

# The educational system in Sweden

Compulsory Education	20+	<b>Universitet / Högskola</b> University education	<b>KY</b> Vocational education	<b>Komvux / Folkhögskola</b> Further education	
	19				
	18	<b>Gymnasieskola</b> General secondary education	<b>Gymnasieskola</b> Vocational secondary education		
	17				
	16				
	15	<b>Grundskola</b> Primary education			
	14				
	13				
	12				
	11				
	10				
	9	<b>Förskoleklass</b> Pre-school education			
	8				
	7				
	6	<b>Förskola</b> Pre-school education			
	5				
	4				
	3				
	age				

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## Explanation of the Swedish educational system

<b>1. Pre-school</b>	For those aged 6 (pre-school classes), attendance is voluntary.
<b>2. Primary and lower secondary school</b>	Compulsory schooling begins at the age of 7. It is possible for children to start school at the age of 6 on parental request.  9-year, largely standardised compulsory schooling is the obligatory form of schooling at primary level and at lower secondary level. Compulsory schooling is divided into 3 levels: lower level, intermediate level and upper level. Each level comprises 3 school years. Only at upper level does a limited amount of differentiation take place.
<b>3. Upper secondary education</b>	The 3-year upper secondary school imparts both general and vocational education. Many upper secondary schools offer special courses for the acquisition of basic, low-level vocational qualifications. The final certificate represents a higher education

	<p>entrance qualification.</p> <p>Local authorities are obliged to provide training and vocational guidance, a work placement and a certain extent of teaching to young people between the ages of 16 and 18 who do not apply for a place at upper secondary school, do not receive a training place within the apprenticeship system or who do not enter employment. The plan is to raise the age limit for this to 20 in future.</p>
<p><b>4. Vocational education and training</b></p>	<p>Vocational education and training largely takes place in full-time school institutions at upper secondary level. Alongside the study and vocationally oriented upper secondary schools, there is apprentice training, a combination of teaching in the core subjects offered at upper secondary school and a practical course of vocational education and training which takes place in-company.</p> <p>In 1991, Parliament decided on wide-ranging reforms for upper secondary schools, especially with relation to their vocationally related training courses. Cooperation is being sought between the various training providers, forms of training and local authorities to improve training provision and raise quality. The underlying idea is for as many training providers as possible to be accorded the opportunity to avail themselves of teaching room and equipment. Since the reform, training provision has been organised along 16 training routes which are binding for the whole country.</p> <p>The overall effect of the reform is to increase the integrative character of the upper secondary school through standardisation of duration at 3 years and also standardising the core general education subjects. In vocational education and training, some practical parts of training have been relocated to the companies. It is planned that the respective vocational practical components will constitute at least 15 % of training taking place within the pre-vocational training routes.</p>
<p><b>5. Higher education</b></p>	<p>Higher education study is possible at universities and institutes of higher education. Alongside the possibility of a first degree course of study of up to 4 ½ years' duration and a doctorate building upon a first degree course of at least 2 years, many institutes of higher education offer short courses, some of which have previously been taught as special courses at upper secondary schools and have been upgraded in terms of organisation by their relocation to the field of higher education.</p> <p>Those finishing upper secondary school with sufficient knowledge of Swedish and English and those aged over 25 who are in employment and have at least 5 years of occupational activity and have knowledge of English at upper secondary school level are entitled to apply for a higher education place.</p>