

In English

Summary

More Swedes studying abroad

The number of students who cross Sweden's borders has increased significantly in recent decades. This applies both to Swedish students who travel abroad to study and foreign students who come to Sweden to study. These two groups are called students from abroad and Swedish students studying abroad. They can be broken down further to exchange students who take part in an exchange programme and students who arrange their studies in the country on their own, so-called freemover students.

In the 2012/13 academic year, there were 28 300 Swedish students abroad in exchange programmes or on their own but with funding from the Swedish National Board of Student Aid. Since 2003/04 the number of those who studied abroad has increased from 24 600 to 28 300.

During the same period, the number of those coming to Sweden to study has more than doubled and amounted to 34 000 students in the 2012/13 academic year. For several years now, the number of students coming to Sweden is larger than the number of Swedish students who travel abroad to study. This is despite the fact that freemovers from countries outside of the EU/EES and Switzerland have been charged fees for education since autumn of 2011. However, the introduction of student fees led to a sharp decrease in the number of students coming to Sweden in 2011/12, compared to the previous academic year.

In the 2012/13 academic year, 51 percent of visiting students were women and 49 percent were men. Among the Swedish students abroad, 59 percent were women and 41 percent were men.

Big differences regarding length of studies

Most of those coming to Sweden studied for one or two terms in Sweden. However, the difference between exchange students and freemover students was considerable. The percentage of exchange students who only studied one term was significantly higher than among freemover students.

Most of those Swedes who studied abroad also studied for one or two terms. However, freemover students studied for three terms or more abroad to a greater extent than the exchange students. The proportion of freemover students who have been abroad for seven terms or more also continues to be high.

Number of students from abroad increasing again

Of the 34 000 foreign students who studied at universities or institutes of higher education in Sweden in the 2012/13 academic year, 21 600 studied for the first time in this country, i.e., they were first-year students in the Swedish system of higher education. From having decreased by 29 percent in the 2011/12 because of the introduction of student fees, this figure is an increase of 4 percent. Afterwards there was a sharp decrease in the number of freemover students from countries outside of the EU/EES and Switzerland. The number decreased most for students from Asia and those European countries not included in the EU/EES and Switzerland.

This year the number of freemover students has increased somewhat. The number of these students from the EU countries (except for the Nordic countries) increased to 27 percent, compared to 25 percent the previous academic year. The three countries with the most students were Germany, Finland and China.

Still most students from Europe

Of the 14 700 newly enrolled exchange students at Swedish universities and institutes of higher education in the 2012/13 academic year, 75 percent were from Europe. Asia and North America followed. The single largest home countries were Germany, France and Spain. Aside from European countries, which completely dominate the exchange programmes, many exchange students were from China and the US.

Many students from abroad choose Lund University

Lund University was the most popular choice for those who studied in Sweden for the first time, with 2 500 newly enrolled students. The Swedish Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University followed with nearly 1 800 new foreign students each.

Continued increase of studies abroad for Swedish students

Over the 2012/13 academic year, 28 300 Swedes studied abroad through exchange programmes or as freemover students and language study students with funding from the Swedish National Board of Student Aid. Compared to the previous academic year, exchange students have increased by 4 percent and freemover students by 2 percent. However, the number of Swedes who study language courses abroad has decreased compared to the previous academic year.

Poland gains in popularity

Nearly two out of three Swedes studying abroad study in Europe. The leading countries for studies are the UK, Denmark and Poland. However, increasingly more people are choosing to study in North America and Asia.

The US and the UK were the single largest recipient countries of Swedish students in the 2012/13 academic year. These countries were followed by Denmark, Australia, Poland, France and Spain. However, the students' countries of choice have changed over time. Australia, Spain and France continue to lose students while their numbers increased for countries like Poland, China and Japan.

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List of terms

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| Andel | Share, proportion |
| Antal | Number |
| Avancerad nivå | Second cycle |
| Examen | Degree |
| Examensgrupp | Group of degrees |
| Generell examen | General degree/qualification |
| Geografiskt område | Geographic area |
| Grundnivå | First cycle |
| Humaniora | Humanities |
| Högskola | Higher education institution |
| Högskoleexamen | Higher education qualification/ University diploma (in...) |
| Högskolenybörjare | New entrants |
| Högskoleutbildning | Higher education |
| Inresande studenter | Incoming students/ Students from abroad |
| Inriktning | Field of education |
| Juridik | Law |
| Kandidatexamen | Degree of Bachelor |
| Konstnärlig utbildning | Fine and applied arts |
| Kvinnor | Women |
| Kurs | Course |
| Kön | Sex |
| Land | Country |
| Lantbruk | Agriculture |
| Läsår | Academic year |
| Magisterexamen | Degree of master (One Year) |
| Magisterprogram | Master's programme (One Year) |
| Masterexamen | Degree of master (Two Years) |
| Masterprogram | Master's programme (Two Years) |
| Män | Men |
| Naturvetenskap | Natural science |
| Område | Field |
| Procent | Per cent |
| Program | Programme |
| Program som leder till yrkesexamen | Professional degree programme |
| Registrerade studenter | Students enrolled |
| Samhällsvetenskap | Social and behavioural science |
| Samtliga | All, total |
| Skogsbruk | Forestry |
| Studerande | Student |
| Tabell | Table |
| Teknik | Technology |
| Teologi | Religion and theology |
| Totalt | Total |
| Undervisning | Teacher training |
| Universitet | University |
| Utbildning | Education |
| Utbytesstudent | Exchange student |
| Utresande studenter | Outgoing student/Students travelling abroad |
| Vård och omsorg | Health-related science |
| Ålder | Age |