

Municipal adult education in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI)

Municipal adult education in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) is a programme for those who need basic knowledge of Swedish. You learn Swedish so that you can communicate orally and in writing in everyday life, in society, and at work. If you cannot read or write at all, you should be given the opportunity to learn how.

What you can learn in SFI

The goal for you, as a student, is to be able to learn:

- to read and write Swedish
- to speak, converse in, read, listen to, and understand Swedish in different contexts
- pronunciation
- to use relevant aids
- to adapt the language for different recipients and situations
- how languages are learned
- strategies for how to communicate

SFI is free

It costs nothing to study in SFI. Books and other learning tools are included. Some small costs may be incurred. When you are studying in SFI, you cannot be given study allowances from CSN, the Swedish Board for Study Support.

Study and career guidance

As a student, you should have access to study and career guidance. Through this, you will get information about studies and what the labour market looks like.

Would you like to know more?

Contact your municipality if you would like to start SFI. Contact information is available on your municipality's website.



Who can study at SFI?

Beginning July 1 of the year you turn 16, you can start SFI. There is no upper age limit to start studying. You must be a resident of Sweden and lack the basic knowledge of the Swedish language that the programme provides.

How the programme is organised

You bring valuable knowledge and experience with you, and it is important that these are made use of in your studies. The programme is planned and designed together with you and adapted to your interests, experiences, knowledge, and goals.

Since SFI is directed at people with different experiences, living situations, knowledge, and study goals, different people will study the courses at different speeds. This is why the courses start and finish at different times for different people.

You have the right to 15 hours of instruction per week on average over a four-week period. The instruction time can be decreased, if that works better for you.

You can combine SFI with work, practice, or another programme—for example, upper secondary school, municipal adult education (komvux), or special education for adults (särsvux).

There may be an opportunity to study the entire course, or parts of it, at a workplace. This is called workplace-based learning (arbetsplatsförlagt lärande, or APL). This is one of several different ways to obtain knowledge of the Swedish language needed to participate in working life.

Study paths and courses

SFI has three study paths, 1, 2 and 3. Study path 1 is designed for people who cannot read and write or who have had limited educational opportunities, while study path 3 is designed for people who are more used to studying. The study paths consist of courses A, B, C and D:

- Study path 1: course A, B, C and D.
- Study path 2: course B, C and D.
- Study path 3: course C and D.

You may choose to finish your studies after each study path and course, but you will be given the opportunity to continue studying as far as course D, regardless of the level at which you start.

Individual study plan

As a student, you should have an individual study plan. Your school will design your individual study plan together with you. It indicates such things as:

- your educational goals, and
- the scope of your studies.

The individual study plan can be changed if you want to take several courses or change your educational goals while you are studying.

Grades

SFI uses the A–F grading scale, the same as in elementary school, upper secondary school, and komvux. A is the highest grade, and F is a failing grade. Grades are not given in the sections for training in reading and writing.

Grades must be given for every completed course. You can also have your knowledge documented in a certificate.

Testing—How it is done

You have the opportunity to take a test for a course if you are a resident of the country and want a grade for a course. This means that your knowledge will be assessed based on the course syllabus. You have the right to take tests for all the courses in which grades are given. The testing can only be done in a municipality that is organising the course in question.

If you already have a passing grade in the course, the school may charge a fee for testing. The fee can be SEK 500 at most.

Validation—Have your prior knowledge assessed

There may be an opportunity for you to have your prior knowledge and experiences assessed and documented. The purpose of validation could be that you want to:

- start studying, and prior to the start, adapt the content and level of your studies so that you don't need to study what you already know,
- shorten the time of a programme in progress, or
- document your knowledge in order to demonstrate it (for example, during a job interview).

If you would like to have a validation done, contact your municipality.



SFI at folk high school

You also have the opportunity to choose to study SFI at a folk high school instead of SFI in your municipality, since the programme can also be taught at folk high schools. If you want to study SFI at a folk high school, ask your municipality what opportunities there are.