

Recommendation on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad

Done by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF) General Assembly of 16 March 2023.

This recommendation states that universities and university colleges in Sweden apply common principles of automatic recognition of qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods in the European Higher Education Area (EEA and EHEA). This is done by the fact that the Swedish higher education institution in its activities, based on shared values about academic freedom and responsibility¹, follows current Swedish legislation and applies recommendations done by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions as shown below.

1. The Swedish higher education institution applies the principles for recognition according to the European Council's recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad², in accordance with Swedish legislation against the background of the Lisbon Recognition Convention³ with subsidiary texts and the quality assurance that takes place through the Bologna process⁴.
2. The Swedish higher education institution applies automatic recognition when an upper secondary education and training qualification giving access to higher education in the Member State where this qualification was granted is recognised, without having to go through a separate recognition procedure, only for the purpose of giving access to higher education, in Sweden. The higher education institution still has right to set specific admission criteria for specific programmes or to check the authenticity of documents. The Swedish higher education institution follows national legislation in chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), and national recommendations on assessment done by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions⁵, which includes principles on automatic recognition.
3. The Swedish higher education institution applies automatic recognition when a higher education qualification acquired in one EEA or EHEA-country is recognised at the same level, without having to go through a separate recognition procedure, for the purpose of accessing further studies, in Sweden. The higher education institution still has right to set specific admission criteria for specific programmes or to check the authenticity of documents. The Swedish higher education institution follows national legislation in chapter 7 of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), and national recommendations on assessment done by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions⁶, which includes principles on automatic recognition.

4. The Swedish higher education institution applies automatic recognition when the outcomes from a learning period abroad at higher education level in one EEA or EHEA-country are automatically and fully recognised by the Swedish higher education institution, as agreed beforehand in a learning agreement and confirmed in the Transcript of Records. It is done when the student is given credit for the outcomes by the higher education institution, by the premisses above, and in accordance with the national legislation in chapter 6 section 6 and 8 of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100), when the student asks for it.

¹ Magna Charta Universitatum 2020. Declaration on academic freedom and the role of universities in society. (magna-charta.org)

² Council recommendation of 26 November 2018 on promoting automatic mutual recognition of higher education and upper secondary education and training qualifications and the outcomes of learning periods abroad. (europa.eu)

³ The Lisbon Recognition Convention. Convention on the recognition of qualifications concerning higher education in the European region. (regeringen.se)

⁴ The Bologna process – The European Higher Education Area. The Bologna declaration, the qualifications framework, QF-EHEA, and the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Higher Education, ESG. (eha.info)

⁵ Recommendations done by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions National Assessment Group for Admissions (NBA) in assessment handbooks. (uhr.se)

⁶ Ibid.

This document is a translation from Swedish to English and is made for information purposes only. In the event of discrepancies, the Swedish-language version takes precedence.