

STUDY ALLOWANCE

for studies outside Sweden

CSN FAKTABLAD

This fact sheet leaflet is about study allowance for studies outside Sweden.

WHAT IS STUDY ALLOWANCE?

Study allowance consists of four different grants:

- student grant
- boarding supplement
- supplementary allowance
- daily travel allowance.

WHO CAN RECEIVE STUDY ALLOWANCE FOR STUDIES IN THE EU/EEA AND IN SWITZERLAND?

Swedish citizens

In order to receive study allowance for studies in the EU/EEA and in Switzerland, you must study full-time for at least 15 days. Your study programme must also be approved by either

- the government
- a government agency
- CSN

or

- an organisation for accreditation in the country of your studies.

You must also meet the requirements for studies in Sweden in order to receive study allowance. For example, your study programme must entitle you to receive study allowance and you must study full-time.

Foreign citizens

If you are a foreign citizen you can obtain study allowance for studies in the EU/EEA or in Switzerland if you meet the conditions for right to Swedish student finance. The rules may differ depending on what citizenship you have and what country you want to study in. You can read more about the right of foreign citizens to Swedish financial aid for studies on www.csn.se.

You may also have the right to study allowance in the form of family benefits.

Read more about this in the section “Coordination under EU law”.

You must also meet the requirements for studies in Sweden in order to receive study allowance. For example, your study programme must entitle you to receive study allowance and you must study full-time.

The EU countries are:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

The EEA countries are:

The EU countries and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

Coordination under EU law

Student grant and supplementary allowance are family benefits under EU law. A family benefit is a benefit you may have a right to from various countries, depending on what country your parents live or work in. This means that if you have a parent who lives or works in an EU/EEA country or in Switzerland, you may be entitled to family benefits from that country. The same applies if your parent has a pension from another EU/EEA country or from Switzerland.

If you are entitled to family benefits from several EU/EEA countries or Switzerland, they must be coordinated to avoid receiving double benefits or loss of benefits. In Sweden, the Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan) is responsible for coordinating family benefits. Before CSN can make a decision regarding a student grant and supplementary allowance, we therefore send an enquiry to Försäkringskassan. CSN will then be informed if you have family benefits from other EU/EEA countries or from Switzerland.

WHO CAN RECEIVE STUDY ALLOWANCE FOR STUDIES OUTSIDE THE EU/EEA AND SWITZERLAND?

Swedish citizens

If you are a Swedish citizen you can receive study allowance to study outside the EU/EEA and Switzerland if

- you have been registered as resident in Sweden for the last two years before the start of your studies abroad
- you are studying full time
- you are studying for at least three months
- your study programme is clearly oriented towards a certain occupation or industry for which there is no study programme in Sweden
- you cannot take an equivalent or similar study programme in Sweden
- your study programme is at upper secondary school level and has been approved by CSN. Contact us to find out whether your study programme is approved.

The fact that certain subjects or languages may differ from a similar study programme in Sweden is not regarded as meaning that you cannot take an equivalent study programme in Sweden. You cannot receive a study allowance to study at a high school in the US or Australia, for instance.

If you live abroad with your family

If you live abroad with your custodian(s), you can receive a study allowance for studies in that country, even if an equivalent programme is available in Sweden. In that case you do not need to have been registered as resident in Sweden for the past two years.

For this to apply, one of the following conditions must be valid for at least one of your custodians:

- He or she has been stationed abroad by a Swedish government employer.
- He or she is employed abroad by a Swedish religious community or a body which is linked to a Swedish religious community.

- He or she is employed abroad by a Swedish non-profit organisation that conducts international aid work.
- He or she has received student grants and loans for studies abroad.

If you are studying at the United World College

If you are studying at the United World College (UWC) you can receive a study allowance even if there is a similar study programme in Sweden.

At the UWC you can study for the international secondary education diploma International Baccalaureate (IB). It is equivalent to the final two years of Swedish upper secondary schooling and gives you general eligibility to Swedish universities and many foreign universities. There is more information about these schools on United World College's website, www.uwc.se.

Foreign citizens

Usually only Swedish citizens can receive study allowance for studies outside the EU/EEA and Switzerland, but in certain cases foreign citizens can also receive such an allowance.

In order to obtain study allowance for studies outside the EU/EEA and Switzerland you must meet the conditions for having what we call the fundamental right to Swedish student finance for studies. You can read more about the right of foreign citizens to Swedish student finance for studies on www.csn.se. You may also have the right to study allowance in the form of family benefits. Read more about this in the section "Coordination under EU law".

You must also meet the requirements for studies in Sweden in order to receive study allowance. For example, your study programme must entitle you to receive study allowance and you must study full-time.

THE VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STUDY ALLOWANCE

Student grant

The student grant is SEK 1,250 per month. It is paid at the earliest from the quarter after you turn 16 and until the second quarter of the year you turn 20 at the latest.

Boarding supplement

The boarding supplement is a grant. You are eligible for it if you cannot live at home during your study period.

To be eligible for boarding supplement, the travel time between your parental home and your school or trainee workplace must be at least two hours a day if you were living at home.

You are not eligible for boarding supplement if

- one of your parents (who is also your custodian) lives in your place of study
- the travel time between that parent's home and your school or trainee workplace is less than two hours a day.

If you are going to study at a Swedish international school or on an IB programme, you can usually only receive a boarding allowance if the programme and the national specialisation you are going to study are not available within two hours' travel per day from your parental home in Sweden.

Since Swedish international schools follow the Swedish curriculum, study programmes at Swedish international schools are equivalent to studies at upper secondary schools in Sweden, and IB studies abroad are equivalent to IB studies in Sweden.

The amount you can receive in boarding supplement each month depends on the distance between your parental home and your school or trainee workplace, one way. The amount varies between SEK 1,190 and SEK 2,350 per month.

There is no lower age limit for receiving the boarding supplement.

Supplementary allowance

Supplementary allowance is a grant that is examined on the basis of your and your parents' finances. To be eligible for supplementary allowance, your combined incomes and one-fifth of your wealth must be less than SEK 125,000 before tax in the period 1 July–30 June.

There is no lower age limit for receiving supplementary allowance.

Daily travel allowance

In the first place, you apply for daily travel allowance from your home municipality. If you cannot obtain the allowance there, you can, in certain cases, obtain the allowance from CSN.

One condition for receiving daily travel allowance is that the daily travel distance between your parental home and your school is at least six kilometres. This applies in the first place to trips by public transport, e.g. bus or train.

If no public transport is available, you can obtain a grant for other means of travel. For travel by car the allowance is calculated at the lowest government allowance rate.

The maximum amount of daily travel allowance you can receive is SEK 1,190 per month. You cannot receive daily travel allowance and boarding supplement at the same time.

HOW TO APPLY

When you are going to study outside Sweden and want to have study allowance, you have to submit form 5101 "Ansökan om studiehjälp för studier utanför Sverige".

If you also want to apply for supplementary allowance and daily travel allowance you have to submit:

- Ansökan om extra tillägg, form 1601.
- Ansökan om bidrag för dagliga resor, form 5103.

You will find the forms at www.csn.se/blanketter.

The application deadline is 30 June of the academic year the application refers to.

PAYMENT

Study allowance is paid out either by CSN or the Social Insurance Agency (Försäkringskassan).

If your study assistance is paid by CSN, it is Swedbank that handles the payments. So your custodian needs to notify them of the Swedish bank and account where the money is to be deposited. The simplest way to do this is on www.swedbank.se/konto-register. If your custodian already has an account affiliated to Swedbank's payment system, no new notification is needed.

When you turn 18, you must notify your own account.

If you cannot acquire a Swedish bank account, you have to contact CSN.

If your study allowance is being paid by Försäkringskassan, they will contact you.

Who receives the money?

If you are under 18, we pay the money to the custodian who was the last recipient of your child allowance.

If you are 18 or older, we pay the money to you.