

## Information on residence permits for doctoral studies in Sweden

This document is aimed both at those who are going to start doctoral studies in Sweden, and those who have already obtained a residence permit and have begun doctoral studies in Sweden.

The document also contains certain information about similar categories of residence permits, about job-seeker permits, and about permanent residence permits for doctoral studies.

If you are a citizen of a country outside the EU and intend to study at a university or college in Sweden for a period longer than three months, you must have a residence permit. You apply for a residence permit with the Swedish Migration Agency.

Special rules apply to those who are EU citizens, citizens of Switzerland, or have permanent residency status in another EU country.

Read more about this at the Swedish Migration Agency's website <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/EU-citizens-and-long-term-residents/Work-study-or-live-in-Sweden-for-EU-citizens.html>

### Before applying

#### **If you intend to carry out research in Sweden but have not been admitted here**

In order to get a residence permit for studies, you must have been admitted onto a course of education in Sweden. If you intend to do research in Sweden without having been admitted onto a course, the following applies:

If you have not been admitted onto a research course (either in Sweden or in another country) and intend to come to Sweden as a visiting researcher, you must apply for a residence permit as a visiting researcher instead of a residence permit for studies. A visiting researcher is a person who has

received an invitation from a Swedish educational institution to carry out research in Sweden.

Find out more about residence permits for visiting researchers on the Migration Agency's website.

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Working-in-Sweden/Employed/Special-rules-for-certain-occupations-and-citizens-of-certain-countries/Visiting-researchers.html>

Post-docs must also apply for a residence permit as visiting researcher.

If you have not been accepted to a doctoral program in Sweden but have been admitted in another country, and you have been invited to a Swedish educational institution as part of your studies, you must apply for a visitor's residence permit instead.

Read more about visitor's residence permits at the Swedish Migration Agency's website <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Visiting-Sweden/Exchange-students-and-doctoral-exchange-students.html>

Please note that a visitor's residence permit can be given for one year at the most.

### **Importance of having a residence permit in place before entering Sweden**

If you are applying for a residence permit for the first time, you must apply for and have been granted a permit before traveling to Sweden.

### **Applications for an extension can be submitted while you are in Sweden**

Those who already have a residence permit for doctoral studies can apply for an extended residence permit, regardless of whether they are in Sweden or another country at the time of applying.

### **Submit your application for a residence permit on time**

It is important that you submit a complete application on time. You should make sure to submit documentation confirming that you meet the Swedish Migration Agency's requirements for a residence permit for studies.

#### *If you are applying for a residence permit for the first time*

You should submit your first application for a residence permit by three to four months, at the latest, before your planned arrival in Sweden.

#### *If you are applying for an extended residence permit*

You will need to submit your application for an extension before your valid permit expires, but no earlier than six months before this. If you apply before your current permit expires, you are entitled to remain in Sweden

pending the decision on your application. During this time, you may continue working. If you apply too late, i.e. after your residence permit has expired, you no longer have the right to work in Sweden.

If you leave Sweden after your residence permit ceases to be valid, you may have difficulty traveling back to Sweden until you have been granted another residence permit.

### **Before you submit your application for a residence permit**

Check that the information on the documents you are enclosing, including e.g. your name, is clearly presented. The documents should be as recent as possible. The documents should also be translated into Swedish or English by an authorized translator, if they were issued in another language. When enclosing a translated document, you should always enclose a copy of the original document.

## **Application**

### **How to apply for a residence permit**

You can apply on the Swedish Migration Agency's website or at a Swedish embassy or consulate-general that deals with migration cases. Those who apply for an extended residence permit can also apply at any of the Swedish Migration Agency's Permit Units. The Swedish Migration Agency recommends that you apply online, to enable us to start working on your application right away.

### **Application fee**

Most students will pay the Swedish Migration Agency an application fee when submitting their application. Accompanying family members must also pay an application fee. The fee for adult family members is SEK 1,000, and SEK 500 for children.

Read more about the application fee, and how it can be paid, at the Swedish Migration Agency's website

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Fees.html>

Certain people are exempt from the application fee requirement. This applies to:

- EU-/EEA citizens and their accompanying family members
- people studying at the World Maritime University in Malmö
- citizens of Japan
- citizens of Switzerland

- students who have received a scholarship for studies in Sweden from one of the following:  
Sida  
EU  
Svenska Institutet (SI)  
the International Science Programme at Uppsala university  
([www.isp.uu.se](http://www.isp.uu.se))

In order for those who have a scholarship to be exempt from paying an application fee, the scholarship must be meant to cover living expenses, not only tuition fees. The scholarship must be paid out during the period for which you are applying for a residence permit. Please note that it is the scholarship that leads to exemption from the application fee requirement. For example, if you are employed as a doctoral student with a salary financed by EU funds, you are not exempt from the requirement to pay an application fee, because you receive a salary rather than a scholarship.

### **Documents you should include with your application**

Read more about the different requirements for receiving a residence permit at the Swedish Migration Agency's website

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college/How-to-apply-for-the-first-time.html> and <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college/Extend-a-permit.html>

You will need to enclose these documents with your application:

#### *A valid passport (applies to first-time- and extension applications)*

Enclose copies of the pages in your passport that show your personal details, photo, signature, passport number, country of issue, period of validity, and whether you have permission to live in countries other than your country of origin. It is important that the full passport pages appear on the copies. Digits and characters at the very top and the very bottom of the pages must also be clearly visible. If your passport is about to expire, we recommend that you have it renewed, as you cannot get a residence permit for a period longer than the validity of your passport.

#### *Decision on admission (applies to first-time applications)*

You need to have been admitted as a student in order to be granted a residence permit. It is not enough to have received a certification stating that you will be admitted as a doctoral student. If you have been admitted as a doctoral student, you must send in the university's decision regarding admission as a doctoral student, with information on the date of admission.

*A supplementary student certification (applies to first-time applications)*

If the application is for your first residence permit for doctoral studies, you need to submit a supplementary certification regarding the doctoral studies, issued by the university. You can direct the university to the Swedish Migration Agency's checklist for these certifications

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/download/18.4100dc0b159d67dc61413d4/1486996659121/Check+list+for+a+certificate+for+a+first-time+permit+doctoral+studies.pdf>

*Certification of academic performance (applies to extension applications)*

If you have applied for an extended residence permit, you should send a certification issued by your instructor with information about what course of study you are pursuing, when you started the course of study, and the date you are expected to complete your studies. The certification must also describe how you have performed in your studies during your most recent residence-permit period, and whether your studies are proceeding as planned. If the studies have taken longer than expected, the reason for the delay should be stated.

Refer your instructor to the Swedish Migration Agency's checklist for certifications regarding extension of residence permits for studying

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/download/18.2d998ffc151ac3871591578e/1490857363811/Checklistor+f%C3%B6r+studieintyg+Migrationsverket+eng.pdf>

The certification must be issued by an instructor. A certification issued by an administrator, or other staff member at the university, is insufficient. Also, please note that this certification is not the same as your individual syllabus produced by the university.

*Certification of support (applies to first-time- and extension applications)*

One of the requirements for being granted a residence permit is that you should have a secure means of support. The support requirement for the year 2017 is SEK 8,064 per month. If you have family members who will accompany you to Sweden, and you will be supporting them, you must show that you have enough money for them as well.

Read more about residence permits for accompanying family members at the Swedish Migration Agency's website

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college/Permits-for-family-members.html>

If you receive a salary or scholarship, it can be enough for the university to report, in the certification, how much you receive per month, and the time period during which you will be receiving the compensation. However, if

you have an employment contract or a certification of scholarship, it is recommended that you also submit this with your application.

If you are a self-supporting doctoral student, you must show that you have enough resources of your own for the time period for which you are applying for a residence permit. This means that you must show that you have funds available through your own bank account(s).

For more information on the requirement of secure means of support, see the Swedish Migration Agency's website

<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college.html>

*A certification of comprehensive health insurance (applies to first-time- and extension applications)*

If you have been admitted for studies lasting longer than one year, you do not need to show that you have insurance coverage in your application for a residence permit. As you will be staying in Sweden for longer than a year, you must register with the population registry as soon as possible after your arrival in Sweden. Once you are registered in the population registry, you are covered by the Swedish Social Insurance system, which meets the requirement for comprehensive health insurance. The Swedish Tax Agency will decide on registration with the population registry. Read more about population registration further on in this document.

If you intend to study in Sweden for less than one year, you must demonstrate that you have full health insurance. The insurance must be valid for the whole time that you will be in Sweden, and must cover costs of emergency- and other medical care, dentistry, and hospital stays. It must also cover costs of repatriation for medical reasons.

*Specific syllabus for studies where you will alternate between staying in Sweden and another country (applies to first-time- and extension applications)*

Residence permits can generally only be granted for studies in Sweden. However, for studies where you alternate between staying in Sweden and another country (according to the so-called *sandwich model*), you can receive a residence permit for up to two years at a time if you will be spending at least half of the time in Sweden during the requested permit period.

During the permit period, the longest acceptable continuous stay in a different country is a quarter of the time of the permit period. In the case of residence permits valid for two years, a continuous stay of up to six months in a different country is acceptable. In the case of residence permits valid for one year, a continuous stay of up to three months in a

different country is acceptable. You must show that there is a clear plan for your studies. Therefore, you must submit a certification issued by your instructor in Sweden, showing how you will divide your time between Sweden and other countries during the permit time you are applying for.

### **If you need to contact the Swedish Migration Agency**

If you have questions about your application, you may contact the Swedish Migration Agency <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Contact-us.html>

To find the current waiting period for your case, see here <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Contact-us/Time-to-a-decision.html>. Please note that these waiting times are based on previously-settled cases, and may change during the time that we are processing your case.

## **After a decision on a residence permit has been made**

### **Notification of decision by email**

If you have submitted a web application, you will receive an e-mail notification when the Swedish Migration Agency has made a decision about the residence permit. This e-mail will not include any information about the outcome of your case. You should then contact the embassy or consulate-general that you indicated in your application if you were applying for the first-time. If you were applying for an extension you will be notified about the decision through regular mail.

### **The residence permit's period of validity**

You can receive a residence permit for the period your studies require, but never for longer than the validity period of your passport. Even if you have been admitted to a program lasting several years, the longest period you can get a residence permit for is two years at a time.

The Swedish Migration Agency can give you a residence permit for a few weeks at most beyond the formal study period, if you need this in order to get settled or finish up your stay in Sweden.

### **You will need to have your fingerprints and photo taken for a residence permit card**

You will receive a residence permit card if you are given a residence permit lasting longer than three months. The card is proof that you have permission to remain in Sweden, and it includes your photo and fingerprints.

If you come from a country whose citizens do not need a visa to travel to Sweden, you will need to have your fingerprints and photo taken by the Migration Agency. Make an appointment with the Migration Agency as soon as you arrive in Sweden. Note that you need to have received your residence permit before traveling to Sweden.

If you need a visa to travel to Sweden, you will need to visit a Swedish embassy or consulate-general to have your fingerprints and photo taken. It is possible to do this both before and after the Swedish Migration Agency has made a decision. Not all embassies are able to photograph you or take your fingerprints. You should therefore contact the embassy or consulate-general before your visit for more information.

If you have applied to have your residence permit extended and you are in Sweden, you can have your photo and fingerprints taken at the Migration Agency.

If you have had your fingerprints and photo taken at an embassy or consulate-general, you will receive a card containing these. Ask the embassy or consulate-general whether they will send it to you or whether you will need to pick it up. Once you have received the decision on your residence permit, it can take up to four weeks for the card to be made and sent to the embassy or consulate-general.

If you have had your fingerprints and photo taken by the Migration Agency, your card will be sent to your home within one week.

It is not possible to speed up the production or delivery of the card.

### **Population registration**

If your residence permit for studies in Sweden is for one year or longer, it is important that you are entered into the population registry as soon as possible when you come to Sweden. To register with the population registry and receive a Swedish personal identity number, you will need to contact the Swedish Tax Agency.

Read more on the Swedish Tax Agency's website

<http://www.skatteverket.se/servicelankar/otherlanguages/inenglish.4.12815e4f14a62bc048f4edc.html>

If your residence permit for studies is shorter than 12 months, or if you contact the Tax Agency when there are fewer than 12 months left on your residence permit, it may not be possible for you to be entered into the population registry.

Population registration is important for your health insurance.

If you are not registered with the population registry in Sweden, it may also be difficult to open a bank account here.

### **Extension of a residence permit**

You can receive a residence permit for studies for a maximum of two years at a time. If you intend to continue studying in Sweden after two years, you must apply for an extension of your residence permit for studies. You will need to submit an application for an extension before your currently-valid permit expires, but no earlier than six months before this. If you apply too late, i.e. after your residence permit has expired, you no longer have the right to work in Sweden.

For information about documents to be submitted along with your extension application, see above under the heading "Documents you should include with your application".

### **Residence permit for seeking employment after completion of studies**

If you have a residence permit for studies at a university or college in Sweden and have completed college-level studies equivalent to at least 60 college credits, you can obtain a residence permit to search for employment, or explore opportunities for starting your own business here. You must apply for a residence permit of this kind while still in Sweden.

Read more about residence permits for job-seeking after completion of studies <https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college/After-your-studies.html>

### **Permanent residence permit for doctoral studies**

Those of you who intend to settle in Sweden, and have been granted a residence permit for doctoral studies and / or work for at least four of the last seven years, may be granted permanent residence permits in Sweden.

These types of permits may be included in determining whether you can receive a permanent residence permit:

- Residence permit for doctoral studies
- Residence permit for work
- Residence permit as a visiting researcher

Note that the time periods for these residence permits can be combined. The requirement can thus be met if, in the past seven years, you have had a two-year residence permit as a visiting researcher and a two-year residence permit for doctoral studies.

You cannot count time periods from residence permits that you have received for studying in non-doctoral programs, even if you were a doctoral student at the time. You also cannot include residence- and work permits you received as an accompanying family member.

#### *Assessment by the Swedish Migration Agency*

When the Swedish Migration Agency receives an application for permanent residence for doctoral studies, we begin by checking whether it is possible to grant a permanent residence permit. If the conditions for this are not met, we investigate whether it is possible to grant a new, temporary residence permit instead.

With regard to calculating the qualifying seven-year period, the Swedish Migration Agency chooses the starting point that is most favorable to your situation. We can either count from the application date or from the time when we make our decision.

The Swedish Migration Agency does not only check whether you have had a four-year residence permit during the last seven years, but also whether you fulfilled the conditions for your previous residence permit during the permit period. For example, if you were granted a residence permit for doctoral studies during the period of January 1, 2013 to March 1, 2017, but only began your studies on June 1, 2013, you cannot have the portion of the permit period before June 1, 2013 counted in an assessment of whether a permanent residence permit can be granted.

It is the time as an active doctoral student or employee in Sweden that creates the connection to Sweden that can lead to a permanent residence permit. Therefore, a longer time spent away from Sweden may affect your ability to obtain a permanent residence permit.

#### *Practical tips on applying for a permanent residence permit*

You can file an application for a permanent residence permit regardless of the length of time you have left on your current residence permit. The application should be submitted before your current permit expires.

The waiting times for applications for a permanent residence permit may be longer than the waiting periods for applications for a temporary residence permit for doctoral studies, especially if you have accompanying family members who are also applying for permanent residence permits. If you are in a hurry to obtain a new residence permit because of conferences or similar, it may be a good idea to first submit a normal application for an extended residence permit, and then, once you have obtained a new residence permit, file an application for a permanent residence permit.

Documents you should include with your application:

- Copy of your passport
- Decision from the university on your admission for doctoral studies
- Newly-issued certification from your instructor

Please send other documentation as well, such as employment contracts and registration extracts from the Ladok system.

If you have had other types of residence permits that can be counted (see the above bullet-point list "These types of permits may be included in determining whether you can receive a permanent residence permit") you should also enclose documents showing what you have done during the relevant time period. For example, if you have been granted a residence permit for work, you should include payroll slips for each individual month during the permit period.

With regard to application fees and how applications can be submitted, the same conditions apply as in the case of applications for temporary residence permits for doctoral studies.

Read more about permanent residence permits for doctoral studies at the Swedish Migration Agency's website  
<https://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden/Universities-and-university-college/Permanent-residence-permits-for-doctoral-students.html>