

# Higher Education in Sweden

## Introduction

Contrary to what many think, Sweden is a big country. In fact the area of Sweden is larger than California, and nearly as large as France or Spain.

For many around the world Sweden is known as a country of peace. Since 1814, Sweden has not been actively involved in any wars, which has been the most important prerequisite for the build-up of the modern Swedish welfare state.

The country is often described in terms of contrasts; innovative modernity and historical tradition, high technology and magnificent natural settings, rationality and beauty, land and water. Sweden is also known by its multinational brands, such as IKEA, Ericsson, Volvo and H&M. During the 20th century, Sweden evolved quickly from a poor agrarian country to one of the world's strongest industrial nations. The point of departure for this "Swedish industrial miracle" was the country's natural wealth of forests and ore, as well as a long series of ingenious inventions and an entrepreneurial tradition.

In Sweden the fruits of this economic success have been distributed more evenly among the population than in perhaps any other country. Sweden has become known world-wide for its high general standard of living, with publicly financed systems of economic security for all people in all phases of life.



## **Sweden in brief**

Capital: Stockholm

Language: Swedish, English widely spoken

Government: Constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy

Currency: Swedish krona (SEK)

Area: 450,000 square kilometres, the fifth largest country in Europe

Population: 9.6 million

Population of major cities including suburbs: Stockholm (2,019,200)

Gothenburg (918,000) Malmö (647,300)

Time zone: GMT+1

GDP per capita (PPP): SEK 352,000

## **Stockholm**

Stockholm is the capital of Sweden with some 1.8 million inhabitants. It is located between the lake Malaren and the Baltic Sea in the middle of the country.

Even if it has a long history, Stockholm is an innovative place where new attractions and activities constantly emerge. This is the heart of Swedish trade and business life. Today financial services, IT, biomedicine, environmental technology and the rapidly increasing “experience industry” (media, design etc.) are among Stockholm’s most prominent industries. Naturally Stockholm also provides a full range of events within culture and sports. Stockholm’s location, situated on islands, means that you are always close to water. This offers spectacular views and outstanding activities, such as fishing in the heart of the city, sailing or ice-skating in the large archipelago – often described as a unique natural experience with its more than 24 000 islands, of which only 150 are inhabited throughout the whole year.



### **Marsta in Sigtuna Municipality**

For more than a thousand years, people have come together in our municipality. It started with King Erik the Victorious, which in its ambition to create a mälardalskt domination resulted in Sweden's first town, Sigtuna.

In another place in the municipality moves more than 18 million visitors in a year. The location is the airport, the largest airport. Of course do not stop all of these 18 million people in our community, but many do. Statistics show that the municipality of Sigtuna is in fourth place in number of hotel nights. It's just the three large cities that are ahead of us. Nature, culture and history beckons, but and our tradition alma mater.

Buses, light rail, E4, SJ's trains and the airport makes traveling easy in Sigtuna. The train to Uppsala in 20 minutes and it takes just as long to Stockholm. If you choose the pendulum is the travel time to the capital 40 minutes. Getting to the airport rarely take more than one quarter and it takes just as long to travel by bus between Sigtuna and Marsta.

### **Marsta Jamaat**

Who would ever have dreamt or thought that right at the North Pole, Muslims and in particular, Shia brethren would be found !

But surely Allah Subhanahu Wa ta'ala has a purpose for placing his people up here. The history of this community does not differ very much from that of other Muslim communities in the western world.

There are currently approximately 120 voting Members of the Jamaat, which when including family members translates to approximately 180 individuals. The Jamaat was formed in 1978, and thus we celebrated our 35 year jubilee in 2013. Alhamdulillah we always try to develop and improve the scope of our activities and Lillah services from the South to the North of Sweden covering some 1800 kms.

Marsta, within the greater Stockholm boundary, serves as a focal point for the local community. Being blessed with this geographical abode, Alhamdulillah our youth have the opportunity to study at two great places of academia, i.e. the city of Stockholm and the city of Uppsala.

The Jamaat's spiritual and social needs are Alhamdulillah catered for at the Zainabiya Islamic Centre, which was officially opened by Marhum Al-Hajj Mulla Asgharali MM Jaffer in 1993.

Our sincere hope is that brothers and sisters from around the world feel welcome to join us as either temporary members while studying here, or even as permanent ones.



### **Practice of Religion**

It is not because Sweden is more dangerous than other European and Western countries in regards to diverting our youth from religion, but we surely believe that it is important to protect our faith and Iman at all times, and therefore, we indeed recommend that students and our community members stay close to the Jamaat.

Sweden has been transformed in a very short period from a relatively homogeneous country into a multi-ethnic and multicultural society. Compared to many Western countries, Sweden has been very generous in its immigration policy and this has successively led to that the population enjoys freedom of religion both in theory and in practice. Therefore, Alhamdulillah, e.g. Hijab can freely be practised without confrontation.

Although fast food restaurants serving halal meat are quite sparse (compared to e.g. the UK), the availability of getting halal groceries is not a problem. Inshallah upon arrival, we feel it our responsibility to guide and help our brothers and sisters so that they feel most comfortable Inshallah!

### **Contact Information**

We the Managing Committee of Stockholm Jamaat hope that this concise summary of Marsta Jamaat and attached document of studying in Sweden will Inshallah raise the interest of our fellow Khoja brothers and sisters around the world to apply for Higher Education in Sweden.

If you require help with applying or any other information regarding studying in Sweden, do not hesitate to contact us at the Marsta Jamaat (e-mail & website below). We look forward to assist you in anyway possible.

On behalf of the Marsta Jamaat,  
Salaam and Du'a  
Faysal Pirmohamed

secretariat@zainabiya.se  
<http://www.zainabiya.se>

Below in information from <http://studyinsweden.se> even attached as full pdf.

## **WELCOME TO SWEDEN**

Success in today's world is based on coming up with new ideas and Sweden is one of the most creative, well-educated and free-thinking countries in the world.

No matter whether you want to win a Nobel Prize, invent the next pacemaker or Skype, or start a career at Volvo or Ericsson, Sweden's world-class educational system will give you the tools necessary to succeed today – and tomorrow.

## **CHOOSE SWEDEN**

### **Inside our universities**

Universities nurture creativity and critical thinking

Sweden is one of the most innovative countries in the world, despite having a population of less than 10 million. Its inventiveness comes not from vast numbers, but from flexible minds educated at Swedish universities.

Swedish classrooms have helped create a uniquely informal environment that promotes student interaction and greater direct contact with professors. This extra freedom for students encourages creativity and critical thinking, supports collaboration between students instead of competition, and makes work in groups a normal part of study.

This system helps create forward-thinking, perceptive team players who are attractive on the global job market.

### **Academic excellence**

Swedish universities have been fine-tuning their teaching methods since the foundation of Uppsala University in the 15th century. Sweden is home to world-class education and research in many areas including – but not limited to – sustainability, business, design, life sciences, biotechnology, engineering, human rights and international relations.

While international rankings tell only a part of the story, the Swedish higher education system is ranked as No.2 in the world by Universitas 21 which is the leading global network of research universities for the 21st century.

### **English skills among the best in the world**

Swedish may be the official language but most Swedes are excellent at English. Sweden was ranked No.1 in the EF English Proficiency Index (source: EF Education First) comparing the English skills of adults around the world. Swedes' excellent English skills have helped produce a university system offering more than 700 master's programmes taught in English as well as numerous courses at the bachelor level.

## **SWEDISH EXCELLENCE**

### **Top ranked**

Despite its relatively small number of universities, Sweden has nine institutions in the top 300, five in the top 200 and three in the top 100, according to various global ranking sites. On a per capita basis Sweden has the second highest number of the world's top universities.

### **The Nobel Prize**

The Nobel Prize, awarded in Stockholm and Oslo every year, is the world's most prestigious distinction. Established by Swedish scientist and inventor Alfred Nobel, it was awarded for the first time in 1901.

### **An international environment**

Sweden offers a tolerant international academic environment. The country has a tradition of being open to international influences and looking beyond its borders, as demonstrated by the large number of international companies.

The academic environment is also multicultural with more than 38,000 international students studying at Swedish universities.

In addition, almost a fifth of the people in Sweden were born abroad or have parents who were born abroad, creating a comfortable atmosphere no matter what country you may call home.

### **Investment**

Sweden has one of the highest levels of investment in education and research in the world, as a proportion of GDP.

### **Articles per capita**

Sweden is the world's largest producer of research articles per capita. (Universitas 21)

### **Gender equality**

Sweden is ranked 2nd in the UN's Gender Empowerment Measure of equality between men and women.

### **Student life and beyond**

Some of the older universities in Sweden have a system of 'nations' which all students can join. The nations are a bit of a mix between Hogwarts School in the Harry Potter books, a restaurant and a nightclub, and they are extremely popular among students.

Many student corridors have communal saunas, providing a popular pastime for Swedish and international students alike.

Student unions have a huge impact on student life in Sweden, representing both the social and academic interests of their members, and can be found at every university in Sweden.

## **Beyond our classrooms**

### **Innovation**

In this country of trendsetters, the atmosphere is tolerant and the attitude creative.

As a result, Sweden has not only produced a disproportionate number of world-renowned scientists, business leaders and entrepreneurs but is also a world leader in new technology and social progress.

### **Sustainability**

For most Swedes, sustainable development is a way of life, and Swedish universities are world leaders in education and research related to environmental science and sustainability. The reason for this is probably a combination of the country's strong roots in engineering and industrial technology and a broad environmental awareness stemming at least in part from Swedes' love of nature.

### **The Swedish Model**

The country once known for its fierce Viking ancestors is now better known for, among other things, a social welfare system that has helped make Sweden one of the safest, most well-educated countries with a standard of living ranked as the best in the world according to the UN Human Poverty Index. This support has provided the security required to allow the spirit of innovation to flourish.

### **Gender equality**

Sweden is one of the most gender-equal countries in the world. This can be seen in areas such as the make-up of the Swedish parliament which has almost equal numbers of male and female representatives; paid parental leave of up to 16 months that can be shared between the parents; and the fact that about 60% of university undergraduates are women.

### **Sweden innovation rankings**

No.1 on the Innovation Capacity Index 2011 (European Business School)

No.2 on the Global Innovation Index 2012 (INSEAD)

No.1 on the Innovation Union Scoreboard 2013 (EU Commission)

No.1 on the Global Creativity Index 2011 (Martin Prosperity Institute)

In terms of innovation "output", Sweden registers among the highest rates of patents per capita in the world. (World Economic Forum 2013).

### **Unmatched in numbers of multi-national companies**

Sweden is the home to the largest number of multinational companies per capita in the world, with brands such as IKEA, H&M, Volvo Group, Volvo Cars, Spotify, Ericsson, Sandvik, ABB, Acne and Nudie Jeans, Astra Zeneca, Scania, Electrolux and Skype.

## **Swedish sustainability rankings**

No.1 on the Energy Sustainability Index (World Energy Council)

No.3 on the Global Cleantech Innovation Index ranking the global state of sustainable and environmental technologies related to innovation (Cleantech Group & WWF).

## **Facts about the Swedish higher education system**

- Number of universities: 37
- Number of international students studying in Sweden each year: 38,000 of which over 15,000 are exchange students
- Number of students studying in Sweden each year: 360,000
- Number of international doctoral students studying in Sweden each year: 6,500
- Number of English-language programmes at bachelor and master level: more than 700

## **STUDY OPTIONS**

### **Bachelor's programmes**

Sweden offers approximately 40 bachelor's programmes in English in a range of subject areas including engineering, business and IT. A Swedish bachelor's programme encompasses three years of full-time study with a total of 180 credits (ECTS credits) earned.

### **Master's programmes**

Swedish universities offer over 700 master's programmes in English in a variety of study areas: science, business, IT, humanities, and engineering, health and medicine and fine arts – to name a few. Most master's level programmes are 120 credits (ECTS credits) and take two years of full-time studies to complete, although there are also one-year master's programmes available.

### **Doctoral studies**

Information concerning open positions for research studies is managed and dealt with by the universities separately. Further information can be found on university websites. A doctoral degree requires 240 credits (ECTS credits) and a minimum of four years of full-time studies.

### **Exchange studies**

In addition to studying an entire programme or course, students are welcome to come to Sweden as part of an exchange programme for one or two semesters. Exchange programmes are administered by the individual Swedish and foreign universities that have exchange agreements with each other.

## **STEPS TO APPLYING**

### **Find your programme**

Using the database available at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se) you can search through an online catalogue that includes all bachelor's and master's programmes taught in English across the entire country.



## **Apply online**

You can apply for all courses and programmes at all Swedish universities at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se) where the entire process is managed online. You can create an account, submit your application and supporting documentation, receive your admission notification and accept your place.

## **Residence permit or visa**

To stay in Sweden for an extended period of time, a student with citizenship from a country outside the EU/EEA must apply for a residence permit. A study visa is required for stays of less than three months. Students should submit their applications to the Swedish Migration Board right after receiving and accepting the admission place offered.

## **Tuition fees**

For non-EU/EEA students, annual tuition fees in Sweden vary according to the programme. Most tuition fees for master's programmes range from SEK 85,000-140,000 per academic year though specific programmes such as medicine and fine arts may charge more.

No tuition fees are charged for students from the EU/EEA countries or from Switzerland. Sweden has a policy of providing free higher education to Swedish citizens, which according to EU regulations is therefore extended to citizens from the EU/EEA.

## **Important dates**

Here are some important dates in the application process for programmes beginning in the autumn semester. The dates below apply to standard national application procedures. Please note that individual universities may have different dates.

Mid-October – Online application process opens at [www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se).

January – Admission application deadline.

February – Deadline for submitting supporting documentation and pay your application fee (if required).

March – Admission decision.

April – Pay tuition fee (if required). Apply for residence permit or visa with the Swedish Migration Board.

Late August – autumn semester begins.

## **Scholarships**

Many students are eligible to apply for a Swedish Institute scholarship, or scholarships awarded directly by universities. See [Studyinsweden.se](http://Studyinsweden.se) to apply for a SI scholarship, or the university websites to apply for their scholarship programmes.

## COMING TO SWEDEN

### Working in Sweden

The Swedish labour market is known for combining business innovation, generous employment benefits and long-term job security. Together with one of the highest living standards in the world, Sweden also has new labour migration laws relaxing regulations on foreign students working in Sweden.

It is now possible for non-EU students to stay in Sweden after graduation and receive a work permit provided they find a job before their residence permit expires. Students are also allowed to work during their studies though most academic programmes should be viewed as full-time endeavours.

### Cost of living

Estimated student budget per month

Food	SEK 2,000.00
Accommodation	SEK 3,500.00
Phone, internet, TV/newspaper	SEK 300.00
Local travel	SEK 560.00
Insurance, Medical Care and Hygiene	SEK 300.00
Hobby, Leisure and Miscellaneous	<u>SEK 1,000.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>SEK 7,660.00 *</b>

SEK 100 = approximately GBP 9.00, USD 15.00, EUR 11.40, CNY 92.40, INR 891, RUB 491

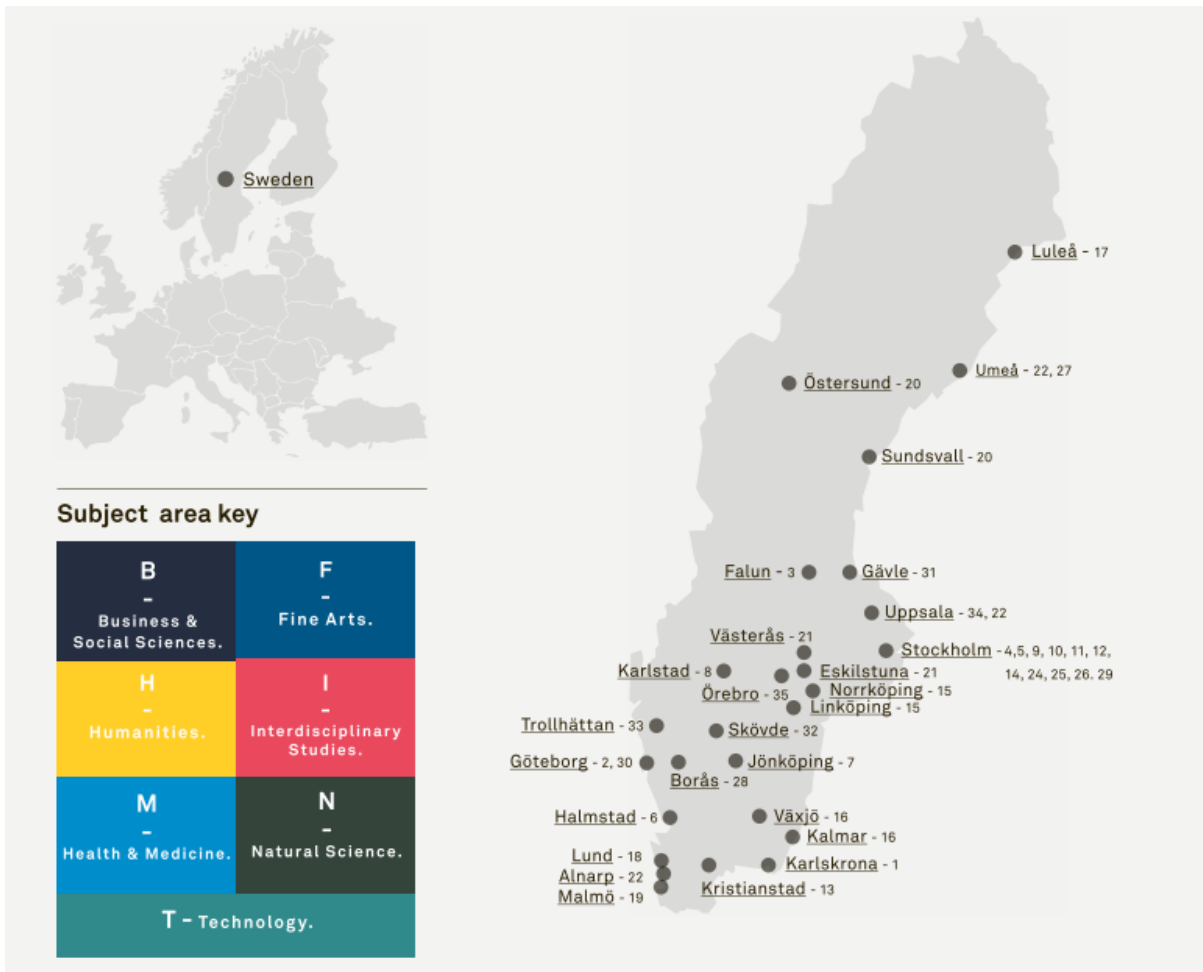
- Students from outside the EU/EEA are required to show funding equivalent to SEK 7,300 for each month of the studies (not to exceed 10 months per year) as a requirement for the residence permit.
- If you wish to bring your family you must show that you have at your disposal an additional SEK 3,000 per month for your spouse and SEK 1,800 per month per child.

### Academic year

Autumn semester: late August - mid January

Spring semester: mid-January - early June

## FIND A UNIVERSITY



## Subject areas offered in English

1. Blekinge Institute of Technology www.bth.se	B, I, T	19. Malmö University www.mah.se	B, I, N, T
2. Chalmers University of Technology www.chalmers.se	B, I, N, T	20. Mid Sweden University www.miun.se	B, F, H, N, T
3. Dalarna University www.du.se	B, H, T	21. Mälardalen University www.mdh.se	B, I, M, T
4. Ersta Sköndal University College www.esh.se	M	22. SLU – Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences www.slu.se	B, I, N, T
5. GIH – Swedish School of Sport & Health Sciences www.gih.se	M	23. Sophiahemmet University College www.shh.se	M
6. Halmstad University www.hh.se	B, N, T	24. Stockholm School of Economics www.hhs.se	B
7. Jönköping University www.hj.se	B, H, T	25. Stockholm University www.su.se	B, H, I, N, T
8. Karlstad University www.kau.se	B, H, I, N, T	26. Södertörn University www.sh.se	B, H, I, N
9. Karolinska Institutet www.ki.se	M	27. Umeå University www.umu.se	B, H, I, M, N, T
10. KKH – Royal Institute of Art www.kkh.se	F	28. University of Borås www.hb.se	B, F, H, T
11. KMH – Royal College of Music in Stockholm www.kmh.se	F	29. University of Dance & Circus www.doch.se	F
12. Konstfack – University College of Arts, Crafts and Design www.konstfack.se	F	30. University of Gothenburg www.gu.se	B, F, H, I, M, N, T
13. Kristianstad University www.hkr.se	I, M, N, T	31. University of Gävle www.hig.se	B, T
14. KTH - Royal Institute of Technology www.kth.se	B, I, N, T	32. University of Skövde www.his.se	B, H, I, N, T
15. Linköping University www.liu.se	B, H, I, M, N, T	33. University West www.hv.se	B, T
16. Linnaeus University www.lnu.se	B, F, H, I, N, T	34. Uppsala University www.uu.se	B, H, M, N, T
17. Luleå University of Technology www.ltu.se	B, H, I, N, T	35. Örebro University www.oru.se	B, H, M, N, T
18. Lund University www.lu.se	B, F, H, I, M, N, T		

## Immigration (Visa) Requirements

If you are planning to study in Sweden at a university or a university college for a period longer than three months, you require a residence permit.

Requirements for a residence permit

In order to obtain a permit, you must:

- have a valid passport
- be admitted to full-time studies
- be able to support yourself for the planned study period

- have an comprehensive health insurance if you are admitted to studies for less than one year.

Make sure to extend your passport if it is about to expire — you cannot obtain a permit for longer than your passport's period of validity.

### **You must be admitted**

You should be admitted to full-time studies that require your presence at a university or university college. You cannot obtain a residence permit if you are not definitely admitted to the course. If you are obligated to pay tuition fees, you are not regarded as definitely admitted until the portion of the tuition fees that the university or university college takes in advance has been paid. The university or university college will notify the Migration Board when the payment has been made.

In order to obtain a permit you need to be admitted to full-time studies at a program or courses. You cannot obtain a residence permit for part-time studies or for distance education.

### **You must be able to support yourself**

The support requirement is at present a minimum of SEK 7,300 per month. If you intend to study for one year or more you must show that you can support yourself for 10 months per year. See fact box below. If you can prove, for example, that you have free accommodation and/or food, this monthly figure can drop. The monthly amount drops by SEK 1,500 per month for free food and by SEK 1,500 per month for free accommodation.

You must show that you have funds for the whole planned study period already the first time you apply for a residence permit. You must show that you have your support secured by means of verification of personal bank assets, a scholarship or similar means of support, such as a study grant from your home country.

You must enclose a bank statement showing that you have your own bank assets available in an account belonging to you. The Migration Board do not accept that you share an account with another person, for example, if you have access to your parents account. Nor do we accept that a sponsor (such as a relative or a company) covers your support while you are in Sweden, unless the funds are lodged in your own account.

<b>Examples of support requirements</b>			
<b>Study period</b>	<b>You must have at least</b>	<b>Your husband, wife or common law spouse must have at least</b>	<b>Support requirement per child</b>
<b>5 months</b>	<b>SEK 36,500 kronor (5 x SEK 7,300)</b>	<b>SEK 17,500 (5 x SEK 3,500)</b>	<b>SEK 10,500 (5 x SEK 2,100)</b>
<b>12 months</b>	<b>SEK 73,000 (10 x SEK 7,300)</b>	<b>SEK 42,000 (12 x SEK 3,500)</b>	<b>SEK 25,200 (12 x SEK 2,100)</b>
<b>18 months</b>	<b>SEK 109,500 (15 x SEK 7,300)</b>	<b>SEK 63,000 (18 x SEK 3,500)</b>	<b>SEK 37,800 (18 x SEK 2,100)</b>

### **If you are admitted to studies for less than one year**

You will not be registered in Sweden, which means that you will not be eligible for social benefits if you are admitted to studies for less than one year. If you don't have insurance through your institution, you must take out insurance yourself for the period of time that you intend to stay in Sweden. Make sure to have an insurance policy that will cover any costs that may arise in connection with illness, injury, etc. The insurance must also cover the cost of a possible return journey home because of medical reasons.

**For Further information, please [click here](#)**

### **Other useful links and facts**

Apply for studies in Sweden	<a href="http://www.universityadmissions.se">www.universityadmissions.se</a>
All you need to know about studying in Sweden	<a href="http://www.studyinsweden.se">www.studyinsweden.se</a>
All you need to know about Sweden	<a href="http://www.sweden.se">www.sweden.se</a>
Social media	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/studyinsweden">www.facebook.com/studyinsweden</a> <a href="http://www.twitter.com/studyinsweden">www.twitter.com/studyinsweden</a>
Working in Sweden	<a href="http://work.sweden.se">work.sweden.se</a>
Swedish Migration Board	<a href="http://www.swedishmigrationboard.se">www.swedishmigrationboard.se</a>
Find your Swedish embassy or consulate	<a href="http://www.swedenabroad.com">www.swedenabroad.com</a>

### **Things you might not know about Sweden**

Sweden has over 97,500 lakes larger than 8000 square metres, and an amazing 221,800 islands.

In the north of Sweden, the sun does not set during June and does not rise during December.

The surface area of Sweden is the size of Spain or the state of California.

The Right of Public Access allows anyone to pass through any land to hike, pick berries and mushrooms, provided that the natural environment and property is respected.

Many know the Nobel Prize is Swedish. Not as many know that international students can enter a lottery to win a place at the Nobel Prize Banquet.

Pictured is one of the lucky international students who won a place at the Nobel Prize Banquet. Qian Liu, China, exchange student at Dalarna University and doctoral student in Economics, Uppsala University.

## **Muslim Shia Community in Trollhättan (Sweden)**

### **A brief history of the Jamaat**

The Muslim Shia Community of Trollhättan (Sweden), one of the first Khoja Shia Jamaats in Europe, has its foundation in the early settlement of a few families in Trollhättan after the exodus in Uganda in 1972.

The small community started having its regular gatherings at their homes, in 1976 a two bedroom flat was rented to serve the purpose of an Imambada and shortly after the adjacent flat was also rented to facilitate the need of the growing community.

In early eighties the Jamaat managed to secure a piece of land to build a Masjid/Imambada and Alhamdulillah in September 1985 a multipurpose Mosque complex was inaugurated. The building one of the first of its kind in Scandinavia was approximately 350 square meters and consisted of two Imambargah halls, Masjid, kitchen, and a Ghusl/Kafan room.



**A multipurpose Mosque in Trollhättan (Sweden)**

In September 1993, the Mosque complex was totally destructed (destroyed) as a result of an arson attack. However with the grace of the Almighty Allah (SWT) and with the zeal of the Community members in Trollhättan together with the support of Mumineen around the world and of course with the concern and co-operation of Marhoom Mulla Asgher M.M. Jaffer (May his soul rest in peace, Amen) and the World Federation the work on re-building of the Mosque started soon after.

Less than a year later, in August 1994, the new Islamic Centre was re-opened with enhanced facilities including Madressa classrooms, a library, an Alim/guest flat and a multipurpose hall.



**Sheikh Safdar Razi**



**Sheikh Safdar Razi and his students**

Currently the Community consists of about 200 heads, however the Islamic Centre is well frequented by the Shia Community at large in Trollhättan and its vicinity. The Community accommodates also the Shia Arab speaking group coming from Iraq, Lebanon, Kurdistan, etc.

On daily basis a range of regular activities are held at the Centre such as Congregation Prayers, Thursday Programs, weekly Majalis for ladies, Madressa for children and of course the regular Shadat, Wiladat, Mahe Muharram and Mahe Ramadhan activities.

The Jamaat is using all its best resources to promote Islam and to keep the mission of Ahul Bait (AS) alive in this part of the world.

For further information and assistance, please do not hesitate to write to [education@world-federation.org](mailto:education@world-federation.org) or visit our website on [www.world-federation.org](http://www.world-federation.org)