



University Administration
Human Resources Office

Information for guest researchers who receive stipends

Each year, SLU welcomes a number of foreign students, postgraduate students and researchers. Living in a different country, even for a short period of time, is exciting and rewarding but can also be a great challenge. At SLU we want to do everything we possibly can to contribute to our international researchers having a positive stay in Sweden and at SLU. Your host department will help you with many of the practical arrangements. Moreover, the university has established an international recruitment centre (IRC) at the Human Resources Office, which will assist you in answering questions regarding your stay in Sweden and at SLU. You are welcome to contact us!

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We wish you a pleasant and rewarding stay in Sweden and at SLU!

Introduction

If you are planning to carry out research at SLU and have your funding organized through stipends, there are some issues, listed below, that we would like to draw your attention to.

It is important to bear in mind that a stipend is not an employment. When you are employed, you receive a salary from SLU and pay taxes. A stipend may be paid by SLU, but more commonly, it is received from a research organization or from a person's home country. Stipends are not subject to taxation. It follows, that if you are on a stipend, you are not entitled to SLU's benefits for employees.

Health insurance for guest researchers staying more than one year in Sweden

Access to health care in Sweden is based on residency. A person normally becomes resident if he or she will be staying in Sweden for more than one year. The term "health insurance" means that you are able to go to the doctor and pay a reduced fee, around 150-230 SEK per visit and never more than 900 SEK per year. (Ask for a high cost card at the doctor's office. This will guarantee that you never have to pay more than the 900 per year.) You are also able to buy medicine at a reduced price, never exceeding a total of 1 800 SEK per year. The conditions are the same as for Swedish citizens.

Residents are also entitled to dental care at a reduced cost, however the sums are not as low as for visits to the doctor and vary from dentist to dentist. Dental care for children is free of charge, but if you choose to go to a private dentist, you are advised to check this up.

Health insurance for guest researchers staying less than one year in Sweden *EU/EEA-members*

Visiting researchers – staying for less than 12 months - who are citizens of EU/EEA countries or Switzerland are entitled to medically necessary health care from a public health care provider in Sweden, provided they have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). Visitors are advised to bring their EHIC-card when going to the doctor. Please note that visitors are not entitled to planned health care.

Citizens from countries outside of the EU/EEA

For visitors who are not citizens of a Nordic country, an EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland and participate in SLU's activities, the university has effected an insurance through the Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (*Kammarkollegiet*). The insurance (called *GIF-insurance*) pays for necessary and reasonable costs for emergency medical care or dental care when the insured, during the policy term, suffers illness or has an accident. The GIF-insurance is valid in the whole Schengen* area, 24 hours a day. The term "emergency medical care" means health care that cannot wait, as opposed to planned medical care. You can receive a GIF insurance certificate through SLU's International Recruitment Center, IRC, irc@slu.se.

Health insurance for family members

Please note that family members are not covered by the GIF insurance. Therefore, it is of great importance to have a private health insurance for family members if they are not resident.

Health insurance when going abroad on business

If you are covered by the GIF-insurance, you are covered as long as you travel within the Schengen area. If you are not covered by GIF, or if you will be travelling outside of Schengen, your host department can help you sign a travel insurance through *Kammarkollegiet*.

Welfare benefits

Stipends are not entitled to welfare benefits from the Social Security Agency (*Försäkringskassan*).

Loss of income if you fall ill for a long period of time

Loss of income if you fall ill for a long period of time is normally not covered by your stipend. Since you are not employed, you cannot receive sick pay from SLU or sickness benefit from the Social Security Agency (*Försäkringskassan*).

*The Schengen countries are Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden and Switzerland.

Pregnancy

If you are a resident, maternity care (check-ups during pregnancy) is free of charge in Sweden. For costs in connection with delivery, a resident pays around 80 SEK per day. If you are not a resident and have the GIF-insurance, this insurance may pay for necessary and reasonable cost of care in conjunction with delivery or miscarriage. The insurance pays for serious complications only prior to the end of the 28th week of pregnancy. Please note that the GIF-insurance does not cover maternity care.