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The Swedish parliament has passed a law outlining tuition and application fees for students not from an EU/EEA country or Switzerland. These fees will apply from the 2011/2012 academic year but will be supplemented by scholarship programs.

More information on fees can now be found in the section [**Fees and costs**](#).

Up until now, Sweden has been one of the few countries in Europe that has not charged any types of fees. All students—regardless of nationality—have been funded by Swedish taxpayers. Global competition for talent is increasing sharply and the government wants Swedish universities to compete on equal terms with universities in other countries. In the last decade, the number of foreign students has more than tripled, totaling 36,000 in 2008/2009. The government now wants to reallocate some of this money to award higher education institutions that show particular excellence.



Photo: Hans Bjurling/[Image Bank Sweden](#)

As a member of the European Union, the rules for Swedes also apply to citizens of other EU or EEA countries, and Switzerland. Exchange students are also exempt from fees, as their studies are regulated by agreements between Swedish and foreign universities. Thus, the new rules apply only to free movers from outside the EU/EEA studying at the bachelor's or master's level. PhD programs will continue to be tuition-free.

As these non-EU/EEA students add value to the Swedish educational system and are an attractive talent base, the government will introduce two scholarship programs. These scholarships will be available to bachelor's and master's students.

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Starting in 2011, one of the scholarship programs will be endowed with [SEK 30 million](#) per year, and is aimed at students from countries with which Sweden already has long-term development cooperations. These countries are **Bangladesh, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.**

Another scholarship program will be administered by universities directly and is open to all students from outside the EU/EEA. The budget will be SEK 30 million (€ 3 million) for 2011, and will be increased to SEK 60 million for 2012.

This will give qualified students who lack the appropriate funding the continued opportunity to study in Sweden. Additionally, foreign students subject to fees and with a residence permit of at least one year would be fully insured through the national health care system.

Moreover, the Swedish government recently introduced more liberal labor migration laws, making it much easier to move to Sweden for work—or stay in Sweden after studies. Students that have a job when their student permit expires can easily change this into a work permit. Also, there is no set quota for work permits for foreign citizens.

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