Skolverket

Information for students concerning new rules for sfi

From 1 January 2026, new rules apply to the municipal adult education programme Swedish for Immigrants (sfi). You can learn more about some of the most significant rule changes here.

You are entitled to study sfi for three years

One important change is that you only have three years to complete your studies from the date on which the education organiser decides to admit you to the sfi programme.

In this case, the organiser is the municipality in which you are studying. This may be the municipality in which you have your registered address – i.e., your home municipality – or it may be another municipality.

You may be able to extend your studies

It may be possible to study sfi for longer than three years. However, to be granted an extension there must be special circumstances. The organiser decides whether or not you have the right to an extension.

Examples of special circumstances include:

- parental leave
- illness
- work
- study in another programme
- other special reasons related to your situation.

The organiser makes an individual assessment for each person. The organiser must follow up on your situation and discuss the matter with you before making a decision.

The maximum permitted extension to sfi studies is six months on each occasion, but you may be permitted to extend your studies several times. However, you will not be permitted to extend your studies by more than three years, meaning that the maximum total length of time you can study sfi is six years.

What happens when you complete or are no longer permitted to continue your sfi studies?

If you decide to drop out or interrupt your studies before completing the programme, you can apply to be readmitted. However, there must be special reasons to readmit you and you must have time left of your permitted sfi studies.

If you are absent for three consecutive weeks without approval, you will be considered to have dropped out of your studies.

If you have an acceptable reason, your place in the sfi programme will be kept open. An acceptable reason can be that, for example, you are on sick leave or the head of the college has granted you leave of absence.

The organiser may also decide that you cannot continue your sfi studies if you fail to make sufficient progress, meaning that you have not learned enough Swedish during your time in sfi.

If the organiser does decide to end your studies, you may be readmitted if there are special circumstances and you have time left of your permitted sfi studies.

You can appeal against a decision

The organiser may reject your application to continue studying sfi. If they do, you can appeal. This means that you have the right to contact the municipality and ask them to change the decision. The final decision on whether or not the decision should be changed rests with the Board of Appeal for Education.

Assessment and study plan

Before you register in the sfi programme, your home municipality will assess your knowledge. Your home municipality must also prepare an individual study plan for you. The organiser must write the date on which you were first admitted to sfi on your individual study plan. If you change organiser, your individual study plan follows you to the new organiser.

You may study sfi in a different municipality

If there are special circumstances, you may study sfi in a different municipality to the one in which you live.

If you have studied sfi before

If you were admitted to sfi before 1 January 2026, you have the right to study sfi for three years from 1 January 2026. In some cases, you may be entitled to an extension. If you drop out of or interrupt your studies, you may be readmitted if there are special circumstances and you have time left of your permitted sfi studies.