

Mobility: Immigration alert

April 2024

Sweden

Changes expected to simplify regulations for researchers and doctoral students

Executive summary

On 8 April 2024, the Swedish Minister for Migration and the Minister for Education appointed an investigator to propose measures to attract and retain foreign researchers and doctoral students, while preventing the misuse of student permits.

Key developments

The Swedish authorities commissioned an investigation to propose changes to improve conditions for foreign doctoral students and researchers in Sweden. These changes could allow these individuals to:

- ▶ Apply for a residence permit or student permit for research from within Sweden. Currently, these individuals must exit Sweden and apply from abroad, and may re-enter only after their application is approved.
- ▶ Change from a research permit or student permit to another type of permit from within Sweden. Currently, these individuals must exit Sweden and apply from abroad, and may reenter only after their application is approved.
- ▶ Extend their residence permits for one year or longer and use the extended validity period to look for work or start a business.
- ▶ Change their residence permit status from within Sweden after completing one semester of undergraduate or graduate studies. Currently, these individuals must exit Sweden and apply from abroad, and may re-enter only after their application is approved.

To counteract the misuse of student permits, the investigator is expected to look into the possibility of:

- ▶ Restricting students' permission to work during their permitted period of stay in Sweden
- ▶ Rejecting applications for residence permits for studies if abuse is suspected

Impact on employers

These changes are expected to benefit Swedish employers by providing them access to a wider pool of foreign talent, while curbing abuse of the immigration rules.

Key steps

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

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