MOVING TO SWEDEN: YOUR STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

You’ve found a job and obtained a work permit: congratulations! Don’t be overwhelmed by the many practical arrangements to be sorted out before your move. We’ve collected a list of everything you need to think about before getting on the plane – and after you arrive.

1 FIND A HOME
A city centre flat or a country farm-house? Get started on finding a home as soon as possible, especially if you’ll be living in a big city like Stockholm, Gothenburg or Malmö.

2 ARRANGE DAYCARE OR SCHOOL
Investigate the different options available and get in touch with your local city council to begin the enrolment procedures for your children.

3 START LEARNING SWEDISH
Even if you’ll be speaking English at your workplace, a basic understanding of Swedish will be invaluable to you in order to integrate into Swedish society. E-courses and apps are available to help you get a grasp on the language before you arrive.

4 BRINGING A PET?
Check current regulations for bringing animals to Sweden to ensure your four-legged friend’s migration process goes as smoothly as your own.

   Swedish Board of Agriculture
   Swedish Customs: Bringing animals to Sweden

5 BRINGING YOUR THINGS?
Check with Swedish Customs if you’re unsure of the rules regarding bringing a specific item with you (particularly food, medicine, tobacco, alcohol, vehicles and anything very expensive). Make sure to pack warm clothes, and remember – even if you come with no furniture, you’re always near an IKEA!

6 CHECK DRIVING LICENCE REGULATIONS
If you’re planning to drive a car in Sweden, check up on whether you can use your current licence or if you’ll need a new one. Familiarise yourself with Swedish road rules, signs and parking regulations.

7 APPLY FOR A VISA TO ENTER SWEDEN (NON-EU ONLY)
Citizens of certain non-EU countries will need a visa to enter Sweden. The Migration Board has a list of countries whose citizens require a visa to enter Sweden. If your country is on the list, contact your nearest Swedish embassy or consulate to learn more and apply. If you need a visa to enter Sweden, your residence permit will be issued at the same time as your visa.
**PREPARE YOUR DOCUMENTATION**

Get the following documents ready and have them to hand at all times during your trip:

- A valid national passport from your country of origin
- Your residence permit card, or your official letter from the Migration Board showing that you have received a work permit (non-EU citizens)
- National identity card from your country of origin
- Your driving licence (if you have one)
- Passports or identity documents for any accompanying family members
- Family members’ work and/or residence permits
- Marriage or domestic partnership certificate for a spouse joining you in Sweden
- Birth certificates for children joining you in Sweden

**REGISTER AT THE SWEDISH TAX AGENCY**

Your golden ticket to all aspects of life in Sweden is the personal identity number you’ll receive from the Swedish Tax Agency after arriving and registering. Make your visit as soon as possible to expedite the process.

**REGISTER YOUR RIGHT OF RESIDENCE (EU ONLY)**

If you’re an EU citizen, you won’t receive a work or residence permit. Instead, register your right of residence at the Swedish Migration Board within three months of your arrival.

**OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT**

A Swedish bank account is a must: many day-to-day transactions take place through simple online bank transfers, and you’ll usually have your salary paid by direct deposit.

**REGISTER FOR YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT CARD (NON-EU ONLY)**

Citizens of non-EU countries who do not require a visa to enter Sweden will apply for a residence permit card after entering Sweden.

**REGISTER AT THE SWEDISH SOCIAL INSURANCE AGENCY**

Register with the Swedish Social Insurance Agency to have access to various benefits.

**SIGN UP FOR SWEDISH COURSES**

Once you have a personal identity number, you can sign up for free Swedish courses arranged by the government: SFI. Some larger employers also offer Swedish lessons for new international employees.

**JOIN A UNION**

Though this step is entirely voluntary, there are many benefits to joining a union. A representative at your workplace may offer information on the relevant union, or you can investigate yourself. Many unions arrange unemployment insurance funds for members, offering financial support if you should become unemployed.

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**YOU’VE ARRIVED: WELCOME!**

Take a few days to get settled, explore your new home and meet the neighbours. Once the jet lag starts to taper off and you’re saying hej! like a local, get started on these next steps.

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Read more about working in Sweden at work.sweden.se, an official source for information about working in Sweden. It is funded, produced, developed, maintained and operated by the Swedish Institute.

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