

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026/2027



Study at Stockholm University

Department of Social Work



Stockholm
University



About Stockholm University

Stockholm University is one of Sweden's largest universities, with more than 30,000 full-time students. As one of the highest-ranked universities in the world and one of the top universities in Europe, Stockholm University is a leading research university, offering a wide range of subjects across the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and law.

Every year, Stockholm University welcomes around 1,500 exchange students from all over the world. This creates a multicultural campus environment where students can meet people from different academic and cultural backgrounds. Stockholm itself is known for its sustainability, rich cultural scene, and high quality of life.

Let the adventure begin!



The Department of Social Work

The Department of Social Work is located at Campus Albano, surrounded by nature with forests and lakes nearby, while still being only a short metro ride from Stockholm city center. It is one of the leading academic environments for social work education and research in Sweden.

The Department of Social Work combines strong theoretical foundations with a focus on social issues, welfare systems, and professional practice. Research at the Department of Social Work covers a broad range of areas including substance use, child and youth welfare, domestic violence, ageing and elder care, social inequality and social policy.

For more information about the Department of Social Work, please visit our website: <https://www.socarb.su.se/english/divisions/department-of-social-work>

The Swedish Model Course

The Department of Social Work is pleased to offer a comprehensive course on social work and social policy in the Swedish welfare state (22,5 credits). Available at both the bachelor's and master's levels, this course is designed for students who want to explore the structure and function of the Swedish welfare system, as well as how social work is organized in Sweden. The course consists of three distinct modules:

Module 1: The Swedish Welfare State (7.5 credits)

This module provides a historical and theoretical foundation for understanding Sweden's social policies. Students will explore:

- The historical development of the Swedish welfare state
- Key theoretical perspectives on welfare policies
- Current challenges for the Swedish welfare state and social work in Sweden

Module 2: Social Work in the Swedish Welfare State (12 credits)

This module examines how social work is structured and practiced in Sweden, focusing on key areas such as:

- Child welfare and child protection
- Social work with older people
- Social work with substance use and addiction
- Poverty and social exclusion
- Domestic violence
- Social work with people with disabilities

Students will gain insights into how social work is organized and discuss with key research findings related to social work in Sweden. Additionally, this module includes a field visit to a social work organization, providing first-hand exposure to real-world practices.

Module 3: Independent Literature Study (3 credits)

This final module allows students to explore a topic of their choice in greater depth. Possible areas of study include:

- Child welfare policies
- Substance use perspectives and policies in Sweden
- Social protection schemes
- The role of social workers in addressing domestic violence

Students will have the opportunity to consult with a researcher in their chosen field to refine their research questions and identify relevant literature.

Teaching

Level: The course is available both at the bachelor's and master's level. The course at the bachelor's level is titled Introduction to Social Work and Social Policy in the Swedish Welfare State. The master's level course is called Perspectives on Social Work and Social Policy in the Swedish Welfare State.

Language: English

Teaching Methods: Lectures and seminars with interactive discussions

Assessment

- Modules 1 & 2: Seminar participation and take-home exams
- Module 3: Independent research paper (3,000–4,000 words)

Adding additional courses at Stockholm University

Students studying in Stockholm for an entire semester can also take an additional 7.5-credit course at another department to achieve full-time status. Available courses can be found in the Stockholm University course catalogue: <https://www.su.se/english/education>

A Dynamic and Engaging Learning Experience

The course typically has 15–30 students from diverse backgrounds, all eager to learn about social work, social policy, and the Swedish welfare model. A key part of the learning experience is sharing knowledge and perspectives with fellow students from different countries.

The course fosters an open and engaging environment, in which students are encouraged to compare Sweden's approach to social work with that of their home countries. This exchange of ideas makes the course not only informative but also highly enriching on both an academic and personal level. Many students develop strong friendships during the course and continue to socialize outside the university setting. Our instructors are passionate about teaching and value the opportunity to work with students from different cultural and academic backgrounds.

We look forward to welcoming you to Stockholm University and an exciting journey into the Swedish model of social work and social policy!



Living and studying in Stockholm

Stockholm, the metropolis built on fourteen islands, offers a multitude of options for everyone. The capital city of Sweden is home to the Royal Palace, has several waterfronts and a quaint old town. Students in Stockholm can enjoy parks, forests, and the archipelago while still living in a vibrant city with museums, live music, cafés, and a rich cultural scene. Stockholm is also an international city where English is widely spoken, making it easy for international students to settle in and feel at home. Overall, studying in Stockholm offers not only high-quality education but also an inspiring and rewarding student experience.

Sweden's excellent train network also makes it easy to discover other cities such as Uppsala, known for its historic university, or Gothenburg on the west coast, famous for its canals and relaxed atmosphere. For a truly unique experience, many exchange students take the opportunity to travel north to Swedish Lapland to see the Northern Lights, try dog sledding, or experience Arctic winter landscapes.

Use your time here to learn, get inspired and get to know Sweden and Stockholm!



Welcome activities

Stockholm University organises a series of welcome activities at the beginning of each semester. The activities are designed to assist you as a new student and introduce you to university life in Stockholm and Sweden.

All students accepted to The Swedish Model Course will be invited to a meeting at Campus Albano with the Course Coordinator Anna Smith and International Coordinator Katarina Kristiansson.

Read more here:

<https://www.su.se/english/education/a-smooth-start/welcome-activities>

Important dates

Autumn semester 2026: August 31st 2026 - January 17th 2027

Spring semester 2027: January 18th - June 6th 2027



Housing

You will receive information from the Department of Social Work on how to apply for student housing. After your application, the Housing Office will contact you directly to inform you whether or not you have been offered accommodation.

For more information, visit: <https://www.su.se/english/education/student-life/housing-for-international-students>

Important note on housing availability

Due to a general shortage of student accommodation in Stockholm, we **cannot guarantee** that you will be offered housing through the Housing Office. If you are not offered a room, you will need to find accommodation on your own. It is important to start your search early and be well-informed about the private rental market.

Estimated cost

Expect to pay at least SEK 5,000–6,000 per month for a room in Stockholm.



Nomination and application

Nominations

In order to study at the Department of Social Work we must receive a nomination from the student's home university. Nominations should be sent to exchanges@socarb.su.se by the following deadlines:

Autumn semester: April 1st

Spring semester: September 20th

Applications

We will contact each nominated students and send them our Application form. Students should send their applications to exchanges@socarb.su.se by the following deadlines:

Autumn semester: April 15th

Spring semester: October 1st

Contact

International Coordinator

Katarina Kristiansson

Course Administrator The Swedish Model

Anna Smith

Email

exchanges@socarb.su.se

Address

Albanovägen 18

Department of Social Work

Stockholm University

Website

<https://www.socarb.su.se/english/divisions/departments-of-social-work>