

Sweden Host School FAQ

When does the school year begin and end?

School begins in mid-August and goes until mid-June.

In what type of school will I be enrolled?

Most AFSers attend the second or third year of the Swedish Highschool – called “gymnasieskola.” Students attend one of the 17 national three-year programs. All of the programs offer a broad general education and basic eligibility to continue studies at the post-secondary level.

In what grade level will I be enrolled?

AFSers are placed in the 1st, 2nd, or 3rd year of gymnasieskola (high school), depending on age and availability at the hosting school. In some cases, very young students may be placed in grade 9 (junior high school).

Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?

Available classes will vary depending on school and what kind of program the student is placed in. Swedish schools offer a very wide variety of programs, each with a different educational focus. The most common programs, and those that most AFS students are enrolled in, are Natural Science (naturvetenskap) and Social Science (samhällskunskap). The host school will choose the program based on the student's application and his/her interests.

AFSers will be placed in different programs based on availability and space in schools. Schools in Sweden cannot meet all students' wishes regarding specific subjects in school. Students are generally expected to take the set curriculum for their chosen program, though there are some free choices. Students can sometimes be exempted from specific subjects if absolutely necessary (for example, due to a lack of background knowledge in that particular subject).

What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?

School generally runs from 8am to 3 or 4pm. School days can look very different from program to program and class schedules change daily. Some days have very few lessons, while others are full from morning to afternoon. Classes consist mainly of lectures classroom discussion. Sometimes students do projects and essays as part of the learning of a subject.

In what language will classes be taught?

All instruction, with the exception of foreign languages, is done in Swedish.

Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?

Swedish schools do not require uniforms. Students are usually able to borrow all the needed textbooks from their school. If they cannot borrow the textbooks for some reason, AFS Sweden will pay for books.

Are extra-curricular activities available?

Extra-curricular activities are not as common in Sweden as in other countries. Swedish students arrange activities in their spare time after school.

Are high school graduates accepted?

Yes. But students must still be within the program age ranges, they must demonstrate that they understand they will be expected to participate fully in school, and they must understand that they may be placed in school with students younger than them.

Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?

It is unlikely that the host school can provide an official transcript since AFS students cannot be enrolled in the schools as Swedish citizens. However, students can usually get a certificate listing the subjects they have taken over the course of the school year.

Schools in Sweden will provide by the end of year a written statement on a school letterhead, signed by the school principal or vice principal, stating the period of attendance, subjects taken, and evaluation of the student's performance during the school year. This can be given upon request.

It is the student's responsibility to request and collect academic documentation prior to departure from Sweden.

Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?

Maybe, check with your local school – and keep in mind that Swedish schools cannot guarantee that you get to take the subject you need. We are working very hard to obtain school placements for AFSers in Sweden in general and we accept school placements in several different programs. It might be Social science, Science, Language or sports among others.

It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS cannot assist you with course or grade information after you complete the program.