

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

To receive grants and loans from CSN for studies, you must fulfil two different types of conditions:

1. Conditions for being entitled to Swedish student finance as a foreign citizen. You can meet the conditions under Swedish regulations or under EU law.
2. Conditions that apply to the student finance you are applying for. CSN will investigate these conditions after we have assessed whether you, as a foreign national, are entitled to 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. In some cases, you may be entitled to student aid if you have a residence permit that CSN equates with refugee status. We will then assess whether the reason why the Migration Agency has granted you the permit is for refugee-like reasons. If you are an asylum seeker, you are not entitled to student support.

You have a residence permit under the new law on upper secondary education or under the previous temporary law

If the Migration Agency has granted you a residence permit under the new Upper Secondary School Act or under the former Temporary Act, you may be entitled to student finance.

You have a residence permit based on family connection

If you have been granted a residence permit by the Migration Agency based on the family connection, you may be entitled to student finance in certain cases.

If your residence permit has expired

If you have had a residence permit entitling you to student finance but it is no longer valid, you may still be entitled to student finance. This is the case if you applied for

an extended residence permit before your temporary residence permit expired.

It is also a requirement that the new application

- is submitted on the same basis as the previous one

or

- is for a new permit under the new Upper Secondary School Act.

You have children with a Swedish citizen

If you have children with a Swedish citizen and you live together in Sweden, you may be entitled to student finance. You must also have a residence permit or right of residence in Sweden.

You have a right of residence and a lasting connection to Sweden

If you have a right of residence and a lasting connection to Sweden, you may be entitled to student finance. You normally have a 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 Swedish)

- a relative of a Swedish citizen and you have also lived together or had a relationship in another EU/EEA country or in Switzerland.

You may have a lasting connection to Sweden if

- you have lived and worked in Sweden for at least two years

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.

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 to and including 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 were under 20 when you moved to Sweden and one of your parents lives and works here

- you are married or living with a Swedish citizen and you have lived together for at least four years, including at least one year in Sweden.

- you are married or living with a Swedish citizen and you have lived together in Sweden for at least two years

- you are married to or living with another foreign national and you have lived together in Sweden for at least two years. Your partner must then have a residence permit that entitles them to student finance.

- you are married to or living with an EU/EEA national who meets the conditions for entitlement to student finance under Swedish rules.

If you have worked here, you must have worked at least half-time for two years. Work includes

- employment in Sweden

- work in your own company registered in Sweden

- caring for your own child under the age of ten

- registered unemployment at the Swedish Public Employment Service

- participation in labour market training

- education in Swedish for immigrants (sfi)

- education or studies in Swedish at least half-time, at primary or lower secondary school level

- period you have been receiving sickness benefit, sickness allowance or activity compensation.

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

- you and your parent are family members of a Swedish citizen or a person who meets the conditions for entitlement to student finance under Swedish rules.

- you have a parent who is a Swedish citizen.

- you have been placed in a family home or institution by a Swedish authority.

- you have a legal guardian appointed 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 jobseeker 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 (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 an 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 a permanent right of residence.

If you are not a citizen of an 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 an EU/EEA country to whom you are related. A relative refers to a husband, wife, cohabitant, or child.

You have the status of permanent resident

You may have a right to Swedish student finance if the Swedish Migration Agency grants you the status of permanent resident in Sweden. You may also have this right if you have the status of permanent 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. Please contact CSN for more information.

MORE INFORMATION

You can find out more about the different forms of student finance at www.csn.se. There, you can also read about how to apply for student grants and loans as well as education entry grants. You do not need to apply for study allowance, but sometimes you may need to fill in a form. If you would like to speak to someone at CSN, you can call us on +46 (0)771 276 000.

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.