



Academic Support Centre

Mission Statement

The Academic Support Centre (ASC) and its Swedish equivalent Studieverkstaden provide students with tools to develop their communication skills and study strategies. As part of this development, we strive to help students find an identity in the academic world, their voice in the academic conversation, and joy in their everyday study and writing routines. We gain valuable insights into many students' reading and writing processes and use our experience to tailor collaboration with a wide range of programs. ASC services on both the individual and program levels contribute to raising retention rates and the quality of students' academic efforts.

All students are welcome regardless of their previous writing experience and study ambitions; our language and study consultants approach every meeting with respect for each person's individual needs and learning style. Because we do not set grades, students can feel safe to ask any question. We have time to listen.

Our conversations cover academic norms and requirements, and the reading, writing and speaking strategies required to reach them. We work to demystify academic genres by fostering students' rhetorical awareness as we together decode the craft of reading and writing. In doing so, we aim to contribute to a culture that values the process as much as the product and provide space for cognitively challenging and intellectually engaging conversation outside the classroom. We emphasize that writing is essential for thinking and developing ideas, not only a

form to present already finished ones. We believe that throughout the process writers need to talk about texts, their own and others', not only after the texts are polished and presented. We give feedback on students' texts, and, through this dialogue, create opportunities for them to develop their critical thinking and argument skills. We believe that imagination and openness are academic virtues and model how they can be present in daily study routines.

Replacing ineffective habits with effective ones can take a while, but we have the opportunity to follow up with and encourage students through this process of change. Students who successfully implement good study and writing routines reap the benefits long after they graduate.

Our vision assumes many practical forms, including:

- individual consultations-lectures and workshops both at the ASC and the faculties
- tailored collaboration with teachers who want to develop writing or other study support in their courses
- Write Nights
- experience exchanges with teachers
- writing groups for PhD student