

SWEDISH FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDIES ABROAD

for foreign citizens

CSN FACT SHEET

In this fact sheet you can read about which foreign citizens have the same rights as Swedish citizens according to EU legislation for studies abroad. Studies abroad refer to studies outside Sweden.

EU citizens refer to citizens from another EU/EEA country or Switzerland.

Please keep in mind that the information in this fact sheet is for public use and may not be used for legal purposes.

WHO CAN RECEIVE SWEDISH FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDIES?

When you apply for financial aid for studies abroad, CSN will examine whether you, as a foreign citizen, have the same rights as Swedish citizens according to EU legislation. In general, only Swedish citizens are eligible to receive financial aid for studies outside Sweden. However, in certain cases CSN can make an exception to the requirement of Swedish citizenship, if the foreign citizen is deemed to have the same rights as Swedish citizens according to EU legislation.

In addition, we will check whether the education you have applied for makes you eligible for financial aid.

If CSN concludes that you have the same rights as Swedish citizens according to the EU legislation, then you have to meet the same conditions as Swedish citizens in order to receive financial aid. One of these is the residence condition (if you have applied for financial aid for studies). The residence condition means that you must have lived in Sweden for at least two consecutive years during the last five years. For more information about the residence condition and other conditions, please read our Swedish fact sheet "Studiemedel för studier utomlands" (CSN No. 5231A). This fact sheet can be ordered or downloaded from www.csn.se.

WHO HAS THE SAME RIGHTS AS SWEDISH CITIZENS ACCORDING TO THE EU LEGISLATION?

According to the EU Legislation, you can be deemed to have the same rights as a Swedish citizen if you meet the requirements in one of the following sections:

You work or have worked in Sweden

If you are an EU citizen, you may under certain conditions be eligible to receive Swedish financial aid for studies while you are working or running a company in Sweden. However, you must be established as a migrating employee or self-employed person in Sweden before you begin your studies. In addition, you must continue working while you study. In order for your work during your studies to count, you must work a certain number of hours per week.

If you have stopped working in Sweden, you may in certain cases keep your status as a migrating employee or self-employed person in Sweden. You can usually keep your status for a certain length of time if you meet one of the following conditions:

- There is a connection in terms of content between your work in Sweden and your prospective studies, which are to be work-related.
- You have stopped working in Sweden because you are temporarily unable to work due to illness or injury.
- You have been made redundant from your job in Sweden and have registered yourself as seeking work at the Swedish Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen).

In order for your work in Sweden to count, you must be or have been employed here. In

addition, your work must have been of such extent that you have worked for a sufficient period of time and a sufficient number of hours per week.

In order for your work as a self-employed person in Sweden to count, you must have a notice of tax assessment for self-employed persons and your company must be registered at the Swedish Tax Agency (Skatteverket). In addition, your work at the company must have been of such extent that you have worked for a sufficient period of time and a sufficient number of hours per week.

You are related to an EU citizen who is working in Sweden

If you are related to an (non-Swedish) EU citizen who is a migrating employee or self-employed person in Sweden, you may be deemed to have the same rights as a Swedish citizen. Relatives include husbands, wives, cohabitants and children. Relatives do not have to be EU citizens themselves. However, if you are married to, or living together with a Swedish citizen, then you are usually not deemed to be a relative of an EU citizen. This is because a Swedish citizen cannot be a migrant in Sweden.

You have a 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 (Migrationsverket). If you yourself are not an EU citizen, but you are a relative, i.e. husband, wife, cohabitant or child, to a (non-Swedish) EU citizen, you may also be

deemed to have the same rights as Swedish citizens, provided that you have received a PUK (permanent residence card) from the Swedish Migration Board.

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to apply for financial aid for studies, you should complete and submit an application for financial aid for studies abroad, along with the Swedish form “Personuppgifter för dig som är utländsk medborgare” (CSN form 4145). These forms can be ordered from www.csn.se.

You can read more about how to apply for financial aid for studies at www.csn.se. If you are under the age of 20 and are about to commence a secondary school education, you should complete and submit the Swedish forms “Ansökan om studiehjälp för studier utanför Sverige” (CSN form 5101)

and “Ansökan om grundläggande rätt till svenskt studiestöd–studiehjälp” (CSN form 4144). These forms can be ordered from www.csn.se.

FOR HOW LONG IS THE DECISION VALID?

If we can ascertain that you have the same rights as Swedish citizens according to the EU legislation, then the decision is usually valid for a maximum of one academic year.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information about study allowance and financial aid for studies at www.csn.se, under the header “Blivande studerande”.

If you wish to talk to someone at CSN, you can call us at +46 (0)771–276 000, weekdays 8:00–16:30.

The EU countries are

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

The EEA countries are

Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein. Switzerland is also covered by the EU legislation with regard to the freedom of movement.