



SWEDISH CENTRE FOR  
NATURE INTERPRETATION

# Education and courses in Sweden in nature interpretation and outdoor education

SLU Swedish Centre for Nature Interpretation

SCIENCE AND  
EDUCATION  
**SUSTAINABLE  
LIFE**



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## Content

1. Education levels, surveys and support
2. Education standard and certification
3. For each level: status, trends and examples



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# Education levels, surveys and support

- **Universities** (Universitet och högskolor)
- **Highschools** (Gymnasier)
- **Higher Vocational Education** (Yrkeshögskolan)
- **Folk High Schools** (Folkhögskolor)
- **Other organisations**

3 national surveys: 2015, 2019 and 2022

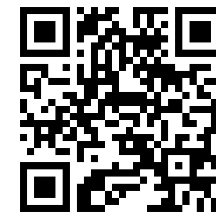
SCNI: Website and support educators

FUN: Network for nature guide educators

Nature school association



Naturskoleföreningen



[www.slu.se/cnv/overblick-utbildning](http://www.slu.se/cnv/overblick-utbildning)



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## Two complementary systems

- Increase the level of competence among guides
- Create a basic national perspective on the working role of nature guides.
- Facilitate for both the guide and the customer/employer.

Natur guide = individuals that make guided tours in and about nature and or cultural heritage

Emerging during 15 years

Democratic process

The whole guide industry has have the opportunity to contribute

[www.slu.se/naturguide](http://www.slu.se/naturguide)

# The national standard for educations in nature guiding



- Educations that meet the requirements of the standard are approved.
- Students that passes get diploma.
- Approved educations are preparatory to the certification
- Principal association is FUN.

## Four areas:

- |  |        |
|--|--------|
| - Communication, including heritage interpretation | 5 days |
| - Logistics, organization and planning             | 5      |
| - Security: prevention and dealing with accidents  | 3      |
| - Hosting, leadership and service                  | 5      |

Internship 5 days

[www.utbildningsnorm-naturguider.se](http://www.utbildningsnorm-naturguider.se)

## 7 educations are approved:

- 5 at folk high schools
- 1 at high school
- 1 at university.



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# The certification system for nature guides

- Assessed independent of prior education
- Need practical experience and theoretical knowledge
- Written and guiding test.
- Independent examiners
- Gets diploma, name tag and logo to use.
- Lasts for three years.



[www.certifieradnaturguide.se](http://www.certifieradnaturguide.se)

## Competence areas:

- Planning and evaluation
- Hosting
- Pedagogics and communication, including heritage interpretation
- Leadership
- Security
- Sustainability and environment
- Responsibility and insurances
- Food and diet



NATURTURISM  
FÖRETAGEN



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## Three complementary standards





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## Trends

Neutral och negative for **outdoor recreation** and **outdoor education** at schools.

In **outdoor recreation** and **natur tourism** increased demands on safety, communication and service

Educations at folk high schools and universities ends but also start up.





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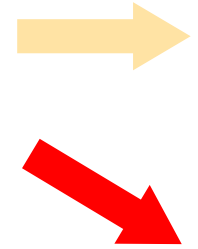
# University level

Several universities.

Great variation among them.

## Trends:

- Outdoor education: uncertain trend
- Outdoor recreation and nature tourism: uncertain trend
- Programmes in interpretation and nature guiding have ended



## Kristianstad University

- Landscape sciences – communication and outdoor education.
- 180 credits
- Communicating nature experiences

## Jönköping University

- 2 courses in outdoor education
- 7,5 credits each
- Place based learning
- Sign communication



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# Higher Vocational Education

2 higher vocational educations: nature guiding

**Yh** Yrkeshögskolan

## Trend:

- More courses in nature tourism and outdoor recreation.



## Campus Åre

- Wilderness and adventure guide
- 1,5 year
- Guiding skills





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# High schools (gymnasier)

49 agricultural collages (naturbruksgymnasier) with nature tourism

Program in nature tourism:

- Content close to education standard
- Preparatory to certification

## Trends:

- In 2021 high school programme in nature tourism
- Students increased with 15 % between 2019 and 2022



## Realgymnasiet

- Nature tourism
- According to the education standard
- Preparatory for the certification
- Communication, leadership and guiding





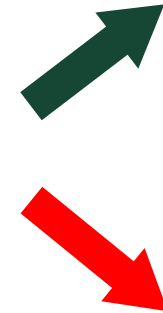
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# Folk high schools

13 folk high schools

## Trends:

- Student numbers increase 42 % 2019-2022
- Some courses come and go
- Less state funding



## Örnsköldsviks folk high school

- 1 year course "Nature guide – High Coast"
- According to education standard
- Nature and outdoor skills
- Pedagogics and leadership

## Other educators

