

Competing for places with foreign qualifications

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In a perfect world, everyone who applied to study at a university would be offered a place. Unfortunately, this isn't the current picture in Sweden as there are more applicants to certain courses and programmes than places available.

This means that universities must offer places according to specific regulations. In order to do this in the easiest possible way, students are given a merit rating (meritvärde). Places are offered in order, starting with the person with the highest merit rating, then next highest, and so on.

The following is a description of the various concepts that are used in the admission process tailored to you, the student with foreign upper secondary qualifications.

Check that you have the correct prior knowledge

Regardless of which course or programme you apply for and what study background you have, you must meet the entry requirements in order to compete for a place.

These requirements are divided into general and specific entry requirements. For many courses and programmes, it's enough to meet the general entry requirements. For others, an applicant must also meet the specific entry requirements.

If you have a completed upper secondary education that gives you eligibility for studies at the higher education level in the country where you studied, and meet the general requirements for Swedish and English (sometimes, a certain level of mathematics can also be a requirement), you meet the general entry requirements in Sweden.

Specific entry requirements vary depending on which course or programme you've applied to. Which courses are required depends on the programme's specialisation. For example, if you apply for a social work programme, you need to have knowledge in the social sciences, while an engineering programme requires deeper knowledge in mathematics.

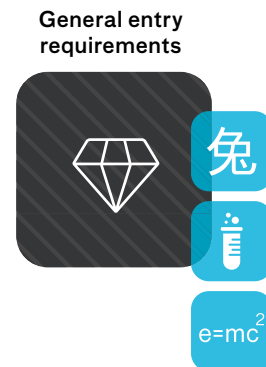
Do I need supplementary upper secondary courses?

If you don't have the courses required, you can take the missing courses at an adult education centre (komvux).

If you've taken a supplementary course in order to meet a higher education level course or programme's entry requirements, you'll be placed in a specific selection group which includes those who have supplementary courses. You will not be placed in the direct selection group for those who meet the requirements without supplementary courses. This, however, does not apply if you have taken Swedish, English or mathematics courses to meet the gen-

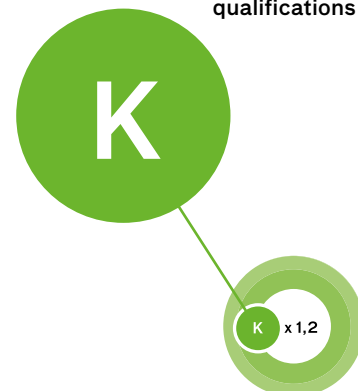


Merit rating



General entry requirements

Specific entry requirements



Supplementary qualifications



eral entry requirements. If you've taken courses in order to meet the general entry requirements, you'll be placed in the direct selection group.

The supplementary selection group has fewer places than the direct group, but this won't necessarily affect your chances of being offered a place. This is because the number of applicants with or without supplementary courses changes from year to year, as does their grades.

Do I need to raise my merit rating?

If you wish to raise your grades, which impacts your merit rating, you can take courses at komvux. This is called additional supplementation (tilläggskomplettering).

Another way to increase your chances of being offered a place is to take the Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test (Högskoleprovet). Students who have completed this test are placed in their own selection group.

The path to your merit rating

In order to receive a merit rating, foreign upper secondary education and your supplementary courses from komvux must be examined.

Re-calculate your foreign grades to the Swedish grading scale

In order to have a course value in the Swedish grading scale, your grades must first be translated to a scale of 10.00 – 20.00. You can use the merit rating calculator "räknehjälpen" (only in Swedish) at Antagning.se in order to re-calculate your foreign course value (grade average). The result of this re-calculation is called the preliminary merit rating (preliminära meritvärde). This does not include any supplemental courses taken at komvux.

Check your merit point (credit implement) compensation

Students with Swedish grades can receive merit points (also called credit implements), while students with a foreign upper secondary education can receive merit point compensation. After you've calculated your preliminary merit rating, the next step is to find out what merit point compensation you are eligible for. The number

of points you can add depends on your grades, reflected in your preliminary merit rating. These additional points are called merit point compensation. You can receive a maximum of 2.5 points. Remember that your merit point compensation is based on your preliminary merit rating which excludes your supplemental courses from komvux.

Table for merit point compensation:

Preliminary merit rating	Mc	Preliminary merit rating	Mc
10,00-11,99	0,50	16,00-16,99	1,75
12,00-12,99	0,75	17,00-17,99	2,00
13,00-13,99	1,00	18,00-18,99	2,25
14,00-14,99	1,25	19,00-20,00	2,50
15,00-15,99	1,50		

Add your supplementary course grades

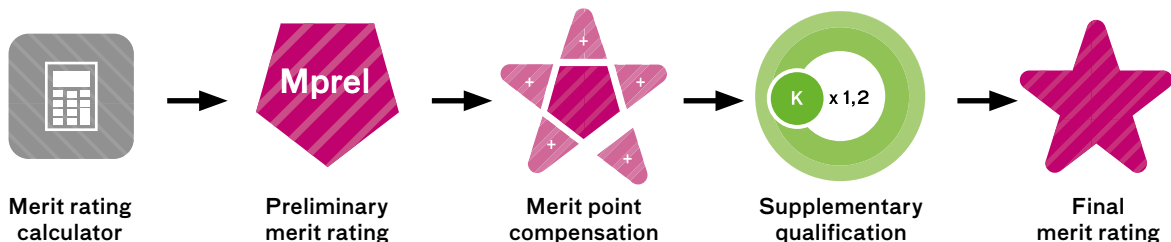
Before your merit point compensation value can be added, you must first calculate in your komvux grades. All supplementary grades from komvux are multiplied with 1.2. This means that all courses you study in order to meet the entry requirements will be multiplied with a factor of 1.2, regardless of whether you receive a low or high grade. The courses you studied in order to raise your merit rating are only calculated in if they actually raise your merit rating.

Remember that...

If you study courses that are not needed to meet the entry requirements, they must be included in the list of courses that can raise your merit rating (Kurser som kan höja) found on Antagning.se. In order for the course to be included and hence increase your merit rating, it must be at the same or higher level than the subject you have in your foreign upper secondary grades.

Your final merit rating

The path to your final merit rating starts with your original foreign upper secondary school grade average and ends with your re-calculated preliminary merit rating, passing along the way through merit point compensation and supplementary grades from komvux.



What selection group will I wind up in?

When you have acquired the knowledge needed, you are placed in a selection group. Which group you are placed in depends on your study background.

When looking at all the places available in a course or programme, at least 1/3 of the places must go to applicants with grades, and another 1/3 to applicants with a result from the högskoleprovet (Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test). The university can decide themselves who they wish to award up to 1/3 of the places available, for example through interviews or portfolios.

The grades selection group is divided into three groups: Betygsgrupp I (grades group I) "BI", betygsgrupp II (grades group II) "BII" and folkhögskolegruppen (folk high school group) "BF".

In grades group I (BI), often called the direct group, are students who meet the entry requirements for their course or programme with their foreign upper secondary qualifications plus grades in Swedish, English and in some cases mathematics. In grades group II (BII) are students who have completed supplemental courses at komvux in order to meet the entry requirements, or to raise their merit rating.

Will I be offered a place?

It's impossible to predict if a student will be offered a place. There are several factors that contribute to a person's chances in any semester, including how many have applied for the course or programme, the merit ratings of those students, etc. In general, the better the merit rating you have, the better chance you have of being offered a place in the course or programme you've applied to.

Check previous years' statistics

You can get an idea of what merit rating is usually required for a course or programme by consulting the statistics database. You can find it at the website of the Swedish Council for Higher Education at www.uhr.se. This database is only available in Swedish.

Find out more

A guidance counsellor can help you with your questions. You can find one at upper secondary schools, komvux, folkhögskola, and universities. It doesn't matter if you're not yet a student, or even thinking about studying at any of these locations. A guidance counsellor will help you with your questions.

Swedish Scholastic Aptitude Test

