

# SWEDISH STUDENT FINANCE FOR STUDIES IN SWEDEN

for foreign citizens

CSN FAKTABLAD ENGELSKA

*This fact sheet tells you about which foreign citizens may have a right to Swedish student finance (study allowance, apprenticeship allowance, education entry grant and student grants and loans) 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 have a right to Swedish student finance under the applicable Swedish regulations or under the conditions of EU law. If CSN decides that you have a right to Swedish student finance, 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 have a right to Swedish student finance if you live in Sweden and fulfil any of the following conditions:

### You have a permanent residence permit (PUT)

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

### 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 have a right to Swedish student finance. You may also be a relative of such a person. You may also have a right to Swedish student finance if the Swedish Migration Agency has granted you a residence permit under the law on temporary limitations of the possibility of granting residence permits in Sweden. If you are an asylum-seeker, you are not entitled to student finance.

If your permit is no longer valid, you can still be eligible for student finance. This is the case if you have applied for an extension of your residence permit before your temporary residence permit has expired.

It is also required that the new application

- has the same basis as the previous one, or
- it applies to a new permit to study at an upper secondary school in Sweden.

Your previous residence permit must be of such a nature as to make you eligible to receive student finance.

### You have a child/children with a Swedish citizen

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

## You have right of residence and permanent affiliation to Sweden

If you have right of residence and a 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
- a relative of a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland (normally not a Swedish citizen)
- a relative of a Swedish citizen in addition to having had a relationship in a different EU/EEA country or in Switzerland.

You may be granted permanent affiliation to Sweden if

- you have lived and worked in Sweden for at least two years
- if you were under 20 years of age when you moved to Sweden and one of your parents lives and works here
- you are married to or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen and you have lived together in Sweden for at least two years
- you are married to or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen and you have lived together for at least four years, of which at least one year was in Sweden.
- you are married to or cohabiting with a Swedish citizen with whom you have children and have lived together in Sweden for at least one year

## WHAT IS SWEDISH STUDENT FINANCE?

Student finance can be given in the form of study allowance, apprenticeship allowance, student grants and loans, or education entry grant. Below, we describe in brief the different forms of student finance. You can read more at [www.csn.se](http://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 GRANTS AND LOANS

Student grants and loans can be applied 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. It is also here that you submit your application.

- you are married to or cohabiting with another foreign citizen and you have lived together in Sweden for at least two years. Your husband, wife, or cohabitant must in this case themselves be entitled to Swedish student finance under Swedish regulations.

If you have worked here, you must have worked at least half-time (50 %) for two years. '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
- a course in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI)
- a course or studies in Swedish at compulsory school level at the highest, at least half-time (50 %)
- time during which you have been receiving sickness benefit, activity compensation or similar.

#### **If you are under 20 years of age**

If you are under 20 years of age, you may have a right to Swedish student finance if you have a residence permit or right of residence in Sweden and if you

- and your parents are relatives of a Swedish citizen or a person who meets the requirements to be entitled to Swedish student finance. If you are citizens of a country outside of the EU/EEA, you must also have a residence permit based on a family relationship with that person.
- you have a parent who is a Swedish citizen.
- you have been placed in a family care home or in an institution by a Swedish authority.
- you have a custodial guardian as determined by a Swedish authority.

#### **WHO MAY BE ENTITLED ACCORDING TO THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN EU LAW?**

You may be considered equivalent to a Swedish citizen if you fulfil the conditions in EU law. You can read more about these conditions in the following sections:

##### **You work or have worked in Sweden**

As a citizen of an EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you may have a right to Swedish student finance if you are a migrant worker or a self-employed person in Sweden. To be considered a migrant worker or self-employed, you must have worked for a sufficiently long period of time. This normally means at least 10 hours per week with a minimum employment period of 10 weeks. You must also continue to work to a sufficient extent during the entirety of your studies and receive a salary or some other form of compensation for your work.

If you are self-employed, your business must also be engaged in economic activity to a sufficient extent and be registered with the Swedish Tax Agency.

If you have stopped working, you can in certain cases be entitled to student finance. You need to fulfil one of the following requirements:

- You are going to further educate yourself within your professional field and the course content is connected to your work in Sweden. The studies must be professional or vocational. The time since you stopped working may not be excessively long.
- 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 a EU/EEA country or Switzerland (normally not Swedish) who is a migrant worker or a self-employed person in Sweden, you may have a right to Swedish student finance.

You may be considered a relative if you are:

- a husband, wife, cohabitant
- a child or stepchild under 21 years of age

*and in some cases if you are*

- financially dependent on your parent.

If your husband, wife, or cohabitant is a Swedish citizen and you have also had a relationship in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland, you may under certain circumstances have a right to Swedish student finance. Your relative must work or operate a business in Sweden after having lived abroad.

##### **You have permanent right of residence (PUR) in Sweden**

If you are a EU/EEA citizen, you may have a right to Swedish student finance if you have permanent right of residence (PUR) in Sweden. If you have been a legal resident in Sweden for a continuous period of five years, you normally have permanent right of residence.

If you are not a citizen of a EU/EEA country, you may have permanent right of residence if you have legally lived in Sweden for a continuous period of at least five years together with a citizen of a EU/EEA country to whom you are related. A relative refers to a husband, wife, cohabitant, or child.

##### **You have the status of being permanently resident**

You may have a right to Swedish student finance if the Swedish Migration Agency grants you the status of being permanently resident in Sweden. You may also have this

right if you have the status of being permanently resident in another EU country and have therefore been granted a residence permit in Sweden by the Migration Agency.

##### **Special rules**

There are special rules for UK citizens or relatives of UK citizens. There are also special rules for children of visiting research fellows in Sweden, children of Turkish citizens working in Sweden, or children of a person with an EU Blue Card or ICT permit in Sweden. Contact CSN for more information.

##### **MORE INFORMATION**

You can find out more about study allowance, apprenticeship allowance, student grants and loans, and education entry grant at [www.csn.se](http://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, 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.