

JULY 2021 |

# 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.*

## New Migration Law

On 22 June 2021, the Swedish Government passed a new migration law. Here are some of the key changes:

- Residence permits granted in accordance with the Aliens Act for, among others, people in need of protection, should as a general rule be time-limited.
- Permanent residence permits must be granted at the earliest after the foreigner has had a time-limited residence permit for at least three years, and only if certain special requirements are met.
- The protection category "other persons in need of protection" is removed from the Aliens Act.
- It shall be possible to grant a residence permit (to someone who has a connection to a foreigner who has a temporary residence permit in certain cases.

- The maintenance requirement that applies as a general rule in the case of family immigration shall include a requirement that the sponsor can also support the family member.
- An adult who has resided in Sweden with a residence permit and during that time developed a special connection to Sweden shall be able to be granted a residence permit if the circumstances call for particularly compassionate grounds.

*Do you have a questions about the new Migration law?  
Don't hesitate to contact us!*

### **Temporary residence permits**

Since the temporary migration law was introduced in 2016 temporary permits have been the norm in Sweden, but before that permanent permits were the default since 1984.

The new migration law proposes that refugees should be given three-year residence permits and people in need of subsidiary protection should be given 13-month residence permits. Each new temporary permit granted after that should last for two years, but the person could also receive a permanent residence permit after three years if they meet the requirements

### **Permanent residence permits**

Permanent residence permits will be granted only to foreigners who “meet the requirements of Swedish language skills and civic knowledge, who can support themselves, and where there is no doubt, with regard to the alien’s expected way of life, that a permanent residence permit should be granted”.

This is a big change; there is currently no requirement of language skills or civic knowledge for either permanent residency or even Swedish citizenship.

It would apply not only to asylum seekers, but also to other foreign residents who want to upgrade their status to permanent residency, including study and work permit holders. The details are vague, but it would in its current form likely mean that for example doctoral students, who are currently able to get permanent residency after four years of doctoral studies, would have to make sure they learn Swedish alongside their studies.

The full report is available in Swedish [here](#)



*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...*

### **COVID vaccine pass Sweden**

Sweden's government has presented plans for a vaccine pass to facilitate travel within the EU. Good to know:

- It will be in place from July 1st
- It will be possible to apply for the pass using a samordningsnummer if you don't have a personnummer.
- It will also be possible to get the pass if you had your first vaccine dose overseas and your second in Sweden.
- If you received both doses in another EU country, you should apply for that country's version of the pass. (The situation remains unclear for people who received both doses outside the EU).
- In order to get the Swedish version, you will be able to apply for the pass from July 1st on [this website](#):
- This requires a digital ID, such as BankID, but the website will also have instructions on how to apply using a paper form, for people without the digital ID.
- To begin with, the pass will only show whether or not you have been vaccinated against Covid-19, and how many doses of the vaccine you have received (it is up to each individual country to decide if they will accept travellers with both doses or only one).

### **Travelling to Sweden? Here are the latest updates**

The Government has extended until 31 August 2021 the general entry ban for foreign citizens who are not able to present a vaccination certificate, a negative COVID-19 test result, or a certificate confirming the recovery from COVID-19.

- Children under the age of six are exempted from the recommendation for testing but must follow the recommendation to stay at home for at least seven days after arrival in Sweden.

- Travellers from the Nordic countries (Finland, Norway, Denmark, and Iceland) are exempted from the COVID-19 test requirement. This also applies to people with residence permits in Sweden, regardless of citizenship.

- Travellers from the following countries do NOT need to get tested upon arrival in Sweden: Andorra, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Croatia, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Switzerland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, the Vatican City and Austria.

To stay updated, visit [Re-open EU](#):

### **EU Blue Card**

Planning on making an offer of employment to a citizen of a non-EU country? Did you know they might be able to apply for an EU Blue card? Provided they have higher professional qualifications, such as a university degree, and an employment contract or a binding job offer with a high salary (compared to the average in the EU country where the job is) it gives them the right to live and work in 25 out of the 28 EU countries (it does not apply in Denmark, Ireland and the United Kingdom). [Here](#) you will find more information.

**Questions?** Call +46 (0)31-405966 or send us an email:  
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