



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET

DECISION

Reg. no STYR 2024/2129

Date 19 September 2024

Vice-Chancellor

## **Deadline for students to take up their study place**

### **Background**

In February 2024, Lund University entered into an agreement with the Swedish Migration Agency to allow our fee-paying students to apply for two-year residence permits.<sup>1</sup> The agreement significantly improves the possibility of the students concerned to stay in Sweden, and is the result of several years of dialogue and negotiations with the Swedish Migration Agency.

In return, Lund University must improve follow-up procedures related to fee-paying students by reporting events that affect their status at the University: *approved leave from studies, withdrawals, no-shows, non-completion* and *presumed non-completion*. The agreement does not entail any new obligations for Lund University, but rather aims to clarify the meaning of the previously existing obligation to provide information to the Swedish Migration Agency about non-registration and approved leave from studies, which follows from Chapter 2, Section 6a of the Ordinance on the reporting of study results etc. at universities and university colleges (1993:1153).

The events described above are primarily to be reported using Ladok, after which the information is transferred to the Swedish Migration

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<sup>1</sup>See SAMV 2024/68.

Agency via internal systems.<sup>2</sup> If reporting is not done properly, or in a timely manner, Lund University risks breaching the agreement. This means that university-wide procedures must be put in place to allow staff to handle study interruptions uniformly and consistently.

A *no-show* is defined as when a student has been accepted and has paid their tuition fee yet does not claim their study place on time and thus loses their place on the programme. There is currently no uniform or clear university-wide guidance regarding the deadline for students to take up their study place at Lund University. The consequences of this affect both students and staff at the University. It is therefore of great importance that there are common guidelines on this issue. However, in order not to restrict local faculty autonomy, the guidelines must also include scope for faculties to disregard the recommendation on the deadline for students to take up their study place when there is reason to do so, such as a special study programme that places particular demands on student attendance.

The working group that formulated procedures for the implementation of the agreement with the Swedish Migration Agency has therefore produced a proposal for a *recommendation* to introduce a university-wide deadline (“cut-off point”) for students on international programmes and courses to arrive at the University to take up their study place once the semester has begun. Although a recommendation does not carry the same weight as a decision, it does nevertheless provide greater support for both students and staff at Lund University, while also sending an important signal to the Swedish Migration Agency about Lund University’s intention to comply with the conditions in the agreement.

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<sup>2</sup> Full procedures for reporting to the Swedish Migration Agency are available in the document “*Handbook for implementing Lund University’s agreement with the Swedish Migration Agency*” (STYR 2024/1703).

In order to ensure that students who do not take up their study place within the prescribed time are identified and reported to the Swedish Migration Agency, the faculties must implement procedures for managing this. Suggestions for such procedures can be found in the handbook referred to above.

The matter has been discussed by the Education Board at Lund University, and the faculties have been involved in the formulation of the proposal. On 4 September 2024, the Board decided to recommend that the Vice-Chancellor decide on a recommendation to the faculties regarding a common deadline for students to take up their study place (see STYR 2024/2052).

## Decision

The University decides to recommend that faculties implement a deadline of no more than three weeks (21 days) from the start of the semester for students to take up their study place on all programmes at Lund University which admit fee-paying students, and implement a way of identifying and reporting which students on these programmes have not taken up their study place within the prescribed time.

The decision on this matter was made by the undersigned Vice-Chancellor in the presence of University Director Susanne Kristensson after a briefing by a representative of Lund University Student Unions and a presentation by Migration Coordinator Louise Corrigan-Konow at External Relations.

Erik Renström

The document has been signed digitally, see end of the document.

Copies sent to:

- All faculties
- All administrative divisions
- Lund University Student Unions
- Employee organisations
- Rules and Regulations