

Starting a business in Sweden



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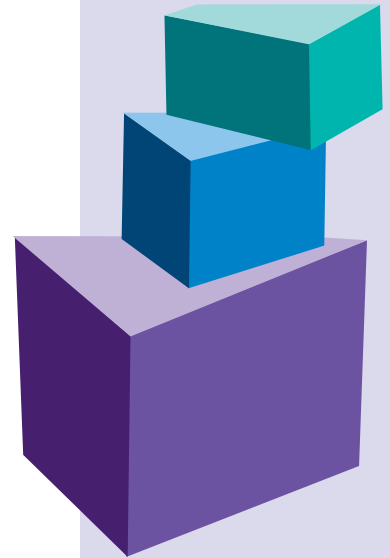
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For asylum seekers

You can start a business while your application for asylum is in progress. First, you apply for F-tax (Swedish corporate tax) registration with the Swedish Tax Agency. If you are running your own business, you must pay F-tax. Once you have been registered for F-tax, you get a coordination number from the Swedish Tax Agency. The coordination number is for those who do not have a personal identity number (personnummer) and is necessary for you as an asylum seeker to be able to start a business in Sweden.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

Before you decide to start a business, remember that as an asylum seeker entrepreneur you cannot change track if your application for asylum is rejected. However, after a rejection, asylum seekers who have been employed for a period of four months and are guaranteed 12 months of further employment may change track and apply for a work permit.





If you have been granted a residence permit

If you received a permanent or temporary residence permit, you must register yourself in Sweden's population register through the Swedish Tax Agency as soon as possible. Registration in the population register is essential for access to courses in Swedish for Immigrants (SFI) and becoming part of the Swedish social insurance system. Once you are registered, you can also get a Swedish identity document, which you need to open a bank account, for example.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT - IF YOU HAVE A TEMPORARY RESIDENCE PERMIT

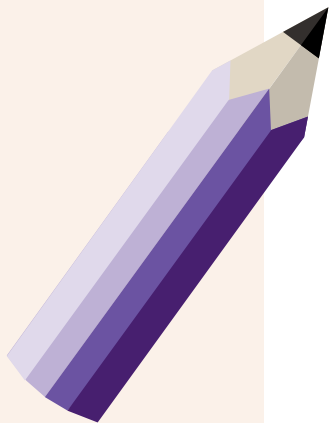
If you have been granted refugee status, you will get a residence permit for a period of three years. If you have been granted the status of a person otherwise in need of protection, you will get a residence permit for a period of 13 months.

If you can support yourself with your business by the time your temporary residence permit expires, you will have the opportunity to apply for a permanent residence permit. However, remember that it may be more difficult for the authorities to assess whether you can support yourself as a self-employed person than if you are employed.

Information for people who have applied for asylum, been given a temporary residence permit and who are running their own business

TO GET A PERMANENT RESIDENCE PERMIT, YOU MUST

- ▶ show that you are proficient in your line of business and have previous experience of running your own business
- ▶ show that you have a relevant knowledge of Swedish and/or English
- ▶ prove that you are the person running the business, that you have main responsibility for it and own at least half of the company
- ▶ show that you can provide for yourself at the moment and that there is enough capital for you to run your company and provide for yourself for at least the next two years. You can add together your income from several jobs and from your own business.



APPLY BEFORE YOUR RESIDENCE PERMIT EXPIRES

It is important you apply for an extension before your temporary residence permit expires but no earlier than three months before.

The earliest the Swedish Migration Agency can take a decision about a permanent residence permit is the day after your temporary residence permit has expired.

If you do not fulfil the conditions for a permanent residence permit on account of your own business, you may still be able to get your temporary residence permit extended if you still need protection.

At migrationsverket.se, you can read more about how you apply and what documents you must enclose with your application.

More help

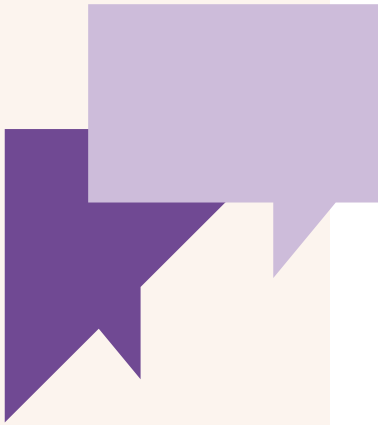
THE SWEDISH PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

You may be able to get assistance and support from the Swedish Public Employment Service (arbetsförmedlingen) when you start your own business. The assistance programme is called Stöd till start av näringsverksamhet (assistance for starting a business). The Swedish Public Employment Service will want to see your business concept and business plan to assess your capacity to succeed with your business. Talk with your employment officer and ask if it might be applicable to you.

You can get assistance with:

- ▶ Internship in the occupation/industry in which you intend to start a business.
- ▶ Courses with an interpreter on the rules that apply to entrepreneurs concerning taxes, record-keeping requirements, and permits for different industries.
- ▶ Mentor support and individual advice in your home language.
- ▶ Guidance in establishing various contacts and accessing networks in different industries.
- ▶ Follow-up by a consultant in your home language about how your business is going.

You can read more about the programme in “Fact sheet for jobseekers - Support while starting a business” which you can download in English on the website of the Swedish Public Employment Service at: arbetsformedlingen.se/startaaget



ADVISORS

It might be a good idea to get help from an advisor if you want to start a business. IFS rådgivningscentrum is particularly focused on helping newcomers to Sweden to start businesses. They offer free advice in many languages and have offices in many towns and cities in Sweden. You can find more information at ifs.a.se

At verksam.se/web/international/find-advisors there is a list of advisors you can contact.

Read more

You can read more about how to start a business in Sweden on the website verksamst.se/web/international. This site has information in Swedish and English.

The brochure “Starting up a business” has more information about how to start a business. This brochure is available in Swedish, English and easy Swedish. You can download this brochure from verksamst.se/fundera/starta-foretag-broschyren

In the booklet “Starting a business without money”, you can read about others who started a business and get further tips and advice. This book is available in Swedish, English, Farsi and Arabic and you can download all versions from tillvaxtverket.se/starting-a-business-without-money



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