Plan your stay
You have accepted our job offer and you are going to move to Sweden – congratulations (to all of us)!

It’s easy to become overwhelmed by the many practical arrangements to be sorted before you move, even if you’ve done it before – this is (yet) another country, with its own bureaucracy.

We’ve compiled a list of things to think about before getting here. And, just to soften the blow even more, we have another step-by-step guide for when you are here and are getting settled. And a welcome package. You’ll find these here.

Get all your documents in order and apply for a visa and/or permits

The Swedish Migration Agency has experienced some tough years with a heavy work load, making the waiting times for residence permits very long. Both you and your host department are key players when preparing all the necessary documents. If your application (one for each family member) is incomplete, the waiting time doubles or triples. The first thing to do now is to renew your passport. You’ll only get a residence permit in Sweden for as long as your passport is valid.

Do you need a visa to enter Sweden? Check the list here and if you’re a citizen of any country on it, contact your nearest Swedish embassy or consulate to apply. If you need a visa to enter Sweden, your residence permit will be issued at the same time as your visa.

Doctoral students apply for residence permits here.
(Visiting) researchers whose employment at Lund University mostly involves research: link here
Employment at Lund University not formally in an academic position (project manager, technical work, etc.): link here
Six months later…. (it could be less!) – see below what documents you should have at hand when travelling.

Find a home

Finding a place to live will probably be among the most difficult tasks you’ll encounter when moving here. Prepare yourself mentally that you may need to change your address more than once. And that dream apartment in the centre of Lund with a reasonable rent – doesn’t exist. Subletting is the most common form of renting in Lund: A person who has the lease on a flat (i.e. not the flat’s landlord) rents the flat to you. It is also possible get a sublet from someone who is the tenant-owner of a flat or who owns a house. Living somewhere else and commuting to Lund is easy, so perhaps consider living in Eslöv, Landskrona, Höör is an option?

But first: Contact your host department and ask them if you’re eligible to rent accommodation via Lund University. Read up on general info about housing. Actual advertisements for available accommodation (and put in a “Wanted” advert on the Blocket website yourself a.s.a.p.):

- Blocket
- Bopoolen
- LKF
- Bostadsdeal
- Bostadsportal
- Bostad Direkt

A digital version with clickable links is found on http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/about/work-at-lund-university
Arrange for (pre)school

In Sweden, education is free from the age of 6 to 19 and pre-school costs next to nothing. Finding the right school can be rather tricky and, as often in Sweden, queuing is the key. The sooner you begin the enrolment procedures for your child/ren at the local municipality, the better. This goes for preschool as well.

If you live in one municipality and want your child/ren to go to school in another, you might experience longer waiting times to get a place. If you want your child/ren to go to an international school, you couldn’t have chosen a better part of Sweden – there are options for all ages. Read up on general info about the Swedish school system.

Information about schools, City of Lund where you’ll find information about international schools as well:

Information about schools in Malmö where you’ll find information about international schools as well:

Information about schools in Helsingborg is found here (in Swedish). Information about international school: International School of Helsingborg.

Taxes, cost of living, etc.

Many Swedes tolerate the high taxes because they pay for a largely fair and well-functioning society, with decent public services and a universal safety net. And be prepared – we pay tax on everything. Before you move here, you should take some time to investigate exactly what your (including your family’s) individual tax situation will be once you’re here, to avoid any surprises later on: Should you sell your house in your home country before leaving? What happens if you do it while living in Sweden? Will the Swedish Tax Agency want you to pay taxes on what’s in your savings account in your home country? To get an overview of what things actually cost in Sweden compared to the country you’re leaving, see Cost of living in Sweden.

Social security

One of the perks of high income tax is that Sweden has a good social security system. Well, the system itself could be easier to comprehend and you may hear Swedes complain about “Försäkringskassan” more than they complain about the Tax Agency. Försäkringskassan is the Swedish national social insurance agency which is responsible for determining which benefits you’re eligible for. Read more about what’s in it for you here.

Insurance

Depending on whether you’re going to be an employee at Lund University or you’re here as a guest or on a
scholarship, you’ll be covered by different kinds of insurance – most of them work-related and some of them connected to the Swedish health care system. Check what insurance cover, if any, you bring with you from your home country before coming to Sweden.

Please note that we don’t have any private health insurance in Sweden and that you will need to take out a private insurance for your home here and any private travel. If you are an EU citizen, be sure to take your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) with you; the same goes for all your family members. Read more about insurance policies at Lund University.

Work opportunities for spouses

Lund University works closely together with the International Citizen Hub in Lund, an initiative of the City of Lund. They organise “Kick Start Programmes” for spouses – programmes helping individuals to get into the Swedish labour market. They work together with the Swedish Public Employment Agency. This agency can be helpful to all job-seekers. They have a special unit responsible for information for job-seekers about work, working conditions and living conditions in Sweden and in other EU/EEA countries called EURES.

Lund University is also always on the lookout for highly qualified people (as you know by now).

Learning Swedish

You and your family will have no trouble being understood in Sweden if you speak English. Having said this, most things (especially if your spouse wants a job in Sweden or you want to take up sports or other leisure activities) will undoubtedly be easier if you can speak at least a little Swedish. Lund University offers Swedish courses for employees but if you and your family would like to start practising Swedish before you get here, check out the possibilities on Learn Swedish and Study Swedish on the Internet.

Bringing your things?

There are specific rules for bringing items such as vehicles, food, medicines, etc. into Sweden. And, obviously, also for pets. The Swedish Customs have extensive information about rules and regulations here.

Car in Sweden?

Check whether your current driving license is valid in Sweden and other questions concerning having a car in Sweden. Parking in Lund is, by the way, often described as a very expensive exercise. Parking spaces are scarce and the paying system not always easy to navigate. FAQs on driving licenses.

Have these documents at hand when travelling

- Passports (for every family member)
- Residence permit/s incl. official letter from the Swedish Migration Board showing that you have received a permit to enter Sweden (non-EU-citizens only)
- National Identity Card from your country of origin
- Driving license
- Marriage or domestic partnership certificate for a spouse joining you in Sweden
- Birth certificates for children joining you in Sweden

Swedish culture – what you should know

- 20 things to know before moving to Sweden

Working in Sweden

- Working in Sweden

Planning your move

- 10 steps for planning your move to Sweden

Arriving

- How to get from Copenhagen airport to Lund

Coming to Lund

- Visit Lund
- International citizen hub
- The official visitor site of Malmö
- Visit Helsingborg

A digital version with clickable links is found on http://www.lunduniversity.lu.se/about/work-at-lund-university