

Third country national students in Sweden – statistical trends and rules for entry and stay

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Entry and stay of international students

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Outline

- Legal and policy framework for entry and stay of students from third countries
- Statistical trends:
 - Number of international students coming to Sweden
 - Countries of origin
 - Popular study courses
 - Student migration in the framework of overall migration flows to Sweden
 - Change of status: How many students stay in Sweden after graduation?
- Recent developments

Legal bases for entry and stay of students from third countries

- *Utlänningslagen* (Aliens Act)

Chapter 5, Section 10:

A temporary residence permit may be granted to an alien who wishes to stay in this country for work, studies, a visit or to conduct business activities.

Section 23:

The Government may issue regulations on residence permits for studies or visits.

- *Utlänningsförrordningen* (Aliens Ordinance)

Chapter 4, Section 5: Requirements for residence permit for studies

- Applicant must have been admitted to (full time) studies at a Swedish University
- Sufficient resources for maintenance during the period of study and for the return journey (currently SEK 7,300 per month, approx. € 820)
- Health insurance that is valid in Sweden
- Applicant not a threat to public policy, public security or public health

Legal bases for entry and stay of students from third countries

Duration of stay:

At least one year or for the period of studies concerned, if this period is shorter

Extension of stay:

- At least one year (or for the period of studies concerned, if shorter).
- Conditions as above must be satisfied, but extension can be applied for from within Sweden.
- Student must also have made progress in studies (minimum 15 university credits during first year, 22.5 during second year, and 30 during third and subsequent years)

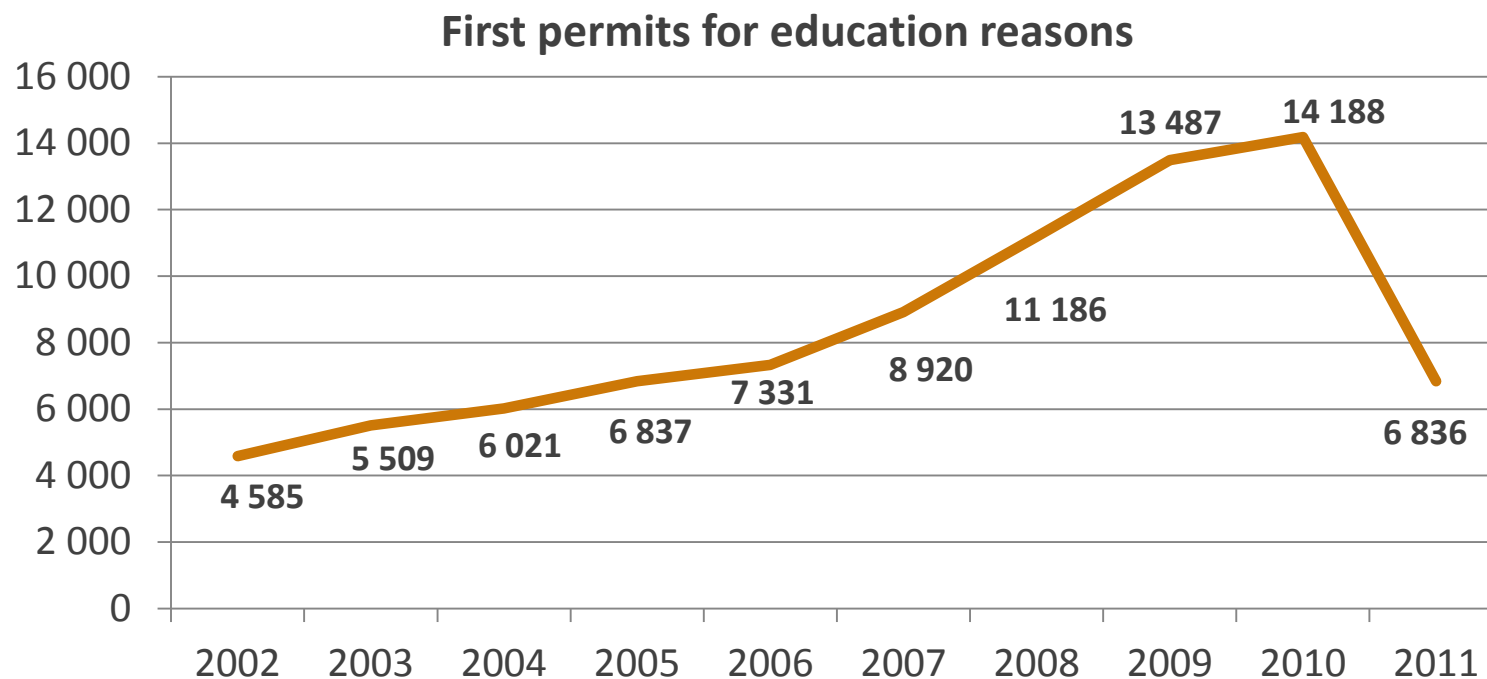
Access to labour market and change of residence status

- International students have full access to the Swedish labour market
 - No quantitative or qualitative restrictions
- Change of status from student to residence permit on grounds of work is only possible when the applicant has a job before expiration of the student permit
 - No residence permit or extension of student permit to look for work after graduation

Procedure to obtain a residence permit for study purposes

1. Application for studies at a Swedish University (from abroad), validation of qualifications / check of eligibility, payment of registration fee and tuition fee to University
 - Universities notify the Migration Board when payment of registration and student fees have been made
2. Application for residence permit
 - Application has to be made from country of origin or country of permanent settlement (electronically or in person at a Swedish mission abroad)
 - Biometric identifiers must be given at Swedish mission abroad
 - Residence permit (including residence permit card) must be complete before entry into Sweden
 - Time between application and granting of a residence permit: 3 months (longer when further examination is needed)

Trends: Number of third country national students coming to Sweden



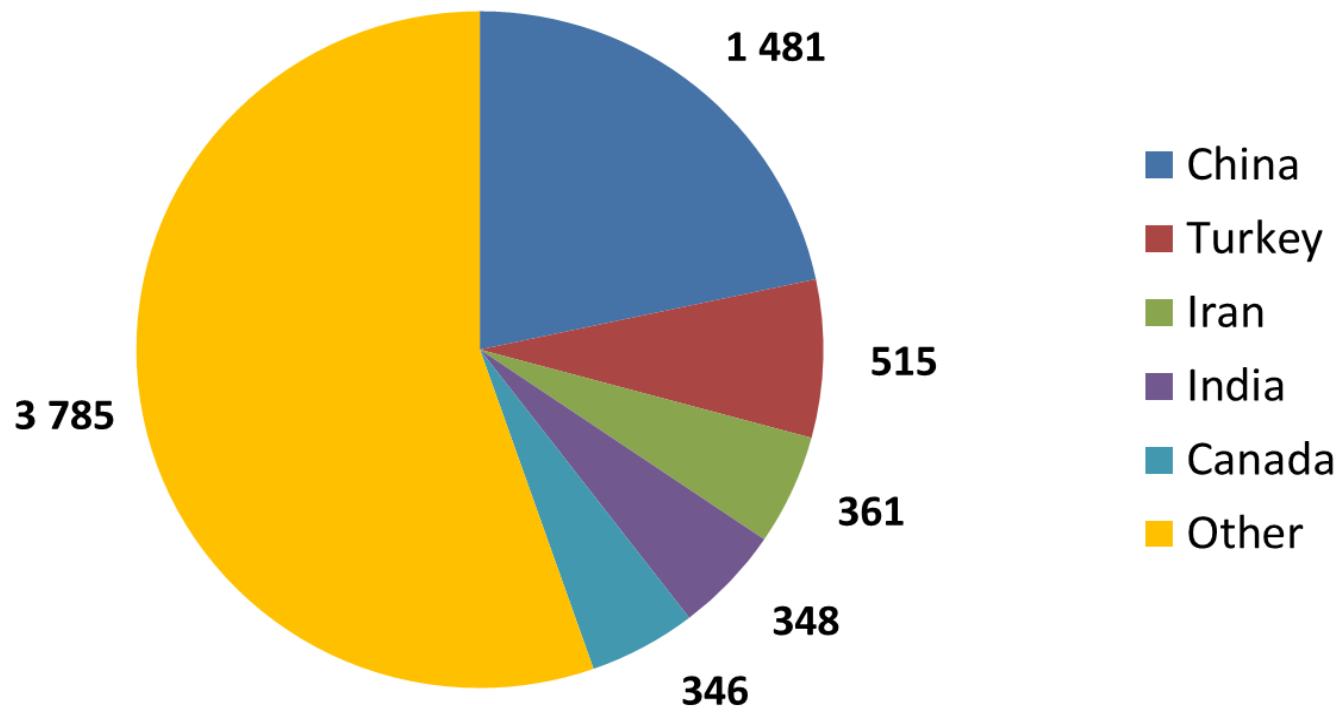
Source: Swedish Migration Board; Figures include students at universities (2011: 73%), other studies (7%) and family members of students (20%)

Main reason for decline 2011: Introduction of student fees

Introduction of student fees (2011)

- **Tradition of free higher education in Sweden**
- However: Universities should compete internationally for attracting students on the basis of high quality education, not on the basis of offering free studies
(Government Bill 2009/10:65)
- Since 2011, third country nationals who wish to study in Sweden have to pay tuition fees
Exceptions: students that take part in exchange programmes, doctoral students, persons who already have a residence permit
- Introduction of new scholarship programmes

Trends: Countries of origin 2011



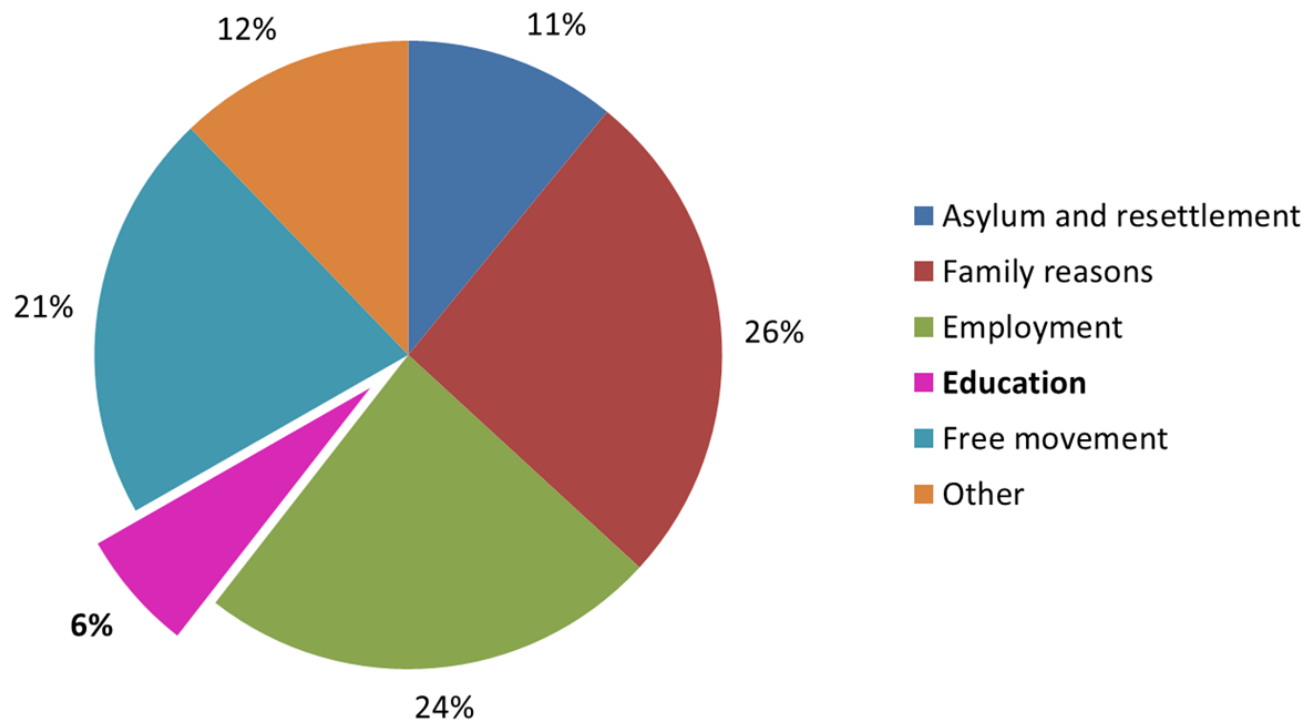
Source: Swedish Migration Board

Trends: Popular study courses

- Most third country national students chose shorter study courses, such as **master programmes** (60%) or Swedish ***Magister* programmes** (23%)
- Share of international students in vocational (1%) and bachelor programmes (8%) is smaller
- Studies within the areas of **technology and manufacturing** (34%) and **natural sciences, mathematics and computer science** (15%) are among the most popular study subjects

Source: Högskoleverket / Swedish National Agency for Higher Education

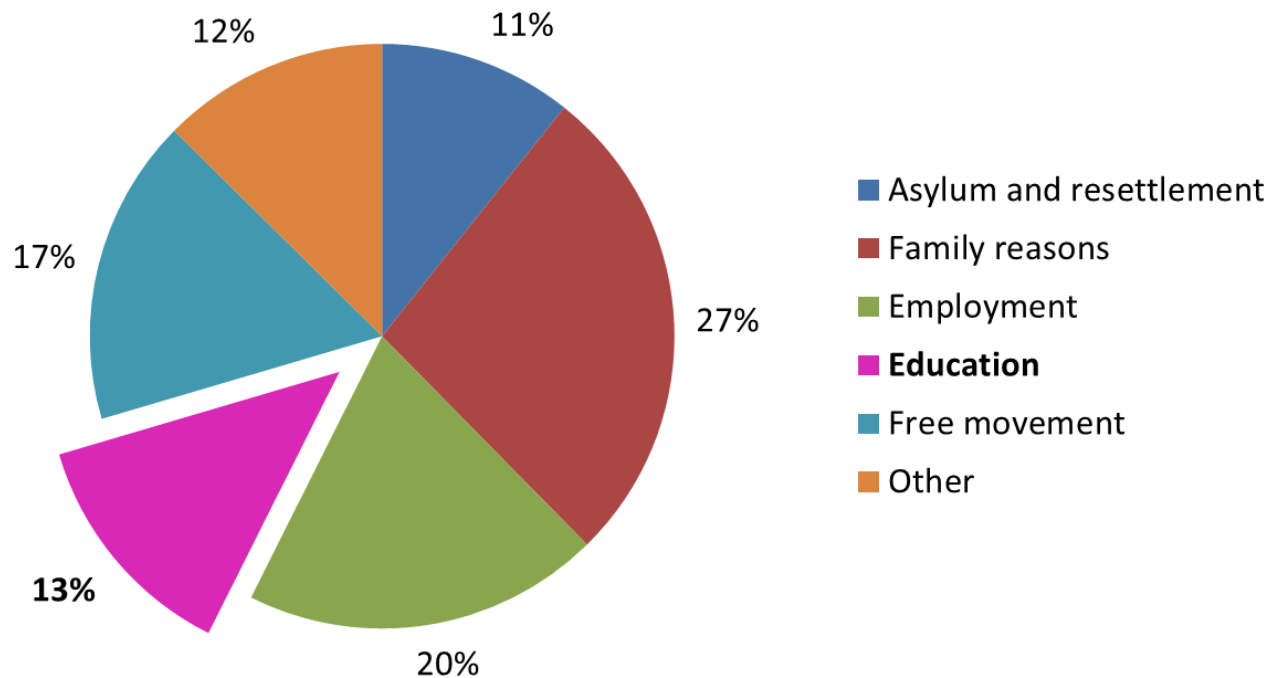
Trends: Student migration in the framework of overall immigration (2011)



Total immigration 2011: **110 000**

Source: Swedish Migration Board

Trends: Student migration in the framework of overall immigration (2010)

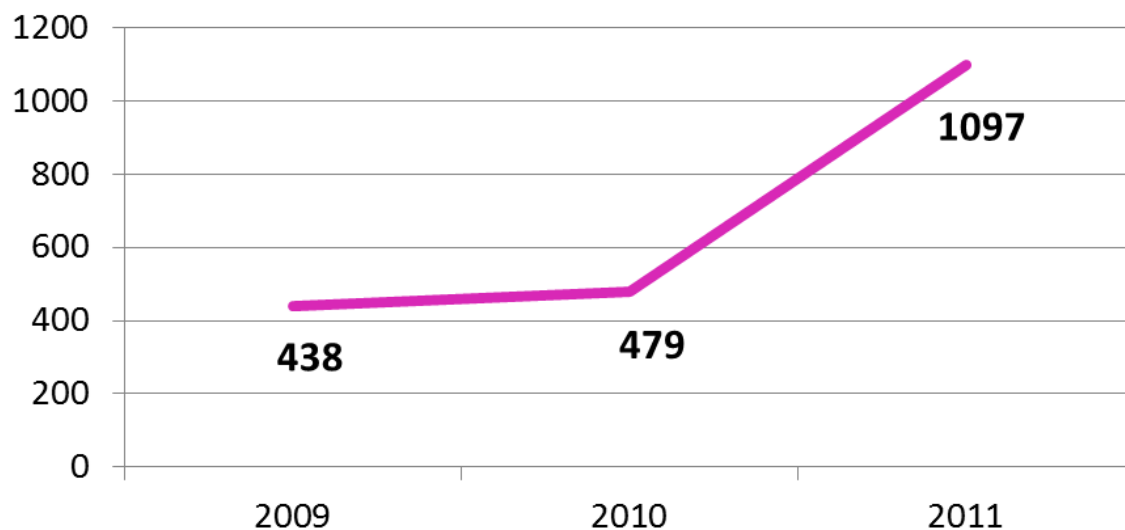


Total immigration 2010: **109 000**

Source: Swedish Migration Board

Trends: Change of status study → work

First residence permits for employment reasons granted to former students



Most common professional groups 2011:

Data specialists: 259

Civil engineers and architects: 206

Paper deliverers, caretakers: 141

Background: International students represent an important recruitment base for the education system, research and the labour market (Government Bill 2009/10:65)

Recent developments

- Online application for international students
 - Students from countries whose citizens do not need visas for visiting Sweden (and about 20 other countries) can now submit first time applications online
- Upon the initiative of the Ministry of education, government agencies, ministries and universities have created a *Forum for internationalization* to jointly address obstacles to the internationalization of higher education
- Number of first residence permits issued for study purposes in Q1/2012 was a little bit lower than in Q1/2011
- Swedish Migration Board forecast: **7 000** new residence permits to third country national students in **2012**
 - 8 000 each year from 2013 to 2016
 - No sharp increase nor decrease expected

Thank you for your attention!

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