Corona virus (Covid-19) FAQ for students admitted to autumn 2020 Bachelor’s or Master’s degree studies

This FAQ will be updated regularly throughout spring and summer 2020. Due to new regulations and directives from the Swedish Government, and new decisions taken regularly at the University, many questions cannot be answered at this time and some answers will change before the start of the semester. Please check back regularly for updates!

This version of the FAQ was updated on 23 March 2020.

General questions about Sweden

Will it be safe for me to come to Sweden in August?
Swedish authorities are following the spread of the corona virus very carefully and are working tirelessly to keep Sweden and its residents safe. The best way to follow developments regarding the virus is to refer to the WHO website and the ECDC website. There are currently travel restrictions in place for foreign nationals travelling to Sweden. We will keep you updated on changes to this during the pre-arrival phase. Please also stay updated by checking emergency information from Swedish authorities here.

How widespread is the Corona virus in Sweden?
The total number of individuals who have tested positive for the Covid-19 virus in Sweden is being tracked at the Public Health Agency of Sweden’s website, which is updated daily. Numbers change every day, as testing proceeds and new cases are reported. The largest concentration of infected individuals is in the Stockholm region.

How widespread is the Corona virus on Lund University campuses in Lund, Malmö and Helsingborg?
Due to strict patient confidentiality laws in Sweden, the exact number of confirmed cases at Lund University is unknown. For the number of confirmed cases in Skåne (our region of the country), please visit the Public Health Agency of Sweden website.

What precautions has Sweden taken to keep its population safe?
The Swedish Government and government authorities are taking new measures on a daily basis. New measures will be taken as necessary. So far, the measures include cancelling gatherings of more than 500 people, introducing travel restrictions to Sweden and transitioning high school and higher education studies to distance learning. A ban on visitors to homes for the elderly has also been implemented. In addition, public announcements are made regularly, instructing the public how to stay safe and how to best protect the elderly and other risk groups. Those who can are asked to work from home. Swedish authorities are collaborating closely and working proactively to prepare our healthcare system to ensure that it will have the capacity to offer care to infected individuals who need it.
Will I be able to get healthcare in Sweden? Will I have to pay for it?
Yes, incoming international degree students and exchange students will have insurance provided by the Swedish Government. In addition, students who are staying in Sweden for more than one year, will be able to get a Swedish “personal number” and with this they have the same access to the national healthcare system as other Swedish residents. Read more on our website here. Visits to a health clinic generally cost from SEK 120 to SEK 400.

General questions about Lund University

Is Lund University open?
Lund University is still open. On 18 March 2020 Lund University switched over to distance education, following government recommendations made to slow the spread of the corona virus (Covid-19). The University has been preparing for the transition of educational activities for some time and preparedness is generally very good. Local conditions are different at each faculty due to the methods and characteristics of various education programmes. In the main, however, there will be no campus-based teaching or examinations for the time being.

What precautions has Lund University taken to keep its students safe?
Lund University has formed the Lund University Crisis Management Group to continuously monitor the situation concerning Covid-19. The University’s Crisis Management Group is currently having daily meetings to manage overall issues connected with the virus outbreak. The University is in consultation with regional authorities, such as the region’s Centre for Communicable Disease Control and is following updates from the Swedish Government, the Swedish Public Health Agency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other relevant authorities.

The risks in society related to the corona virus are constantly changing, as the spread of the virus goes through different stages globally, in Europe and in Sweden. Lund University is following the Government’s and Public Health Authority’s recommendations regarding measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, as they are announced.

As of 18 March 2020, Lund University has taken the following measures:

- Until further notice all teaching and assessments of students’ performance is being conducted using distance methods.
- All education components abroad that have yet to start, up to and including 30 June have been cancelled. This also applies to education for incoming international students this spring that has yet to start.
- Business trips abroad will not be authorized for Lund University staff until further notice.
- All international visits are cancelled until further notice.
- No conferences, lectures or other gatherings with over 500 participants are allowed until further notice.
- Changes to approved course and programme syllabi for the spring semester of 2020 concerning the forms of assessment of student’s performance and for conducting teaching online are allowed, in those cases where it is possible to maintain the quality of the education.
- Staff have been given the opportunity to work from home in cases where the manager assesses that this is possible.
Staff and current students at Lund University are receiving regular updates about new management decisions, government recommendations and links to relevant authorities through the Staff Pages at the Lund University website. Current students and partner universities have also received updates through emails from the University.

Practical questions (flights, arrival, orientation, housing)

Can I fly to Copenhagen airport in Denmark, in order to get to Lund?
On 17 March 2020, all Schengen Area Member States (including Denmark) approved a plan proposed by the EU Commission which foresees the closure of the external borders of the territory, for a period of at least 30 days, as the most extreme measure taken by the block to halt the further spreading of Covid-19.

The travel ban will affect all non-EU nationals from visiting the bloc during this time period, except long-term residents, family members of EU nationals and diplomats, cross-border and healthcare workers, and people transporting goods.

As the current closure is set for 30 days, we do not know what the situation will be at the start of the autumn 2020 Semester here in Sweden. We will regularly update you.

When should I buy my tickets?
Due to uncertainty both globally and locally, we recommend that you wait as long as possible to book your trip to Lund University. When booking any tickets, we encourage you to make sure your tickets are rebookable/refundable, as the situation may change rapidly.

Will you be arranging the Arrival Day and Orientation Weeks as per normal?
Our plan is to arrange our autumn Arrival Day as per normal. It is too early to confirm details at this time. We will finalise details during the summer and keep you updated.

Is it safe to stay in a corridor room? How do you ensure that no student in the corridor has the virus? As in all places where you are around other people we recommend social distancing as long as the virus is spreading. This is the same whether you live in a corridor or are somewhere else where people may gather. Anyone who has any symptoms, such as a fever, a cold or a cough, should self-quarantine, regardless of their living arrangements.

Questions regarding payments and refunds (for non-EU/EEA students)

I am not sure if I want to come to Sweden now due to the risks. I need more time to think about it, can I pay later?
If you pay later your application for residence permit won't be processed until you pay so there is a risk that you won't get the residence permit on time.

Can I have a full refund if I am not able to come to Lund due to the risks related to the virus?
Yes. Lund University has a very generous refund policy and if you change your mind before the start of your programme you can get a full refund. You can find our refund policy here. If the reimbursement application reaches the University before the start of the semester, the full tuition fee, excluding bank and card charges, will be reimbursed.
Due to the financial crisis in my country after the Corona virus outbreak, my family can no longer afford the tuition fee payment. Can I keep my place and start in 2021 instead?
In general, we do not approve deferrals based on financial difficulties. However, it is up to each faculty/department to decide whether they will approve deferrals or not, and for what reasons. If approved, you will still need to pay the first tuition fee instalment, in order to not lose your place for autumn 2021 studies.

Due to the financial crisis caused by the Corona virus, will Lund University be offering any additional scholarships for students who can no longer afford the tuition fee?
Lund University already has one of the largest academic merit-based scholarship programmes in Sweden. We are constantly evaluating how we can use these funds in order to help as many students as possible.

Due to the uncertain situation, is it possible to pay smaller tuition fee instalments now and not pay for the full semester?
In order to receive a residence permit for studies in Sweden, you must first have paid the tuition fee for your first semester. Therefore, it is not possible to pay a smaller instalment before arriving to Sweden.

Questions related to the education

Will admission results still be announced on the scheduled dates?
The admissions process remains unchanged. Admissions results for autumn semester 2020 will be published according to the key dates published on universityadmissions.se.

What happens if I cannot come to Lund on time at the start of the semester?
Make sure to stay in contact with your programme coordinator about your situation. Some programmes may be able to accept students arriving slightly late, but this depends on the structure of the programme and on whether Lund University has fully returned to in-classroom teaching at that point or not.

Will the studies be classroom-based or distance learning at the start of the autumn 2020 semester?
The risks in society related to the corona virus are constantly changing, as the spread of the virus goes through different stages globally, in Europe and in Sweden. Lund University is following the Government’s and Public Health Authority’s recommendations regarding measures to reduce the spread of the coronavirus, as they are announced. From 18 March 2020, Lund University has temporarily switched over to distance education. As of now, we cannot predict what the situation will be in autumn 2020.

I don’t feel safe to travel to Lund yet, can I start my programme via distance education?
Please contact your programme coordinator with this question closer to the start of the school year. At this point, in March 2020, Lund University is only offering distance learning temporarily, and due to the recommendations put in place by the Swedish Government. Students are still expected to be in Lund and be able to return to in-classroom studies as soon as this is considered safe and the Swedish Government changes their recommendations. We will keep you updated about this as soon as we have more information.
Can I defer and start my studies in spring 2021?
Most international programmes at Lund University only start once every year, in
autumn (late August / early September). This means that it will not be possible to defer
to spring studies in most cases. Please contact your programme coordinator regarding
the possibility to defer.

Due to the Corona virus, I will not be/was not able to complete my Bachelor’s
programme on time. Can I still start my Master’s studies at Lund in autumn and
in parallel finish my Bachelor’s degree online?
In order to start your studies at Lund University in autumn 2020, you must have
completed your Bachelor’s studies by the time the programme starts. You must also be
able to submit proof of graduation. In some cases, you may be able to apply for a
deferral, in order to start your studies in autumn 2021 instead. However, it is up to each
faculty/department to decide whether they approve deferrals or not, and for what
reasons. If approved, you will still need to pay the first tuition fee instalment, in order
to not lose your place for autumn 2021 studies.

Due to the Corona virus, I will not be/was not able to complete my Bachelor's
programme on time. Can I finish it now and start my Master's at Lund later on in
autumn?
In order to be able to start your studies at Lund University in autumn, you must have
completed your Bachelor’s studies by the time the programme starts. You must also be
able to submit proof of graduation. In general, it is not possible to start the Master’s
programme later on.

I have been conditionally admitted to a Master’s programme, due to the fact that
I was still finishing my Bachelor’s degree. I have now finished my Bachelor’s, but
as my university has closed, I am not able to receive my degree certificate. What
do I do?
The important thing is that you can show that you have in fact graduated from your
Bachelor’s programme before the start of the Master’s at Lund. You can usually
present your degree certificate after coming to Lund, if you have not received it earlier.

I am applying for Bachelor’s studies in the second application round. Due to the
Corona virus, I will not be able to complete my upper secondary studies on time
for the deadline to submit documents, what should I do?
Lund University cannot extend any document deadlines, as University Admissions in
Sweden manages all deadlines and documents for students applying for Bachelor's
studies. This means the key dates and deadlines published on universityadmissions.se
are the ones to follow until further notice. If University Admissions in Sweden
announces an extended document deadline later in the process, all applicants will be
informed.