

Sweden Opportunities for Professionals

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Swedish government which has made significant reforms of immigration policy in several decades has decided to open a new path for those wishing to move to Sweden to work. More liberal Swedish labour migration laws came into force in December 2008. Sweden's policies now welcome those who wish to work and live there to meet both present and future challenges in their labour market. Many companies are facing recruitment problems. Some skills cannot be found in Sweden even though there is still unemployment. Doctors, nurses, engineers, electricians, IT professionals, technicians and welders are some of the professions in shortage in Sweden.

An employer who cannot meet labour needs through recruitment in Sweden or in the European Union will be able to recruit labour from any other country, based on the fulfillment of certain conditions. While processing the residence and work permits, the decision is also based on employer's own assessment of their requirements.

Visiting students who have completed one semester or who have completed one term of research at institutions of higher education can apply for work and residence permits without having to leave Sweden. Swedish work permit will be granted for the duration of employment or for a maximum of two years. If the person is still working, it can be extended once or several times. The total permit period may amount to four years. After four years a permanent residence permit can be granted. The examination of an application for an extension of a work permit takes place in Sweden itself and the applicant need not return home to apply for an extension.

Families may be granted residence permits for the same period that one is granted residence or work permit. Self employed individuals are granted residence permits if they wish to start up or run own business or become part owner of another company.

Sweden's migration and asylum policy are regulated by Ministry of Justice in the Government. Migration, refugee, repatriation and citizenship issues are taken care of by Swedish Migration Board.

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