K12 ACADEMICS — INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SERIES

Studying in Sweden

A guide for international students & families — how Swedish higher education works, the central application portal, the residence permit, tuition, English-taught programs, and post-study work.

K12 ACADEMICS

Find Your Community

2026 EDITION

ABOUT K12 ACADEMICS

The world's largest education resource.

Online since 2004, K12 Academics has helped millions of families, students and educators **find the right school, college, camp, business and program in their community** — for every kind of learner.

INNOVATIVE, ENGLISH-TAUGHT, HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

Sweden offers **world-class, innovation-focused universities, 1,000+ English-taught programs, and a famously high quality of life**. It works differently from most countries: all international students apply through **one central portal**, and non-EU students get a **residence permit** (not a "visa") from the Migration Agency. This guide walks it in **ten steps**.

General guidance, not legal or immigration advice. Swedish rules, fees, and the funds requirement change (recent 2026 work-hour changes). The figures here are recent examples and **must be confirmed with University Admissions, the Swedish Migration Agency (Migrationsverket), and your university**.

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STEP 01 OF 10

Understand Why Students Choose Sweden

WHAT TO KNOW

Sweden offers **innovative, globally ranked universities; 1,000+ English-taught programs; a strong focus on sustainability and equality; and an excellent quality of life** — with free tuition for EU students and good post-study options.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,000+ English programs	Innovation	Quality of life
study without Swedish	+ sustainability	among the world's best

HOW TO HELP

Weigh Sweden's **English-taught quality and quality of life** against non-EU tuition and living costs — it's a top pick for English-speaking students who value innovation.

GOOD TO KNOW

Sweden's teaching style is **collaborative and independent**, with close student—teacher relationships — distinctive and highly rated.

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STEP 02 OF 10

Understand the System

WHAT TO KNOW

Swedish higher education has **around 50 universities and university colleges**. Degrees follow the European bachelor's—master's—doctorate structure, and the academic year runs **August to June** in two semesters.

BY THE NUMBERS

~50 institutions	3+2 structure	Aug–June
universities & colleges	bachelor's + master's	two semesters

HOW TO HELP

Choose among Sweden's **universities and university colleges**, noting that many of the English-taught options are at the **master's level**.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most of Sweden's English-taught programs are at **master's level** — bachelor's options in English are fewer.

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STEP 03 OF 10

Apply Through University Admissions

WHAT TO KNOW

All international applications go through **universityadmissions.se** (operated by UHR) — a single portal, unlike most countries. Deadlines are **mid-January** (autumn) and **mid-August** (spring), and non-EU applicants pay a **SEK 900 application fee**.

BY THE NUMBERS

universityadmissions.se	Mid-Jan / mid-Aug	SEK 900
one central portal	deadlines	application fee (non-EU)

HOW TO HELP

Apply through the **central University Admissions portal** by the deadline, pay the SEK 900 application fee (non-EU), and submit documents in one place.

GOOD TO KNOW

Everything goes through **one portal** — you can rank multiple programs in a single application.

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STEP 04 OF 10

Get the Residence Permit

WHAT TO KNOW

Non-EU/EEA students staying over 3 months need a **residence permit for studies** (not a visa) from **Migrationsverket**. You apply **online after being admitted and paying the first tuition instalment** — and it must be granted before you travel.

BY THE NUMBERS

Residence permit	After admission	Before travel
from Migrationsverket	+ tuition paid	must be approved

HOW TO HELP

Apply **online at Migrationsverket** once admitted and after paying the first tuition instalment — apply early, as it must be approved before you can travel.

WATCH OUT

You **can't apply** for the permit until admitted and (where tuition applies) you've paid the first instalment — plan the timeline.

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STEP 05 OF 10

Plan for Tuition & Funding

WHAT TO KNOW

EU/EEA/Swiss students pay **no tuition**. Non-EU students pay institutional fees, typically **SEK 80,000–200,000/year**. The **Swedish Institute (SISS)** and university scholarships can cover tuition and living costs for strong non-EU applicants.

BY THE NUMBERS

EU	Non-EU	Scholarships
free tuition	~SEK 80k–200k/yr	Swedish Institute & unis

HOW TO HELP

Budget the **non-EU tuition plus living costs**, and apply for the **Swedish Institute scholarships** and university awards — they're competitive but generous.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **Swedish Institute (SISS)** scholarships cover tuition plus a living grant for non-EU master's students — apply early.

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STEP 06 OF 10

Meet the Financial Requirement

WHAT TO KNOW

For the permit you must show funds — recently about **SEK 10,314 per month** (~SEK 123,768 for a ten-month year), for at least the first year. You also need **comprehensive health insurance** if your program is under a year.

BY THE NUMBERS

Funds	First year	Insurance
~SEK 10,314/month	~SEK 123,768	if program < 1 year

HOW TO HELP

Prepare **proof of funds** at the current monthly amount in your own name, plus **health insurance** if your program is shorter than a year (longer programs give public-care access).

WATCH OUT

The monthly funds figure is **set yearly** and can be reduced for free food/housing — confirm the current amount.

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STEP 07 OF 10

Meet Language Requirements

WHAT TO KNOW

For **English-taught** programs you prove English (commonly **IELTS 6.0–6.5** or prior English-medium study). Swedish isn't needed to study those programs, though some Swedish helps daily life and work.

BY THE NUMBERS

English	No Swedish needed	Some Swedish
IELTS 6.0–6.5	for English programs	eases daily life

HOW TO HELP

Take an **accepted English test** and meet your program's score — you can study in English, though learning some Swedish helps with life and work.

GOOD TO KNOW

Most Swedes speak excellent English, so you can manage in English — but some Swedish opens doors socially and professionally.

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STEP 08 OF 10

Prepare for the Move

WHAT TO KNOW

After arriving, **report your address to Migrationsverket within 30 days**, and (for programs of a year or more) register for a **personnummer (personal identity number)**, which unlocks healthcare, banking, and services. Housing is tight — arrange it early.

BY THE NUMBERS

Report address	Personnummer	Housing
within 30 days	unlocks services	tight — start early

HOW TO HELP

Handle arrival admin: **report your address, register for a personnummer** (for longer programs), and set up housing and banking — and start the housing search early.

GOOD TO KNOW

A **personnummer** (for programs 1 year+) is the key to Swedish daily life — healthcare, banking, and more.

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STEP 09 OF 10

Understand Work Rules

WHAT TO KNOW

Rules changed in **2026**: bachelor's and master's students may now work up to **15 hours per week during semesters** (previously effectively unlimited), and must meet **study-progress (credit) requirements** to keep the permit.

BY THE NUMBERS

Work	Credit rules	Keep the permit
up to 15 hrs/week (2026)	must progress	stay on track

HOW TO HELP

Work within the **current 15-hour weekly limit** during term, and **keep up your study progress** (credit requirements) — both matter for your residence permit.

WATCH OUT

Sweden's work rules and credit requirements **tightened in 2026** — confirm the current limits and keep your studies on track.

10 STEP 10 OF 10

Thrive & Work After Study

WHAT TO KNOW

After graduating, you can apply for a **residence permit to seek work for up to 12 months**. Sweden's strong tech, engineering, and sustainability sectors offer real career pathways for graduates who stay.

BY THE NUMBERS

12-month permit	Strong sectors	Community
to seek work	tech & sustainability	get involved

HOW TO HELP

Plan for the **12-month post-study job-seeking permit**, build networks during your studies, and target Sweden's strong innovation sectors if you want to stay.

GOOD TO KNOW

The **12-month post-study permit** gives you time to find work and, potentially, a work permit — a solid pathway.

QUICK REFERENCE

Studying in Sweden: The Essentials

A snapshot — figures change, so confirm everything with University Admissions, Migrationsverket, and your university.

The system

~50 universities and university colleges; 1,000+ English-taught programs (strongest at master's level); academic year August–June.

Applying

All international students apply through one central portal, universityadmissions.se (deadlines mid-January and mid-August; SEK 900 application fee for non-EU).

The permit

Non-EU/EEA students need a residence permit for studies (not a visa) from Migrationsverket, applied for after admission and paying the first tuition instalment, and granted before travel.

Money

EU pay no tuition; non-EU pay ~SEK 80k–200k/year; prove funds (~SEK 10,314/month); health insurance if under a year; Swedish Institute and university scholarships.

Work & after

From 2026, work up to 15 hrs/week with credit requirements; a post-study permit allows up to 12 months to seek work.

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