



# Social assistance

## for EU nationals staying in Umeå Municipality

### The first three months of your stay

As an EU national, you have the right to study, work or merely stay in Sweden without a residence permit for up to three months. This also applies to members of your family.

Among the conditions of your right to stay is that you, as a visitor to Sweden, are not a burden to the social assistance system.

### Staying beyond three months

After staying in Sweden for three months, you continue to have the EU national's right to reside without a residence permit if you have *work*, are *self-employed* or *are actively seeking work*.

You also continue to have the right to reside when you are studying at an established educational institution or merely *staying in Sweden*. This is under the condition that you have sufficient resources to provide for yourself and your family members and that you and your family have comprehensive health insurance that is valid in Sweden.

If you are a family member of an EU national who has the right to reside in Sweden, you too have the right to reside in Sweden.

This residence right for EU nationals and their family members exists as long as the criteria are met.

### When the right to stay in Sweden has ceased

If you do not meet the requirements for the right to reside and also do not have a residence permit, you do not have the right to stay in Sweden and must therefore leave the country.

If it may be assumed that a Union citizen will earn a living dishonestly, commit crime or carry out sabotage, he or she may be forced to leave the country. This may also take place with reference to public order and safety and to national security and on account of crime.

### Applying for social assistance

Social assistance is means-tested on an individual basis, and there are requirements that you must have done everything you can to independently support yourself and your family. The goal is always for social assistance to be temporary and for you to become self-supporting as soon as possible.

If you wish to apply for assistance, contact the Social Services Department in Umeå during office hours. Outside of office hours, *socialjouren* is responsible for social services in the municipality.

### Investigation

The social services investigates at the time of your application whether you meet the

requirements for the social assistance applied for. This investigation consists of several parts. All the requirements must be met in order for you to be assessed to have the right to assistance.

### Investigation of the right to reside

Social services investigates whether you have the right to reside. You must have the right to reside as economically active in order for social assistance to be granted. You are economically active if you meet any of the following criteria.

- You are an employee or self-employed in Sweden.
- You are actively seeking work and are assessed to have a real possibility of gaining employment. In order to be considered to be actively seeking work, you must be registered with Arbetsförmedlingen (the Swedish Public Employment Service) and be prepared to accept suitable work that is referred to you. You must be prepared to participate in activities arranged under labour market policy. If you have been seeking work for six months without result, the main rule is that you are assessed to not have a real possibility of employment.
- You are a family member of an EU national with the right to reside in accordance with the two points above.

### Investigation of domicile

An assessment must also be made of whether you have your “domicile and actual residence” in Umeå Municipality or in another municipality. This test includes an assessment of whether you have arranged accommodation for you and your family in Umeå Municipality.

### Investigation of need

If social services finds that you have both the right to reside in Sweden and your domicile in Umeå Municipality, your application is assessed in the same way as applications from Swedish citizens. Social services then investigates, among other things, whether the need can be met in another way. For example, if you have the right to reside as self-employed, you are presumed to manage on income from your company or otherwise seek other work. Or if you have a spouse in your home country who is responsible for your support, the need may be met by means of a home journey.

### Emergency situations

If you do not meet the above requirements regarding the right to reside, domicile and need, you are not entitled to assistance other than in an emergency situation. Umeå Municipality's responsibility for those persons staying in the municipality includes testing whether temporary assistance is needed to relieve an emergency situation. This test by social services must particularly take the needs of any children into consideration.

Also in the case of emergency situations, social services must test whether your need can be met in another way. As an applicant, you should therefore first have investigated the possibilities of support through the embassy or consulate. If social services assesses that you are in an emergency situation that cannot be resolved in another way, assistance may be provided in the form of a single grant for food, lodging or home journey.

### Contact

You will find more information and contact details on the Umeå Municipality website: [www.umea.se/omsorg](http://www.umea.se/omsorg)

