



Study Sweden

The university education system:

Around 40,000 international students' study in Sweden each year. With around 60 Bachelor's degrees taught in English through 39 universities and university colleges. Many of these degrees are either in Business or STEM subjects, but with some research students will find degrees taught in English in most subject areas (although limited options within the creative arts).

[Course information](#) (click link).

Beyond studying, Sweden has the second highest proficiency in English as a second language in the world, with English spoken by approximately 90% of the population. Sweden is also one of the safest countries in the world and is often ranked as one of the best in which to live. However, you will need to be aware of the high cost of living (although reasonable international student fees) when exploring study options in Sweden.

The application process:

Initially it may appear that applying to study in Sweden is a simple process as they have a [coordinated admissions system](#) which means that students can apply for courses and programmes at all universities on the same application (for those aware of the UK system this is a similar process to UCAS).

However, the application process in Sweden is complicated by the fact that universities do not make conditional offers (offers based on schools predicted grades, which is common in the UK/USA and many other countries). As such **students studying A levels/IB can only really apply after receiving their results** (see below), which for A levels is only a matter of days before the Autumn term starts in Sweden. Technically it is pretty much impossible that an A level (non-Swedish) student can start university straight after they finish school, which often means planning a gap year.

Sweden has two rounds (deadline dates) for late August/September starts. The first is in the autumn and has a specific focus on courses taught in English. The second round in the Spring is essentially for courses taught in Swedish, but may have a small number of English taught courses not filled during the first round.

First round applications can be made from mid-October with a mid-January deadline (and 1st February deadline to provide supporting documents and any application fee payments). Decisions are not made until April, which does mean those very limited number of A level students sitting early retakes will have their results and could apply in the first round.





Second round (spring) applicants runs from mid-March to mid-April (with an early May deadline for any application fees and early July deadline (specifically for IB applicants) to provide supporting documents, EG IB results). Theoretically IB students can apply, but as covered above essentially this round is designed for the Swedish taught courses, with a limited choice of English taught courses on offer in round two. *Additionally, students need to be aware of visa timelines it is suggested that non-EU nationals' visas may not be processed in time for Autumn starts if they apply in the second round.

*Be aware of limited courses with January starts, for information on these and all that is covered above [Admission rounds and spring semester availability \(universityadmissions.se\)](https://www.universityadmissions.se)

Entry requirements:

As in most countries entry requirements to a Swedish university is determined by each individual institution, with popular (oversubscribed) universities and courses requiring higher A level / IB grades. It is also important to check any specific subject requirements which can be very different to what is often required in home countries. An example often used is [Lund University BSc in Geography](https://www.lunduniversity.lu.se) this requires subjects from Maths, Physics, Chemistry & Biology (but not Geography). It is clearly therefore important to research individual university requirements carefully.

[Bachelor's requirements \(universityadmissions.se\)](https://www.universityadmissions.se) is a good initial guide to academic requirements and includes notes on Maths & English requirements.

Course fees:

There are no tuition fees for citizens of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland.

Citizens from outside the EU/EEA/Switzerland will generally have to pay tuition fees. The amount depends on the university and course; social sciences often cost less (between £7,000 - £9,500), with many of the STEM courses with fees between £10,500 - £13,000 and higher for areas such as Architecture (up to £23,700).

Application fees:

EU/EEA and Swiss citizens also don't have to pay an application fee - but will need to prove their citizenship status (often providing a copy of their passport). [Document your citizenship \(EU/EEA\)](https://www.universityadmissions.se) If you're a citizen of a country outside the EU/EEA, you need to pay a fee to have your application processed. Find out more about the application fee and how you can pay it. [Pay your application fee \(non-EU/EEA\)](https://www.universityadmissions.se)





Additional notes on fees:

Citizens of a country outside of the European Union (EU), the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland must pay one instalment of the tuition fee in advance of each semester and show proof of this first payment, plus also proof of their financial ability to pay the cost of the whole course (bank statement or scholarship letter) to be approved for a student visa.

Research individual universities, plus [click here](#) for more details on **scholarship opportunities**.

Visa requirements:

The student visa in Sweden is called “resident permit for studies.” You can only [apply for a student visa](#) for a full-time course. The first step in applying for a student visa is to receive an acceptance letter from the university as you will need this letter to complete the visa application.

Highest ranking universities in Sweden:

Here we offer one league table, there are many others to explore. However, any decision about which university / institution to study at, should never be purely based on league tables – students should research options carefully to ensure they offer them what they want from the course and where they would wish to spend their time (See next steps below to support with this and remember the support offered in school).

Latest QS World ranking (2024): [QS World University Rankings 2024](#)

[KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm](#), [Lund University](#), [Uppsala University](#), [Stockholm University](#), [Chalmers University of Technology](#).

Further information:

[Universityadmissions.se - Apply to Swedish universities](#)

[Study in Sweden](#)

For those applying for courses taught in Swedish: [Antagning.se - Anmälan till högskola och universitet](#)

Research tips:

The Three R's Rule:

Is the information **Recent**? This is particularly important when applying to international universities as entry requirements, visa rules, finances, etc. generally change each year. Ensure you are reading the most up-to-date information. If in-doubt talk with the careers / university team in school.

Is it **Relevant**? Does it actually provide you with answers to the questions you have?





Is it **Reasoned**? Does it provide statements and back them up with facts or data that are useful for you as an individual?

Create an Action Plan: Try writing out a list of questions you want to find answers to (see below for some ideas of things you might want to know) and reject (for now) information that doesn't help answer them. Keep your research in one place, so you can refer to it later.

Information overload: This can be a problem when you first start your research. It can be a good idea at the start to select just two or three of the best sources and forget the rest. You can always come back for more as your thinking progresses.

Next steps:

Example questions you might like to find the answers to when exploring your options. We all have different priorities and reasons for studying a course so you are likely to have other questions.

- ❖ Find out about the course including course content, structure, options and assessment methods.
- ❖ What are the course requirements; subjects, grades required and anything else, such as additional entrance tests, work experience, etc. *Are predicted grades accepted or must you already know your final results?
- ❖ What is the application process; Is it multiple applications using one document (UCAS, Common Application), or individual university forms or a mix of both?
- ❖ Is there any additional documentation that needs completing and at what stage in the application process is this required (personal statement, motivational letter, CV, etc)?
- ❖ Do you have to provide proof of English language (or other) ability? * *Students who have studied in English / are native speakers can be exempt, but it is important to check with universities.*
- ❖ What are the application deadlines, including dates for any additional entrance tests?
- ❖ What are the costs; Tuition fees and accommodation/living costs, and finance/funding options.
- ❖ Is it possible to study in more than one country/gain work experience as part of the course
- ❖ Logistics to and from home, how long will it take, how many flights etc?
- ❖ What do you know about the country; climate, culture, languages spoken etc?
- ❖ What are the work regulations, both during the course and after graduation?
- ❖ Are there any health requirements in advance, for instance some countries insist on certain vaccinations before an entry visa is issued?
- ❖ Are the qualifications you gain from the course recognised through-out the world / in the country you plan to work? If not, can these be converted?
- ❖ Do you need post graduate qualifications / specific work experience after completing your first degree to work in your chosen career?

