

CHANGES IN THE ALIENS ACT

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CHANGES FROM 20 JULY

The new requirements for obtaining a permanent residence permit mean that you must fulfil the requirements for an extended residence permit first and then fulfil the new requirements for a permanent residence permit

Each applicant must meet the requirements for obtaining a permanent residence permit. It is no longer possible to automatically obtain a permanent residence permit because a family member is granted one.

There are no transitional rules. This means that all decisions made on 20 July or later are based on the new rules, regardless of when the application was submitted.



HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

It is only possible to obtain a permanent residence permit when applying for an extended residence permit.

Your application can be submitted 14 days before your current permit expires, not earlier.

Why can I not apply before?

You can only have one valid permit at a time. If you already have a valid permit this can not be exchanged for another.



NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT

1. You must meet the requirements for an extended residence permit
2. You must also meet the new requirements:
 - *have had a residence permit as a doctoral student or researcher and have worked in Sweden for four years over the past seven years (unchanged)*
 - *have the intention to live in Sweden (unchanged)*
 - **be able to support yourself financially, everybody over 18 years old (new)**
 - **be living an orderly life, everybody over 15 years old (new)**



DURATION AND TYPE OF INCOME

- Your ability to support yourself financially must be of a certain duration. This means that you must have **permanent employment or fixed-term employment** (taxed income, not tax-free scholarship)
- The contract must be at **least 18 months from the date on which your application is examined**
- **housing** costs and the so-called “**normal amount**” for a single adult, 5 016 per month (2021)



GENERAL FOR ALL EXTENSIONS

- You must submit your application for an extension before your current permit expires, if you want to be able to stay in Sweden during the processing time. You may work during the time that the Swedish Migration Agency is processing your application.
- If you travel abroad in connection with your permit expiring, it may be difficult for you to come back into Sweden before you have had your new permit granted. You may then need to wait for your new decision outside Sweden.



PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT

- A permanent residence permit is valid for as long as you are living in Sweden.
- Your permanent residence permit can be revoked if you move from Sweden. If you notify the Swedish Migration Board that you want to keep your permanent residence permit, you can be abroad for up to two years without your permit being affected.

More information



IF YOU DO NOT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS

If you do not meet the special requirements for a permanent residence permit, you can still obtain a temporary residence permit if you meet those requirements.

As a Doctoral student you:

- must have made acceptable progress in your studies
- must be admitted to full-time studies
- must be present in Sweden. You cannot obtain a residence permit for distance learning

Part-time employment is not accepted. Parental leave, sick leave are ok.



PERMIT TO LOOK FOR WORK/STUDIES

Residence permit to stay in Sweden for **12 months** after completing studies or completed research to look for work or investigate the conditions for conducting business here.

Note, that **special requirements** apply to this, for example in terms of having enough money for your entire stay and have a comprehensive health insurance.

Students 8 568 month Researchers 9 700 month

- Can work for 3 months maximum without submitting an application for a work permit
- Can only apply for a work permit while you are in Sweden. If you are admitted to studies or get an employment as a researcher, you must leave Sweden and submit your application.

More information: look for work after studies or research



LONG-TERM STAY IN EU

To be granted long-term resident status, you must:

- have lived continuously in Sweden for five years
- have had a residence permit or legal residence in Sweden on other grounds for the previous five years
- be able to support yourself (and your family).

Permits for doctoral studies, researcher or work can be counted.

Permit for visits, studies and to search for an employment can not be counted.



LONG-TERM STAY IN EU CONT.

Your income can come from:

- Salary
- Unemployment benefit
- Parental leave, sickness benefits
- Scholarships
- Support from other family members

Must submit documents which show how you have supported yourself (and your family) over the previous five years and documents showing your accommodation costs. Save all contracts and salary slips.



LONG-TERM STAY IN EU CONT.

- Status as long-term resident in EU will automatically grant you a permanent residence permit, also your family members.
- Status as a long-term resident in EU can be transferred to another EU-country (not Ireland and Denmark)
- You must submit your application before your current expires, 2 months before at the earliest. You can stay in Sweden during the processing time.
- [More information and how to apply](#)



MORE RULES AHEAD?

- When deciding on the new migration rules, the government was also commissioned to return with proposals concerning **knowledge requirements in Swedish and social studies** as a requirement for a permanent residence permit. (How testing should be carried out and what level of knowledge applies).
- No dates has yet been decided of when this requirement will come to effect.
- *Tests for knowledge in Swedish and social studies for Swedish citizenship will come to effect in 2025.*

