualify in certain circumstances for Swedish financial aid for studies while you are employed or running your own business in Sweden. In that case, you must be established as a migrating employee or self-employed person in Sweden before you begin studying. You must also continue working for a certain minimum number of hours per week while you study.

If you are no longer working in Sweden, you can normally retain your status as a migrating employee or self-employed person in Sweden for a certain period of time, assuming that you meet at least one of the following conditions:

- there is a connection between your work in Sweden and the vocationally oriented studies to which you are applying
- you are temporarily unable to work in Sweden due to illness or injury
- you have been made redundant from a job in Sweden and are registered as a jobseeker with a Swedish employment office.

For your job to be counted, you must be, or have been, employed in Sweden for a certain amount of time and a certain minimum number of hours per week.

To qualify as a self-employed person in Sweden, you must have a notice of tax assessment for self-employed persons, worked for a certain amount of time and a certain minimum number of hours per week, and your business must be registered with the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket).

#### **If you have a close relative who is a migrating EU citizen and is working in Sweden**

If you have a close relative who is an EU citizen and a migrating employee or self-employed person in Sweden, you may be comparable to a Swedish citizen. A close relative is a spouse, partner or child under the age of 21 years, and in some cases an older child who is dependent on a parent for maintenance. As a close relative, you do not need to be an EU citizen yourself. If you are married to and living with, or cohabiting with, a Swedish citizen, you are not normally regarded as the close relative of an EU citizen. This is because Swedish citizens are not generally considered to be migrating employees in their own country. In certain cases, a Swedish citizen may be regarded as being a migrating employee in accordance with EU law if he or she, together with his/her family, is exploiting the right to freedom of movement within the EU/EEA region and Switzerland and then returns to Sweden to work here.

#### **If you have permanent right of residence in Sweden**

EU citizens may be deemed to have the same rights as Swedish citizens if they have a PUR (permanent right of residence) in Sweden. If you have resided legally in Sweden without interruption for at least five years, then you usually have a PUR. You can apply for a PUR certificate from the Swedish Migration Board. If you are not an EU citizen but a close relative (spouse, partner or child) of a (non-Swedish) EU citizen, you may be comparable to a Swedish citizen, assuming that the Swedish Migration Board has issued a permanent residence card (PUK) to you.

#### **If you are a long-term resident of Sweden**

If you are a citizen of a country outside the EU/EEA, you may be comparable to a Swedish citizen with respect to studying in Sweden. In that case, the Swedish Migration Board must have classified you as a long-term resident of Sweden, or you must have received a residence permit in Sweden because you were classified as a long-term resident of another EU/EEA country.

### **HOW DO YOU APPLY?**

If you wish to apply for financial aid for studies, you can do so at [www.csn.se](http://www.csn.se). Go to My Pages and use the service "Apply for financial aid for studies". You can read more about how to apply at [www.csn.se](http://www.csn.se).

If you are under the age of 20 and are about to commence upper secondary school education, you must fill out and submit "Ansökan om grundläggande rätt till svenskt studiestöd – studiehjälp" (Application for Basic Right to Swedish Financial Aid for Studies – Study Allowance) (CSN form 4144).

### **FOR HOW LONG IS THE DECISION VALID?**

A decision in accordance with Swedish regulations remains valid as long as you live in Sweden. The decision is no longer valid if you are out of Sweden for more than six months. A decision under EU law normally remains valid for no more than one academic year.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

You can find more information about study allowances and student grants at [www.csn.se](http://www.csn.se) under "Blivande studerande (Prospective Students)". If you wish to talk to someone at CSN, phone 0771-276 000 between 8.00 and 16.30 on any weekday.

#### **The EU countries are:**

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

#### **The EEA countries are:**

Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway. Switzerland is also covered by EU law with respect to free movement.