

Study in Sweden - Information

Sweden offers high quality universities and free tuition for European citizens. Higher education in Sweden consists of Public and Private Universities and University Colleges. The Public and Private Universities of the country offer a first degree (Bachelor), postgraduate (Master) and a doctoral degree (Doctoral). University Colleges, whether public or private, offer a diploma, first degree and postgraduate degree, although some are licensed to offer a limited number of doctorates.

You can obtain the University Diploma awarded by universities and university colleges upon completion of 2 years of study where the student acquires professional knowledge in a specific field of study. The Bachelor's degree lasts 3 years in both universities and colleges. If the student has obtained a basic degree (University Diploma) then for the acquisition of the Bachelor's degree an additional 1 to 2 years of study are required depending on the degree he chooses. Doctorate or PhD can be attended by those who have completed postgraduate studies. These studies include laboratory research, the writing of a prototype research paper and it lasts 4 years.

For admission, each university or college has its own criteria that apply to admission to its faculties. You must have a high school diploma and meet the requirements set by each university. These conditions mainly concern special knowledge depending on the curriculum you will attend. The subjects are taught in two languages, Swedish and English. Studying in Swedish requires a good knowledge of the Swedish language and you must pass the "TISUS" ("Test in Swedish for University Studies") international language certification exam. Several universities offer preparatory Swedish language courses and the "TISUS" exams. Those who attend basic and postgraduate studies taught in English require a good knowledge of the English language.

Admission applications for the winter semester are from February to April 15 and for the spring semester from August to October 15. For students wishing to pursue postgraduate or research-level studies, admission applications are submitted directly to the institution of their choice. Public higher education in Sweden is state-funded and there are no tuition fees to universities and colleges. Students are required to pay the amount of 15 – 40 euro for the registration as a student union member. They also buy their textbooks as library copies cannot meet their needs. They need about 75 euro per month for each academic year. Several student associations organize the process of buying books on a group level so that their selling price is more affordable.

Students can stay in the dormitories of their institution but it is quite difficult to find a room available. The student association of each institution helps students find accommodation. There are also companies and organizations that provide student accommodation to which prospective international students can turn. Through these facilities students find apartments or rooms for accommodation where the rental price is cheaper than other apartments and located near to their institutions of study. This enables students to coexist and participate in social activities with each other. Accommodation expenses range from 200 – 400 euro, depending on where the student chooses to stay whilst the cost of living is estimated to be around 600 – 800 euro.

The Swedish Institute, a government agency, awards about 500 scholarships each year to students and researchers, who come to Sweden to pursue postgraduate studies and research. There are several types of scholarships from the Swedish Institute (SI).

Prior to arrival in Sweden, each prospective foreign student needs to obtain a medical insurance certificate. Every foreign student needs a residence permit to study at a higher education institution in Sweden. Students from EU Member States need a residence permit if they stay in Sweden for more than 3 months. Students of other nationalities need a residence permit before entering the country. They must contact the embassy in their country of origin or the Swedish Migration Board for information and to obtain a permit. Each student studying at a university or university college can work during his studies without a work permit.

Sweden holds a high position in Europe, and the world, as a modern and safe country and a reputation for being quite competitive and innovative. It has one of the highest living standards in the world and is distinguished for its remarkable system of democracy and respect for individual rights.