

# Mobility: Immigration alert

September 2021

## Sweden

### New, stricter requirements for obtaining permanent residence

#### Executive summary

The Swedish Government recently clarified the requirements for obtaining permanent residence in Sweden, which went into effect in July 2021. All applicants aged 18 or above, including spouses and adult children of primary applicants, are now subject to a “maintenance” requirement and must prove that they receive a monthly income in excess of a statutory amount and are able to support themselves financially while in Sweden. Furthermore, dependent family members are now required to have held a valid Swedish Temporary Residence Permit for at least three years before becoming eligible to obtain Swedish permanent residence.

#### Maintenance requirement

Foreign nationals who apply to obtain permanent residence in Sweden must now demonstrate that they earn an income which equals or exceeds a specific amount. The amount varies based on whether the primary applicant applies on their own (without dependent family members) or together with a dependent spouse and/or children. Click [here](#) for more information regarding income amounts.

Adult family members (i.e., spouses, children aged 18 or above) who apply for permanent residence as dependents of a primary applicant, must satisfy the maintenance requirement independently of the primary applicant. This means that adult dependents must prove that they earn an income that equals or exceeds the required amount, irrespective of the primary applicant's income. Dependents aged 17 or below are not subject to this requirement. Adult dependents who hold Swedish Temporary Residence Permits

but do not meet the maintenance requirement, may be eligible to extend their Temporary Residence Permits.

The recent changes to the requirements for obtaining permanent residence represent a significant policy change, as primary applicants are no longer able to sponsor their dependents to obtain permanent residence in Sweden based strictly on their (i.e., the primary applicants') income.

Prior to the recent changes, primary applicants were not subject to a formal maintenance requirement and were only required to prove that they received a salary and other compensation commensurate with what a Swedish national would earn in a similar role. Primary applicants were also previously permitted to demonstrate that their income was sufficient to support themselves and their families while in Sweden, without the adult dependent family members having to prove that they received separate incomes.

#### Temporary Residence Permit requirement for dependents

Foreign nationals who apply for permanent residence as dependents are now required to have held a Swedish Temporary Residence Permit for at least three years prior to their application date. Previously, dependents were not required to have held Temporary Residence Permits for a specific period prior to applying for permanent residence.

#### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, please contact any of our immigration professionals.

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