

Facilitating permeability from secondary VET to tertiary education

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 SWEDEN

Timeline

2020 Design

2021 Design

2022 Approved/Agreed

2023 Completed

ID number 38764

Background

After the upper secondary reform of 2011, the content of VET programmes increased, as did theoretic subject content of higher education preparatory programmes. At the same time, eligibility requirements for tertiary education changed to reflect the increased general subject content of general education programmes. As a result, fewer VET learners could continue to academic tertiary education without adding extra courses or time in their upper secondary education, or later in municipal adult education. VET was to some extent perceived to be a dead end leading to a decrease in the number of learners applying for VET in upper secondary education.

Objectives

The objective is to provide upper secondary learners on three-year lasting VET programmes a realistic opportunity to become eligible for admission to tertiary education.

Description

The National Agency for Education received a government mission in 2020 to support secondary VET providers in including subjects and courses in all VET programmes that learners need to complete to become eligible for admission to tertiary education. For eligibility to tertiary education, learners need to complete two modules in Swedish and one module in English. These courses are elective for secondary VET learners but are not necessarily a realistic option within the framework of the duration of elective modules and the way work-based learning is organised. The National Agency for Education is tasked to develop support for secondary VET providers and to share best practice examples.

2020 Design

In 2020, the National Agency for Education started to work on how secondary VET providers can include necessary subjects and courses in VET programmes, making learners eligible for admission to tertiary education.

2021 Design

In February 2021, the government proposed an Amendment to the Education Act to

In February 2021, the government proposed an Amendment to the Education Act to the effect that courses needed for eligibility for higher education become part of all VET programmes.

2022 Approved/Agreed

In April 2022, the parliament approved on the proposed Amendment to the Education Act in April 2022, stating that VET programmes need by default to include all subjects and courses that learners need to complete to become eligible for admission to tertiary education. This means that all VET programmes will contain the necessary courses in Swedish, or Swedish as a second language, and English. Learners who do not want to follow these courses can opt out of them. To maintain the level of vocational preparation, the scope of vocational programmes will be widened, both in terms of upper secondary education credits (from the present 2 500 to 2 800 credits) and guaranteed teaching time. These courses will not be mandatory, so learners can decide whether they want to opt out of them.

2023 Completed

The change was applied for the first time to the learners who started their education in autumn 2023.

Bodies responsible

- National Agency for Education

Target group

Learners

Learners in upper secondary, including apprentices

Thematic categories

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Acquiring key competences

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Permeability between IVET and CVET and general and vocational pathways, academic and professional higher education

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

European priorities in VET

VET Recommendation

Flexibility and progression opportunities at the core of VET

Subsystem

IVET

Further reading

Proposition on eligibility to higher education.

National news on VET. Sweden: increasing attractiveness of secondary VET through access to higher education

Information about the new regulation

Related policy developments

2025 Completed

Subject grade reform in upper secondary education

A national commission of enquiry was set up in 2018 with a mission to propose a grading system that would increase incentives for learners to study more advanced courses in a subject and to reduce stress by replacing the current course-based grading system with a subject-grading system in which t

 SWEDEN

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

2017 Approved/Agreed

Amendment to the Education Act: facilitating access to higher education for adults

Amendments to the 2010 Education Act came into effect in January 2017, granting adults the access right to study courses needed for progression to higher general or vocational education to all upper secondary VET learners.

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Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET

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