EUROPE · SWEDEN · NON-EU/EEA PHARMACY DEGREE ROUTE

SE How to register as a pharmacist in Sweden

The licence is the legitimation som apotekare, issued by Socialstyrelsen, the National Board of Health and Welfare. Apotekare is a protected title. A parallel route exists for receptarie (prescriptionist, a shorter pharmacy degree). Licence or registration: **Legitimation som apotekare (pharmacist licence)**. Regulator: **Socialstyrelsen (National Board of Health and Welfare)**. Every fact was checked against official sources on **20 November 2026**.

WORK PERMIT RULES 2026 The licence route has 5 fixed steps, and the knowledge test is held only in Swedish, in person at Uppsala University. Separately, since 1 June 2026 a first work permit needs a salary of at least SEK 34,470 a month (90% of the median), unless an exemption applies.

Who decides what	
Socialstyrelsen	Assesses your education, approves each step, issues the temporary permit (särskilt förordnande) and the legitimation.
Uppsala University	Runs both parts of the knowledge test and reports results to Socialstyrelsen.
Lund University, Faculty of Law	Runs the web-based course in Swedish regulations.
Migrationsverket and Embassy Islamabad	Decide and process residence and work permits. Separate from the licence.
Employer (community pharmacy)	Decides hiring and whether it can host your 6 months of practical service.

Who can apply

- A completed pharmacist degree from outside the EU/EEA. Education shorter than 4 years is not seen as comparable to the Swedish 5-year programme.
- A positive Socialstyrelsen assessment before you can register for the knowledge test.
- You can apply for the assessment from abroad, without a Swedish personal number, residence permit or Swedish address.
- Work experience does not replace or shorten the 6 months of practical service.
- Swedish at the required level, proven by the time you apply for legitimation.
- If the assessment is refused, the options are a supplementary programme or a full Swedish degree.

The steps, with approximate time and cost

1. **Get your education assessed**
   Send degree, course list and passport copy. No Swedish is needed yet and you can apply from abroad. A degree shorter than 4 years is not seen as comparable.
   Time: about 3 months · Cost: SEK 990
2. **Learn Swedish to Svenska 3 or C1**
   The knowledge test is held in Swedish, and proof of Swedish is required when you apply for legitimation.
   Time: 12–24 months (est.)
3. **Pass the knowledge test**
   A theoretical part on computer, then a practical part, both in Swedish and in person at Uppsala University. Pass both within 5 years of your first sitting.
   Time: 6–18 months (est.) · Cost: free
4. **Course in Swedish regulations**
   A web-based course in Swedish law and regulations (författningar) from Lund University, full or part time. You start after your test result is approved.
   Time: 1–3 months (est.) · Cost: free
5. **Practical service: praktisk tjänstgöring**
   6 months at one community pharmacy that you find yourself. The pharmacy applies for your temporary permit (särskilt förordnande) at least 1 month ahead.
   Time: 6 months
6. **Apply for legitimation**
   Send the form, passport copy, Swedish proof and the original practice certificate. You need a Swedish personnummer or samordningsnummer.
   Time: 2–4 weeks · Cost: paid at step 1

Typical total: About 2–4 years

Language requirements

- Svenska 3 or Svenska som andraspråk 3 (also at Komvux, adult education), or Swedish at CEFR level C1.
- Or a course or test giving Swedish eligibility for university (see antagning.se), or a full Swedish upper-secondary transcript.
- Or Norwegian or Danish at university-entry level, or an employer assessment on Socialstyrelsen's form.
- No Swedish is needed for the assessment, but the knowledge test is held in Swedish.

Read this before you plan

- Licence ≠ visa ≠ job. Socialstyrelsen issues the licence, Migrationsverket decides permits and employers decide hiring. One never implies another.
- You may not work as a pharmacist without legitimation or a särskilt förordnande. With work rights, roles needing no licence are possible while you wait.
- A first work permit needs a signed job offer, health insurance and, from 1 June 2026, at least SEK 34,470 a month unless an exemption applies.

Exams, costs and documents

Checked 20 November 2026

Exam pattern and mode: online, test centre or onsite

Kunskapsprov: theoretical part

ONSITE

- Computer-based, in Swedish
- Content of Swedish pharmacy programmes
- Includes an English article, Swedish questions
- All sections passed at one sitting
- Up to 5 attempts
- Next date: 21 January 2027

Computer-based, in an exam room at Uppsala University in Sweden, on a university computer. Not offered online, abroad or in Pakistan.

Kunskapsprov: practical part

ONSITE

- One day, in Swedish
- Tests skills in the pharmacist role
- Only after passing the theory part
- Up to 3 attempts
- Both parts within 5 years of first sitting
- Dates include 14–15 December 2026

One day in person in Uppsala, Sweden, open only after you pass the theoretical part. Not offered online or abroad.

Course in Swedish regulations

ONLINE

- Web-based, full or part time
- Rolling admission, all year
- Starts after the test is approved
- Must be passed before legitimation
- Access lost after 3 months inactive

Web-based course from Lund University's Faculty of Law. Official pages do not say whether it can be followed from abroad.

Official fees	Amount
Assessment (granskning) Paid with the application to Socialstyrelsen. Not refunded after a decision. IBAN for paying from abroad.	**SEK 990**
Legitimation application Not charged again if you already paid SEK 990 for the assessment.	**SEK 990**
Knowledge test, both parts Uppsala University states the test is free of charge.	**Free**
Course in Swedish regulations Lund University web course. Socialstyrelsen states it costs nothing.	**Free**
Work permit (Migrationsverket) Fee for the employee. Not refunded if the application is refused.	**SEK 2,200**
Permit to look for work Up to 9 months. Needs a master's-level degree and SEK 13,000 per month in funds.	**SEK 2,200**

SEK = Swedish kronor. Swedish courses, translations, travel, insurance and living costs are extra.

Documents usually required

- Assessment application form (granskning, outside EU and EEA)
- Copy of passport first page
- Receipt for the SEK 990 fee
- Copy of pharmacy degree certificate (examensbevis)
- Course list showing subjects and length of study
- Name-change certificate, if relevant
- Translations into Swedish or English by an authorised translator
- Later: Swedish language proof and original practice certificate
- Later: regulations course certificate if you have no personnummer

Expected time

- Socialstyrelsen decides on the assessment in about 3 months. A complete legitimation application currently takes 2–4 weeks.
- Uppsala University holds the knowledge test several times a year. You have 5 years from your first sitting to pass both parts.
- Practical service lasts 6 months. Socialstyrelsen says the whole route usually takes 2–4 years from assessment to legitimation.

Typical total: About 2–4 years

Alternative: supplementary programme

- Uppsala University runs a supplementary programme (kompletteringsutbildning) for pharmacists with a foreign degree: 100 credits, just over 3 terms, full time, in Swedish.
- Entry needs a 5-year foreign pharmacy degree equal to 300 credits, Svenska 3 and Engelska 6 (English). Places are limited.
- Terms 1 and 2 are mostly online with several visits to Uppsala. Term 3 is a placement arranged by the university.
- Socialstyrelsen says this route usually takes 1–3 years from start to legitimation. Ask the university about fees and intakes.

Visas, pay and next steps

Checked 20 November 2026

Immigration route (separate from registration)	What official sources say	Status
Work permit (employee)	Needs a signed job offer, a salary of at least 90% of the median (SEK 34,470 a month from 16 June 2026), comprehensive health insurance and employer insurances. Fee SEK 2,200. First-time applicants apply from outside Sweden.	Changes yearly
Licence-seeker salary exemption	A Migrationsverket news page lists people with foreign qualifications seeking work to obtain a Swedish pharmacist licence as exempt, with a 75% threshold (SEK 28,725). Another Migrationsverket page names only doctors, dentists and nurses.	Confirm
Permit to look for work	Up to 9 months for holders of a master's-level or professional degree, with SEK 13,000 per month in funds and comprehensive health insurance. Fee SEK 2,200. It gives no right to work as a pharmacist without legitimation.	Open

If you are applying from Pakistan

- Residence and work permits are applied for online with Migrationsverket. The Embassy of Sweden in Islamabad handles interviews, biometrics and passport checks.
- The embassy's migration section only accepts visitors with a confirmed appointment, booked through its online form.
- After a positive decision you book biometrics. The embassy says the permit card is normally ready 3–4 weeks later.
- Socialstyrelsen asks for copies, not originals, translated by an authorised translator. Its pages state no attestation or apostille requirement.
- The knowledge test and practical service take place only in Sweden. No part of the licence route is offered in Pakistan.

Pay and funding

- No official pharmacist salary figure was found: Statistics Sweden's (SCB) salary search shows no published figure for apotekare.
- For context only: SCB's median salary for all jobs was SEK 38,300 a month (June 2026), the basis Migrationsverket uses for work permit thresholds.

Avoid these common mistakes

- Starting Swedish late. The knowledge test is in Swedish, so language is usually the longest step.
- Expecting the knowledge test online or abroad. Both parts are in person at Uppsala University.
- Assuming work experience shortens the 6 months of practical service. It does not.
- Starting practical service before the pharmacy has been granted your särskilt förordnande.
- Assuming a licence brings a permit or a job, or that pharmacists are on an exempt occupation list.

How ASGHCA supports you

- International Career Mapping: consult, assess, roadmap, prepare
- Documentation and registration guidance
- English test preparation: IELTS, PTE and OET
- 1-on-1 mentorship, CV and interview support
- Webinars, CPD sessions and a lifetime community

ASGHCA offers education and guidance. Regulated immigration advice is referred to authorised professionals.

Official sources, all checked 20 November 2026: legitimation.socialstyrelsen.se (pharmacists educated outside EU/EEA: overview and steps 1 to 5) · uu.se (Kunskapsprov för farmaceuter med utländsk utbildning; Kompletteringsutbildning för apotekare med utländsk examen) · migrationsverket.se (work permit for employees; salary requirements; new rules from 1 June 2026; permit to look for work) · swedenabroad.se (Embassy of Sweden, Islamabad: migration contact and Q&A) · scb.se (Lönesök, median salary).

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