

## Athena

**ATHENA - GLOBAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING - give students, teachers, school administrative and other school staff in upper secondary school vocational programmes an opportunity to spend time in developing countries.**

Through Athena, upper secondary vocational training programmes in Sweden can co-operate with similar vocational programmes in developing countries.

The purpose is to foster new knowledge and give students and staff an opportunity to share their experiences. The programme will also lead to a greater understanding of other cultures and issues related to development assistance programmes, increase students' interest in languages and strengthen their vocational skills.

### Exchange

An exchange is from two to five weeks long, with at least eight and a maximum of twenty participants (80 percent must be students). The number of participants in the host country will be equal to the number of Swedish participants. The exchange visits in both Sweden and the developing country will be part of a cooperation project. During the exchange, students and teachers will take part in the everyday schooling activities of the host school.

All participants in an exchange will be from a vocational programme.

### Planning visits

Planning visits are offered as an introduction to the cooperation project. The purpose of the planning visits is that partner schools can meet and plan their coming exchange. Planning visits involve at least five days at the partner school in the developing country, or at the Swedish school.

Compensation is paid for a maximum of four participants, at least one of whom is a student. If only staff take part, compensation is paid for a maximum of three people.

### Seminars

Seminars will be held within the framework of the programme for project managers, teachers and in some cases student representatives. The purpose of the seminars is to give participants an opportunity to share their experiences.

### Partner countries

Applicable countries for this cooperation programme (with a few exceptions) are those that the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) defines as developing countries. These countries are listed on the International Programme Office's website.

### Funding

The Programme Office provides standard grants for travel expenses, accommodation, administration and insurance plus language and cultural preparations. The grants will cover some of these expenses, but schools must be prepared to personally (or in cooperation with other players) contribute funds.

### Applications

Applications for Athena are submitted on-line via the Programme Office's website once per year. Applications for exchange programmes and planning visits that start in autumn 2009 will be accepted in spring 2009.

For more information, visit the Programme Office's website at [www.programkontoret.se/athena](http://www.programkontoret.se/athena)

**International Programme Office for Education and  
Training**

Box 22007, SE-104 22 Stockholm, Sweden

Phone: +46 (0)8-453 72 00, fax +46 (0)8-453 72 01

E-mail [registrator@programkontoret.se](mailto:registrator@programkontoret.se)

[www.programkontoret.se](http://www.programkontoret.se)