

SWEDISH FINANCIAL AID FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

studying abroad

CSN FAKTABLAD ENGLISH

In this fact sheet you can read about which foreign citizens can be deemed equivalent to a Swedish citizen according to EU legislation for studies abroad. "Studies abroad" means studies outside of Sweden.

Remember that this fact sheet is for your general information and not a legal text.

WHO CAN RECEIVE SWEDISH FINANCIAL AID?

Normally only Swedish citizens can receive financial aid for studies abroad. In certain cases, CSN can make an exception, if the foreign citizen can be deemed equivalent to a Swedish citizen according to EU legislation.

To find out whether you are entitled to financial aid, you must first apply to CSN.

When you apply for Swedish financial aid (study allowance and student aid) for studies abroad, CSN examines whether you – as a foreign citizen – are equivalent to a Swedish citizen according to EU legislation.

If we decide to treat you as equivalent to a Swedish citizen according to EU legislation, this means that you must satisfy the same requirements as a Swedish citizen in order to receive the financial aid for which you have applied. We check, for example, that the programme for which you have applied

entitles you to financial aid, that you study at a sufficient rate and that you fulfil the requirement of residence in Sweden. You can receive more information about these and other requirements in the fact sheet "Studiemedel för studier utomlands" ["Financial aid for studies abroad": in Swedish] (no 5231A) or in the fact sheet "Studiehjälp för studier utanför Sverige" ["Study allowance for studies outside Sweden"] (no. 5009A). The fact sheets can be ordered or downloaded from www.csn.se.

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

You may be deemed equivalent to a Swedish citizen according to EU legislation if you fulfil one of the following conditions:

You work or have worked in Sweden.

If you are a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you can be deemed 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 sufficient period of time and for a sufficient number of hours per week. You must also

continue working while you study. For the work to count in the case of employees, 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 card and be registered with the Swedish Tax Agency. You must also be actively working for your company.

If you have stopped working in Sweden, you may in certain cases keep your status as a migrant worker or self-employed person in Sweden. The status is normally possible to keep for a certain time, if you fulfil one of the following requirements:

- You are studying or will study at 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 an illness or accident.
- You have been involuntarily made redundant from your work in Sweden and have registered as a job-seeker with the Swedish Public Employment Services.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDIES?

Financial aid for studies can be given in the form of either a study allowance or student aid.

STUDY ALLOWANCE

Study allowance is a grant for people studying at an upper secondary school. You can receive study allowance up to and including the spring semester of the year you turn 20 years of age.

STUDENT AID

Student aid encompasses a loan and a grant. You are free to decide whether you wish to apply for the grant or whether you would also like to borrow money. In order to be eligible for student aid, you must satisfy certain requirements. You can read more about the requirements at www.csn.se.

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 who is a migrant worker or a self-employed person in Sweden, you can be deemed 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 parents,
- financially dependent on your children.

Being married to and living together with or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen does not normally qualify you as related to an EU citizen. This is because Swedish citizens are not normally migrants in their own country.

However, a Swedish citizen may in certain cases be judged to be a migrant worker according to EU legislation, if he or she, with her family, uses their right to freedom of movement and for a period settles in another EU/EEA country or in Switzerland and thereafter returns to Sweden and works here.

You have a permanent right of residence in Sweden

If you are an EU/EEA citizen, you can be deemed to be equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you have PUR (permanent right of residence) in Sweden. If you have lawfully stayed continuously in Sweden for at least five years, you will normally have a permanent residence permit. You can apply to the Migration Board for a permanent residence permit certificate.

If you are not an EU/EEA citizen but are related to an EU/EEA citizen (not Swedish), you may also be deemed equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you have been granted a permanent residence card by the Migration Board.

You may also have permanent right of residence if you are related to an EU/EEA citizen (not Swedish) and you have at least five years of continuous legal residence in Sweden together.

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

Special rules

There are special rules for children of visiting scholars in Sweden or children of Turkish citizens who are working in Sweden. Contact CSN for more information.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

People wishing to apply for student aid can do so at www.csn.se. Go to Mina sidor [My pages – only in Swedish] and use the service Ansök om studiemedel [Apply for student aid – only in Swedish]. For more information on how to apply, visit www.csn.se. If you are under 20 years of age and are going to start upper secondary education, you must fill in and send "Ansökan om studiehjälp för studier utanför Sverige" [Application for study allowance for upper secondary studies outside Sweden – only in Swedish] (CSN form 5101) and "Ansökan om studiehjälp/Uppgifter för rätt till svenskt studiestöd för dig som är utländsk medborgare och under 20 år" [Application for

financial aid/Information about your right to Swedish financial aid for foreign citizens under 20 years of age] (CSN form 4144). These forms can be ordered via www.csn.se.

HOW LONG IS THE DECISION VALID FOR?

If we can consider you to be equivalent to a Swedish citizen according to EU legislation, the decision is valid for as long as you fulfil the conditions, for a maximum of 52 weeks.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information regarding study allowance and student aid at www.csn.se. 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.

EU countries are:

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

The EEA countries are:

The EU countries, and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.