

OCTOBER 2020 |

MIGRATION UPDATE



About the Migration Agency

In Sweden, the Migration Agency is the authority that considers applications from people who want to live in Sweden, visit or work in the country, seek protection from persecution or be granted Swedish citizenship.

The Swedish Migration Agency is commissioned by parliament and government, who set the Swedish asylum and migration policy.

COVID-19 reshapes how and where people work

The COVID-19 pandemic is drastically reshaping how and where people work. Travel restrictions between borders, lockdowns, entry bans stop repatriation and new assignments are postponed.

The effects of the pandemic are also reflected in the Swedish Migration Board's operations. There has been almost a 50% reduction of the number of new applications. In asylum, work permits and student affairs, the effects are most obvious. As a result, 172 employees at the Migration Agency are now at the risk being laid off due to lack of work.

This change has also affected our work. The number of first-time applications has decreased. However, there has been a great increase in the number of applications for extensions of work- and residence permits and for permanent residency as international talents are forced to remain in their host country longer than planned.

Also, this uncertain time is reflected in the number of questions and requests we receive. Typically, the questions we now get are about how changes to the employment can affect work permits as an effect of lay-offs or short-time work schemes.

We are here to help. Navigating an immigration process with all that it takes to bring talents to their new assignments on time is difficult enough, even without a pandemic.

Travel bans

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) has extended the advice against travel to countries outside the EU, the EEA, the Schengen area, and the United Kingdom until 15 November. The latest changes can be followed [here](#).

Support for short-time work allowance

The Swedish Government has presented many different measures to fight the coronavirus. Companies that are under severe pressure because of the coronavirus can get financial support. The state covers a large part of the costs so that businesses can retain their employees. One of these measures is the support for short-time work allowance.

If you as an employer receive support for short-time work allowance and are about to hire new employees, you need to answer questions about this in the Swedish Migration Agency's e-service for job offers. Why? In some cases, the Swedish Migration Agency investigates whether you as an employer have the financial means to hire new staff. Support for short-term work is part of that assessment. If the employee is applying for the first time, the system will ask questions about short-time work allowance during the application process. You must write a clear motivation and attach the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth's decision email about the support.

We are here to help. Navigating an immigration process with all that it takes to bring talents to their new assignments on time is difficult enough even without a pandemic.



*Behind every number
is a human being...*

Cancellation of work- and residence permits

The Migration Agency advises that anyone who is unable to start their work within the stipulated four-month-period is to cancel their work- and residence permit and then re-apply when it is possible to take up the employment in Sweden. If not, there may be subsequent difficulties when the employee is due to apply for permanent residency. One of the conditions applicable for permanent residency is that you may not have been out of Sweden for more than four months during the 48-month-period qualifying for permanent residency.

Did you know that KEY Relocation is part of the Swedish Migration Agency's certificate program? This enables us to offer our clients a fast-track immigration process for their non-EU employees in Sweden. Regardless of whether you are hiring a non- EU citizen or EU citizen, we make sure that you apply for all the correct permits required and that they are compliant with local requirements.

Questions? Call +46 (0)31-405966 or send us an email: info@keyrelocation.se