

Degree awarding powers in Sweden

This is a short, general, description of the degree awarding powers of the Swedish Higher Education Institutions written to support Swedish applicants in Erasmus Mundus.

Legal base

The Higher Education Act (1992:1434, with amendments up to and including the Act on Amendment of the Higher Education Act (2010:701)) contains provisions about the Swedish higher education institutions that are accountable to the government, local authorities or county councils. The provisions on the right for HEI:s to award degrees are regulated in this act. The act also regulates the right to award joint degrees. The Higher Education Act can be found on the website of the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket) <http://www.hsv.se/lawsandregulations/theswedishhighereducationact.4.5161b99123700c42b07ffe3956.html>

General degree awarding powers of universities and university colleges

Universities in Sweden have general degree awarding powers at first cycle (university diplomas and Bachelors' degrees), second cycle (one-year and two-year Masters' degrees) and third cycle (licentiate and doctoral degrees).

University colleges have degree awarding powers at first cycle and for one-year Masters' programmes. Some university colleges have the right to award two-year Masters' degrees and third cycle degrees in a single disciplinary domain.

Applying for further degree awarding powers

A university college can apply to Högskoleverket (Swedish National Agency for Higher Education) for the entitlement to award two-year Masters' degrees and third cycle degrees.

All HEIs must apply to the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (Agency) for the entitlement to award professional degrees.

Independent and self-governing HEIs must apply to the Ministry of Education and Research for the entitlement to award a qualification.

Find out which qualifications higher education institutions are entitled to award

The degree-awarding powers of the different higher education institutions have been listed in a database where it's possible to search to see which qualifications each higher education institution is entitled to award. It's also possible to find out which higher education institutions are entitled to award specific qualifications and which particular qualifications any single higher education institution is entitled to award. The database is only in Swedish. <http://hogskoleverket.se/kvalitet/kvalitetssakring/examenstillstand/sokblandexamenstillstand.4.539a949110f3d5914ec800062372.html>

Joint degrees

In accordance with The Higher Education Act a HEI that has the right to award a national qualification within a certain subject area and cycle, also have the right to award a joint degree in the same subject area and cycle.