



IOM International Organization for Migration  
OIM Organisation Internationale pour les Migrations  
OIM Organización Internacional para las Migraciones

## SWEDEN FACT SHEET

### 1. Basic info

**Capital:** Stockholm  
**Population:** 9 million  
**Area:** 450,000 km<sup>2</sup> (174,000 sq mi)  
**Currency:** 1 krona = 100 öre  
**Unemployment rate:** 6,4% (as of January 2008)

### 2. Visa for visiting Sweden – General information Basic info

Croatian nationals do not need to apply for the short-term stay visa (C). Citizens of Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia are subject to the visa requirement. Based on the Visa Facilitation and Readmission Agreements between the EU and Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, citizens of these countries continue to require the Schengen visa C to enter Sweden; however they benefit from a reduced visa handling fee (EUR 35 instead of EUR 60). Serbian nationals do not need to pay visa fee of Maz 2008. Many categories of applicants (family members of legally resident nationals, students and pensioners, journalists etc) may also now obtain visas free of charge.

For certain categories of persons, e.g. businessmen, students and journalists, the documentation requirements will be simplified. Certain categories of frequent travellers (including businessmen, journalists, students, representatives of civil society) will be granted multi-entry visas with long periods of validity and diplomatic passports holders will be exempted from the visa obligation.

See details on:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0085:0095:EN:PDF> (for Albania)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0097:0107:EN:PDF> (for Bosnia & Herzegovina)

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0125:0135:EN:PDF> for the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0137:0147:EN:PDF> for Serbia

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:334:0109:0119:EN:PDF> for Montenegro

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



Federal Office  
for Migration  
and Refugees



GOVERNMENT  
OF LIECHTENSTEIN

For further information on the necessary documents and procedures, visit the Migration Board's website at <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp> or the Embassy of Sweden in your country:

**Embassy in Albania:**

Sweden Honorary Consulate , Albania  
Rr. Qamil Guranjaku, Pall. 12 katesh, Shk. 2 / 5c  
Tirana  
Tel: +355-4-347524  
E-mail: [atlascopco@icc-al.org](mailto:atlascopco@icc-al.org)

**Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina:**

Ferhadija 20  
71000Saravejo  
Opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9 to 12 am.  
Tel: 38733276030; 38733276037 (visa)  
E-mail: [abassaden.sarajevo@foreignn.ministry.se](mailto:abassaden.sarajevo@foreignn.ministry.se)  
Website: [http://www.swedenabroad.com/Start\\_24839.aspx](http://www.swedenabroad.com/Start_24839.aspx)

**Embassy in Croatia:**

P.P. 779  
HR – 10 001 Zagreb  
Visiting address: Frankopanska 22  
Tel: 385-(0)1-4925 100  
E-mail: [ambassaden.zagreb@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:ambassaden.zagreb@foreign.ministry.se); [swedish.embassy@zg.t-com.hr](mailto:swedish.embassy@zg.t-com.hr)  
Website: [http://www.swedenabroad.com/Start\\_5854.aspx](http://www.swedenabroad.com/Start_5854.aspx)

**Embassy in Serbia:**

P.O.B. 5  
11040 Belgrade  
Visiting address: Ledi Pedzet 2  
Tel: 381-11-20 69 200  
E-mail:[ambassaden.belgrad@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:ambassaden.belgrad@foreign.ministry.se)  
E-mail visa: [ambassaden.belgrad-visum@foreign.ministry.se](mailto:ambassaden.belgrad-visum@foreign.ministry.se)  
Working hours: Mon -Thu, 8.00-17.00 (Visa section: 9.00 – 12.00; Wednesday closed)  
Website: [http://www.swedenabroad.com/Page\\_12799.aspx](http://www.swedenabroad.com/Page_12799.aspx).

### **3. Migration for Employment Purposes**

**On 15 December 2008 new Swedish rules for labour immigration were implemented due to a decision by the Swedish Parliament.**

This means that the previous consideration of labour market has been abolished and the employer now is the one to decide the need for labour, unlike before, when the decision was taken by the Swedish Public Employment Service. The Migration Board considers if the pay and the other conditions of employment are on a level with existing collective agreements or what is customary in the trade.

**New forms**

On account of the new rules the Migration Board has new application forms. Among other things there is a form for offer of employment, which employer must fill out when recruiting employees from countries outside the EU/EEA, and which the employee must enclose with his/her application.

**Work permits**

You have to have a work permit in order to work in Sweden. Once you have been granted a permit, this must be entered into your passport before your arrival in Sweden. If you have a job offer for a period of more than

three months, then a Swedish residence permit is necessary. If you plan to stay in Sweden for less than three months, a residence permit is not necessary, but a Schengen visa is.

There are several types of work permits for Sweden – for performing artists, sportsmen, au-pair, visiting researchers, self-employed, working holiday and seasonal employment.

**Requirements:**

- You must have a written offer of employment in Sweden, made out on a special form which your employer must fill out and which you must enclose with your application. The Swedish Migration Board has new application forms at their website: [www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp](http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp)
- Your employer shall guarantee you pay, insurance coverage and other terms of employment equal to at least the collective agreement or Swedish practice in the profession or the branch of trade.
- You must earn enough from employment to support yourself
- Your employer must give the relevant union the opportunity to state an opinion on the terms of employment.
- Your employer must have advertised the job vacancy in Sweden and the EU.

If the employment is temporary, a residence and work permit will be valid only for that period and for a maximum of two years at a time. After 48 months, you will be eligible for a permanent residence permit.

Further information with necessary documents for the process of application needed for work permit can be obtained from the Embassy website and on the Migration Board’s website at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>

**Labour market shortages until 2009**

<b>New graduates</b>	<b>Work experienced</b>	<b>Expected to decrease by 2009</b>
Operations, maintenance and HVAC	Electricians	Compulsory school teachers - Language/Social Studies
Specialized trained nurses	Engineers in construction	Childcare and leisure
Transport education	Control theory	Compulsory school teachers - Math/Natural Studies
Telecom and electronics	Operations, maintenance and HVAC	Trade and administration
Agriculture and forestry	Industrial	Upper secondary school teachers - History/Social

## Job search websites

If you wish to live and work in Sweden, before you apply for permit to work you would have to find a job in Sweden and provide necessary documents to prove you have a job offer from a Swedish employer. You may consult several job search websites at:

<http://www.expatsinsweden.com>,

<http://www.jobsinstockholm.com/>,

<http://www.jobinsweden.net/english/>,

<http://www.4icj.com/se/>,

<http://www.learn4good.com/jobs/language/english/list/country/sweden;>

or the website of the Swedish Public Employment Service at: <http://www.arbetsformedlingen.se/>.

## 4. Studying in Sweden

If your studies in Sweden will take longer than three months, you need to acquire a residence permit before you arrive in Sweden. Permits are issued by the Swedish Migration Board. Their website has detailed advice at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>.

For specific information on studying in Sweden consult the website:

[http://www.studyin.sweden.se/templates/cs/SISFrontPage\\_4908.aspx](http://www.studyin.sweden.se/templates/cs/SISFrontPage_4908.aspx).

There are currently numerous programs offered in English language in Swedish universities. They can be browsed at: [http://www.studyinsweden.se/templates/cs/SISProgramSearch\\_5046.aspx](http://www.studyinsweden.se/templates/cs/SISProgramSearch_5046.aspx).

There are a number of ways you can get funding to help you afford your stay: scholarships, work, etc. If you have a residence permit, you do not need to have a working permit to work in Sweden during your studies.

The Swedish Institute, a government agency, each year administers over 500 scholarships for students and researchers coming to Sweden, and they are mainly for master's level studies or advanced studies/research. You can find the list of available scholarships for Sweden at:

[http://www.studyin.sweden.se/templates/cs/Article\\_10499.aspx](http://www.studyin.sweden.se/templates/cs/Article_10499.aspx).

Of interest to citizens of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, is the Master Program for Eastern Europe: [http://www.studyinsweden.se/templates/cs/Article\\_\\_\\_\\_15719.aspx](http://www.studyinsweden.se/templates/cs/Article____15719.aspx)

Applicants from all the countries listed above can apply for master's level studies in democracy (including gender issues), economics, environmental studies and energy.

In addition to the above there are other fields of study open to candidates from some countries according to the following:

Applicants from Albania are eligible for courses in the fields of health science and social issues.

Applicants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, are eligible for courses in the field of agricultural sciences.

Applicants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and Macedonia are eligible for courses in the field of forestry.

In 2007 in the top 150 European Universities, there were eight Universities from Sweden:

- Uppsala University: <http://www.uu.se/en/>
- Lund University <http://www.lu.se/lund-university/>
- KTH, Royal Institute of Technology [http://www.kth.se/?l=en\\_UK](http://www.kth.se/?l=en_UK)
- Chalmers, University of Technology <http://www.chalmers.se/en/>

- Stockholm University <http://www.su.se/pub/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=3792>
- Stockholm School of Economics <http://www.hhs.se/default.htm>
- Göteborg University <http://www.gu.se/english/>
- Umeå University [http://www.umu.se/umu/index\\_eng.html](http://www.umu.se/umu/index_eng.html)

## 5. Residence

If a person plans to stay in Sweden for a period of more than three months, then a Swedish residence permit is necessary. The Swedish Migration Board decides on the residence permits' granting. Usually, a person can get a residence permit between 6 months and a permanent residence permit (unlimited). If a person is of working age, a work permit is obtained automatically.

You need to present: (i) an application form and (ii) two photographs to the Swedish Embassy in your country, who will liaise with the Swedish Migration Board for a decision to be taken.

### Conditions for applying

- If you are married or cohabiting or intend to marry or cohabit with someone who is permanently resident in Sweden (once you have presented your application, you will be summoned to an interview at the Embassy / Consulate. You will need to bring some form of documentation proving your relationship to the person in Sweden, such as letters, photographs or the marriage certificate)
- If you are under 18 years of age, unmarried and your parents are residents in Sweden (you must be able to show that you lived together in your country of origin/domicile before your parent or parents moved to Sweden)
- If you are a parent or some other close relative of a person who is now resident in Sweden (in exceptional cases, other relatives may qualify for residence permits by reason of family ties. You must be able to show that you lived together with your relative immediately prior to his/her move to Sweden and that you are dependent on that person in such a way that it is difficult for you to live apart. This means that you must be financially, socially or emotionally dependent on the relative who lives in Sweden)
- A relative of a refugee or of a person who has been granted asylum for some other reason can, in exceptional cases, be granted a Swedish residence permit if the two have had a very close relationship, even if they have not lived together in their former country of domicile.

### How long is the permit valid?

If you lived together with your relative in your country of origin/domicile, the Migration Board will normally grant you a permanent residence permit (PUT). This entitles you to live in Sweden for as long as you like.

If you did not live with your relative in your country of origin/domicile but intend to set up home together on your arrival here, the Migration Board will normally grant you a permit for 12 months (in some cases for six months). You then have to apply for an extension to your permit. If you are still living together, your permit will be extended for a further 12 months (or six months).

If you are of working age, you will automatically be granted a work permit as well.

When you have had a limited residence permit for two years and your relationship is still intact, you will be granted a permanent residence permit.

Further information with necessary documents for the process of application needed for work permit can be obtained from the Embassy website or the Migration Board's website at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>.

### Quota system/bilateral labour agreements

N/A

## 6. Asylum seekers and refugees

The Migration Board considers applications from asylum seekers who have made their own way to Sweden, offer asylum seekers temporary accommodation, run detention centres where people who have been detained are kept behind locked doors (only in special cases may someone be kept in detention). Sweden is a

party to the UN Refugee Convention, and as such, it must grant asylum to persons defined in the Convention as refugees. Under Swedish law, persons who are not convention refugees may also qualify for asylum, described in law as 'persons in need of protection' (skyddsbehövande).<sup>1</sup>

As soon as possible after asylum seekers submit their applications, the Migration Board examines whether their reasons for applying are adequate. If the Board judges that the asylum seeker's application may be turned down, it is ensured that he or she is provided with legal assistance in the form of a public counsel. Such counsels are paid by the Migration Board to help asylum seekers present their grounds for asylum. The Migration Board examines each case individually and the length of time it takes to reach a decision depends on such factors as the number of asylum seekers who have arrived in recent months and how complicated their cases are. Those whose applications for asylum are granted, either by the Migration Board or by the Migration Court, are normally given a permanent residence permit (PUT). This means that you are entitled to settle in Sweden for good.

If your application for asylum is rejected, you may apply for a work permit. You cannot apply until the decision to deport you has taken legal force.

A permit can be granted if you were employed for six months during the waiting period and the employment will last for at least 12 additional months after the date you apply. You must submit your application to the Migration Board within two weeks of the date your decision took legal force.

For further information on asylum, see at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>.

## **7. Family Reunification**

If you wish to move to Sweden to live with a close relative who is already a Swedish resident, you must have a residence permit of your own. This applies for instance, if you are married, or cohabiting, or you intend to marry, or cohabit with someone who is permanently residing in Sweden, and to unmarried children under the age of 18 (see "conditions for applying" in Section 5 above). For necessary forms and further information on specific requirements consult the Swedish Migration Board website at: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>, and/or the website of the Swedish Embassy in your country.

## **8. Health Care System**

Swedish health system is divided between the state, county councils, and municipalities. The state is responsible for overall health and medical care policy. The National Board of Health and Welfare works with matters of health and social services related to immigrants and refugees as a supervisory authority. The Board follows up how the county councils provide care for asylum seekers. Further information can be obtained on the webpage of the National Board of Health and Welfare at: <http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/en/Subjects/Immigrants+and+refugees/>

## **9. Social Insurance System**

The Swedish Social Insurance Agency role is to administer social insurance and to ensure that you get the benefits and allowances to which you are entitled. Further information can be obtained at: <http://www.forsakringskassan.se/sprak/eng/>. The Social Service Act can be obtained at: [http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/NR/rdonlyres/09C25501-F370-409A-AF2F-7910FF6FB9D1/8030/20021149\\_rev.pdf](http://www.socialstyrelsen.se/NR/rdonlyres/09C25501-F370-409A-AF2F-7910FF6FB9D1/8030/20021149_rev.pdf).

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<sup>1</sup> Persons in need of protection are those who have left their native country and have a well-grounded fear of suffering death penalty, torture, etc and need protection due to an internal or external armed conflict or an environmental disaster in their native country. People who can show that there are exceptionally distressing circumstances may also be granted permission to stay in Sweden. This applies for instance to those suffering from a grave illness for which no treatment is available in their own country. As a rule, a person granted asylum in Sweden is given a permanent residence permit (PUT), which means that he or she can stay here for good. Alternatively, under certain circumstances, Sweden may grant a temporary, fixed-term permit.

## 10. Housing

Most comprehensive information on housing websites in Sweden can be obtained at: <http://www.thelocal.se/6428/20070216/>. Note: most of these websites are in Swedish language. No special conditions found for migrants.

## 11. Recognition of foreign diplomas and degrees

If you are living in Sweden and looking for work, written, formal recognition of your foreign diplomas or degrees may be helpful. Your education and eligibility are assessed individually by the university or college you apply to on the basis of the information given in your application and the attached documents. If the latter are in any language other than English, authorized translations will be required. Some universities and university colleges may accept documents in other major European languages as well.

Official recognition of foreign upper-secondary diplomas is undertaken by the National Admissions Office for Higher Education. See website at: <http://www.vhs.se/templates/Page.aspx?id=467>.

Official recognition of general academic degrees is undertaken by the Swedish National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC), a section of the National Agency for Higher Education. The Agency is also the first point of contact for general EU directives on recognition of professional qualifications in the EU. For further information, see: <http://www.hsv.se/2.539a949110f3d5914ec800056285.html>.

## 12. Support Services for Migrants

### Immigrant issues:

**The Applicant Ombudsman** – if applicants are not satisfied with the work of Migration Board they can contact the Applicant Ombudsman. For further information: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>.

**The Immigrant Institute**, a non- governmental organization that functions as the National research and documentation center for immigrants and refugees, and a secretariat for other immigrant organizations: <http://www.immi.se/insti/english.htm>.

**National Union of Immigrant Woman:** <http://www.riffi.org/>

**Terrafem** has a national helpline for immigrant women of all ages. The helpline offers support in about 35 languages: <http://www.terrafem.org/>

### Gender violence issues:

**Swedish Association of Women Shelters:** <http://www.kvinnojour.com/hjalpfinns/sprak///>

**Elektra** offers support in several languages to young girls: <http://www.elektra.nu/index2.htm>.

**Forum – Women and Disabilities**, to ensure that women and girls with disabilities have equal access to their rights: <http://www.kvinnor-handikapp.se/home/page.asp?sid=680&mid=2&CatId=3174>.

**Woman Can**, organization that deals with promotion of equal women rights: [http://www.kvinnorkan.se/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=15](http://www.kvinnorkan.se/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=18&Itemid=15).

**National Union of Women and Girls' Shelters**, national network for women and girls' shelters in Sweden: [http://www.roks.se/languages/english\\_about.htm](http://www.roks.se/languages/english_about.htm).

### Trafficking:

**Swedish Woman Lobby** – assists victims of trafficking: <http://www.sverigeskvinnolobby.se/home/page.asp?sid=2357&mid=2&PageId=18856>

**The Swedish NGO Foundation for Human Rights:** <http://www.humanrights.se/>

### General issues for migrants:

**The gateway to public sector in Sweden in English and Serbian:** <http://www.sverige.se/>

**Centre for Multiethnic Research:** [http://www.multietn.uu.se/index\\_eng.htm](http://www.multietn.uu.se/index_eng.htm)

**Centre for Research in International Migration and Ethnic Relation:**  
<http://www.ceifo.su.se/pub/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=6667&a=24835>

### **Issues of discrimination and violations of human rights of migrants**

**Parliament Ombudsman** – deals with individuals complaining about unfair treatment of public officials:  
<http://www.jo.se/Page.aspx>

**Ombudsman for Ethnic Discrimination:** <http://www.do.se/>

E-mail: [do@do.se](mailto:do@do.se)

**The Equal Opportunities Ombudsman** – deals with equal opportunities and sex discrimination  
<http://www.jamombud.se/>

**The Office of Ombudsman against Discrimination on grounds of Sexual Orientation**  
<http://www.homo.se/o.o.i.s/1211>

**Association of Serbian migrants in Sweden:** <http://www.srpstvo.com/ser/vesti/index.php>.

**Association of Bosnian migrants in Sweden** (*Bosnisk Hercegovinska Ungdomsforbundet*):  
<http://www.bhuf.org>

### **Language courses**

Free of charge language courses in Swedish are available only for asylum seekers. However, there are number of study associations across the country, which offer Swedish courses to all groups. You may be eligible for university courses in Swedish, either full time or part time. Once you've achieved certain levels of proficiency, you can prove it with recognized tests.

### **IOM office in Sweden**

There is no IOM office in Sweden. IOM Helsinki takes care of assisted voluntary return requests of irregular migrants as well as other migration-related services in Sweden. IOM Helsinki provides voluntary return services to all countries in the world from Sweden.

IOM general information line: +358 9 684 1150

Opening hours: Monday to Friday 9:00-11:30 and 12:00-15:00 (Swedish time)

## **13. Citizenship**

The Swedish Migration Board deals with issues of Swedish citizenship.

Swedish citizenship can be acquired through simple procedure (notification) if its based on birth, adoption (if one parent is a Swedish citizen), or legitimisation (marriage of parents). Another basic principle is preventing the occurrence of statelessness.

Swedish citizenship for migrants can also be obtained by application (naturalization), if a person has a permanent residence permit, if he/she had stayed in Sweden for five or more years, or four years (if he/she has a refugee status or is a stateless person).

The earlier principle of preventing the occurrence of dual citizenship has been abandoned and the law fully accepts dual citizenship. The Swedish Citizenship Act from 2001 can be obtained at:  
<http://www.sweden.gov.se/content/1/c6/01/94/49/a6b33bc0.pdf>.

For more information on applying for the citizenship, go to the website of the Swedish Migration Board at:  
<http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>

## **14. Governmental institutions in charge of immigration**

**The Ministry of Justice** is responsible for migration policy of Sweden, which includes the reception of asylum seekers and immigrants, providing refugees with shelters, issues relating to equal rights, obligations and opportunities for everyone. For more information on these issues go to the website of the Government of

Sweden: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/3083>, and the website of the Ministry of Justice at: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/584>.

**The Ministry of Integration and Gender Equality** manages the integration policy which includes issues of equal rights, obligations and opportunities for all, the introduction of immigrants into Swedish society, Swedish citizenship, and grants to municipalities for the reception of refugees and measures to combat discrimination, xenophobia and racism. Further information and legislation acts relating to these issues can be obtained at: <http://www.sweden.gov.se/sb/d/2188/a/19443>.

**Swedish Migration Board**

<http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.jsp>