

The Swedish Folk High School

In the Swedish Folk High School (Folkhögskola) the education is based on the students' needs, previous knowledge and experience. The education at the Swedish Folk High School is free of charge. At all Folk High Schools you can catch up to an

UPPER SECONDARY SCHOOL LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND QUALIFY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION. FOLK HIGH SCHOOLS ARE INDEPENDENT, AND THE RANGE OF COURSES VARIES FROM SCHOOL TO SCHOOL.

General Course

There are several different types of courses at the Folk High Schools. The most common one is called General Courses (Allmän kurs/Behörighetsgivande kurs), which you can study at all Folk High Schools. On a general course you can catch up to a secondary and upper-secondary school level of knowledge and qualify for higher education. Among other subjects, you will study Swedish, English, mathematics and social studies. You will not receive grades from a General Course. Instead, the student receives a study assessment that is specific for the Folk High School.

Special Courses

At the Folk High School, you can also study Special Courses (Profilkurser) where you can immerse yourself in a particular area of interest. A Special Course may be centred on music, media, arts and crafts, drama, language etc. In the Special Courses, you cannot qualify for further studies nor are you given a study assessment.

Vocational Courses

There are also several Vocational Courses (Yrkesutbildningar) at the Folk High Schools. Maybe you want to become a journalist, youth recreation leader, treatment assistant or personal assistant. The list of Vocational Courses available at the country's Folk High Schools is long.

Boarding school and distance learning

Many Folk High Schools have boarding for students to live at the school while studying. Having a hard time getting to a Folk High School? It does not have to be a hindrance. There are a wide variety of distance learning courses (distanskurser) that you can participate in without the need for physical attendance.

Costs, admission requirements and student aid

The actual education at the Folk High Schools is free. But you do pay for textbooks and other study material required to complete a course. Some Folk High Schools also charge a mandatory fee for lunch. If you are at a boarding school while studying, you also pay for room and board. Costs of field trips and study trips could also be added.

Anyone who is over 18 has the right to study at a Folk High School. In some

cases you may be admitted to a Folk High School even if you are under 18. For this to be possible your municipality must pay for your place.


It is important to remember that all teaching is in Swedish. In order to study on a course at the Folk High School, the minimum requirement is that you have studied Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) at a beginner's level or have corresponding knowledge of the language. There are special courses for immigrants who can only speak a little Swedish. If you know enough Swedish you are welcome to study the General Course or Special Course right away.

As a student at a Folk High School, you can apply for student aid from the National Board of Student Aid (Centrala studiestödsnämnden, CSN).

www.folkhogskola.nu

At www.folkhogskola.nu you will find information on all Swedish Folk High Schools and their courses.

There is no central admission to the Folk High Schools. Each Folk High School is responsible for admissions to their school and have their own application form which you should use when you apply. Most Folk High Schools have their own websites where you can apply directly to the various courses. You will find links to the schools' websites at folkhogskola.nu.



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Background

The Folk High School is a form of education that has existed in Sweden for over 100 years. There are 150 Folk High Schools in Sweden. About 110 of these are linked to various social movements and non-profit associations. About 40 Folk High Schools are operated by county councils and regions.

The Folk High Schools are financed by grants from the state and county councils. The government has the following objectives for the state's contribution to civic education:

- Strengthen and develop democracy.
- Make it possible for people to influence their life situation and create participative involvement in societal development.
- Bridge educational gaps and raise the level of education and cultural awareness in society.
- Broaden the interest for and increase participation in cultural life.