

Higher Vocational Education (Yh) is a post-secondary form of education that combines theoretical and practical studies in close cooperation with employers and industry. Programmes are offered in specific fields where there is an explicit demand for competence.

A strong link to employers and industry

Higher Vocational Education is delivered in cooperation between education providers and those employers and industries affected by the programme. All programmes therefore have a strong emphasis on work placements.

A programme normally has several periods of work placements (LIA). The purpose of work placements is to increase the students' knowledge and experience through mentorship. Students will also gain practical experience and have the opportunity to apply new knowledge gained during studies to real life situations. The work placement allows the students to get a feel for their future professional role during studies and offers an opportunity to combine theory with practice. At the same time, the employer has the opportunity to get to know a potential future employee.

Employers and industry representatives play a significant role in the planning of an HVE programme and influence on its content. Employers and industry contribute to and influence the programme content by taking part as lecturers, joining in projects, welcoming study visits and by offering work placements.

Level

Higher Vocational Education is at a post-secondary level.

Programme length

Programme duration is from six months and up. Most are between one and two years in duration.

Credit system

Duration is specified through HVE-credits (Yh-poäng), where five credits correspond to one week of full-time studies. 100 HVE-credits correspond to six months of full-time studies, 200 HVE-credits to one year of full-time studies, 400 HVE-credits to two years of full-time studies etc. Students may not automatically transfer credits from an HVE programme. Each university has the right to decide whether credits can be transferred or not.

Assessment of qualifications

General entry requirements for Higher Vocational Education

The entry requirements for Higher Vocational Education are different from requirements applicable to Vocational Education and Training (Ky-utbildning) or to university studies. General entry requirements for HVE are met in any one of the following cases:

- 1 Applicant has received school leaving certificate from a full national or specially designed upper-secondary school programme with no less than a Pass grade of at least 2 250 upper-secondary school credits.
- 2 Applicant has received school leaving certificate from adult education at upper-secondary level with no less than a Pass grade of at least 2 250 upper-secondary school credits.
- 3 Applicant holds Swedish or foreign qualifications equivalent to the requirements stated under 1 or 2.
- 4 Applicant is a resident of Denmark, Finland, Iceland or Norway and there fulfils the entry requirements for study programmes equivalent to the Swedish HVE programmes.
- 5 Applicant holds Swedish or foreign qualifications, or has through practical experience or other circumstance obtained the prerequisites needed in order to fulfil the programme requirements.

If the applicant's first language is other than Swedish, Danish, Norwegian, Icelandic or Faroese, he or she needs to have necessary competence in the Swedish language.

For further information about the general entry requirements, go to yhmyndigheten.se.

Specific entry requirements

Many HVE programmes require prior knowledge beyond the general entry requirements. In order to fulfil the entry requirements for such a programme, the applicant needs to have the specific prior knowledge specified by the education provider.

This may involve:

- Knowledge obtained from one or several courses from a national programme at upper-secondary level or equivalent knowledge.
- Professional experience which may be of importance to the specialisation or that field of profession for which the programme prepares and/or
- Other conditions of significance to the programme or that field of profession for which it prepares.

The exact requirements are specified in the programme syllabus.

Open assessment of qualifications

An education provider may declare an applicant eligible for entry to an HVE programme after a so-called open assessment of qualifications. The applicant has then been judged capable enough to fulfil the requirements of the programme and to practise the profession for which the programme prepares, despite not fulfilling the general entry requirements and/or special entry requirements.

Selection

In a situation where there are more applicants to an HVE programme than there are study places, a selection has to be made among the applicants. The purpose of a selection is to rank the eligible applicants. Those with the greatest merit gain entry to the programme. The selection criteria which may be applied are:

- Grades
- Special examination (oral, written or practical)
- Prior learning
- Work experience

If there are several selection groups and the student has merits in more than one group, he/she may be included in several selection groups. Selection procedure is specified in the syllabus of the HVE programme.

Application

The admissions process is handled by the education providers. Applicants need to apply directly to the education provider offering the programme of the applicant's choice. Because of the close connection to employers and industry, an HVE programme may start at any time during the year. Most programmes, however, start in August/September. The final date to submit an application is usually in April/May.

For access to the programme syllabus, enquiries regarding eligibility, selection or applications, contact the education provider.

Graduation

In order for an HVE programme to result in an award on graduation, it must have a minimum duration of one year.

The following awards exist:

Diploma in Higher Vocational Education

In order to award this diploma, the programme must comprise a minimum of 200 HVE-credits (one year of full-time studies).

Advanced Diploma in Higher Vocational Education

In order to award this diploma, the programme must comprise a minimum of 400 HVE-credits (two years of full-time studies). Time spent in work placement (LIA) must be at least 25 per cent of total programme hours. The programme must also comprise an independent work project.

Student finance

HVE studies qualify for financial aid from the Swedish National Board for Student Aid (CSN). Financial aid is also available during periods of work placement.

Tuition fees

Tuition in HVE-programmes is free of charge. The students do however need to finance their own literature and other study material, as in university studies.

Find programmes

All HVE programmes are listed at yhmyndigheten.se/studerande. The Swedish National Agency for HVE does not issue a prospectus, due to the mobility in the range of programmes offered.

Higher Vocational Education in short

- Programme content and specialisation vary according to labour market demands.
- A programme prepares for a specific professional role, allowing the students to quickly get a head start in the labour market.
- HVE programmes may be provided by local authorities and regions, universities or private companies.
- Each programme needs permission from the Swedish National Agency for Higher Vocational Education, which also carries out quality assurance inspections on the programmes and assesses the labour market demands for education.



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