



Facts about Folkuniversitetet

Knowledge makes a difference

Folkuniversitetet is an independent, non-profit adult education association. We run adult education courses and develop people through knowledge and creativity. We are represented throughout Sweden.

Folkbildning for everyone

Folkuniversitetet is one of ten education associations in Sweden that are involved in 'folkbildning'. The term 'folkbildning' is difficult to translate into English. It is sometimes translated as liberal or popular adult education. However the specific conceptual foundation of 'folkbildning' extends beyond the term 'adult education'.

Folkbildning has a long history in Sweden and is about the life-long right of all people to freely seek knowledge. Folkbildning is free and voluntary, and participants decide themselves both if they want to participate and what they want to do. Participants are given significant influence over the design and content of the study circle/course. All activities should be based on the needs and experiences of participants.



The universities created Folkuniversitetet

Folkuniversitetet grew from the university world. It all started with university students organising courses and lectures for the general public. We still retain close cooperation with universities and colleges, both in Sweden and abroad.





We provide up-to-date research

An important part of Folkuniversitetet's activities is to present up-to-date research through lectures. In cooperation with universities and colleges, we organise several hundred lectures and seminars every year.

Courses in forty languages

We are one of Sweden's biggest providers of language training, offering courses in forty languages. For foreign languages, we use the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Our teachers teach in their mother tongue. In Sweden, Folkuniversitetet is responsible for the international Cambridge English and IELTS language examinations.

A unique test in Swedish as a foreign language

Folkuniversitetet offers a unique test in Swedish as a foreign language: Swedex. The test scientifically measures people's knowledge of Swedish in accordance with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages. Swedex is used by employers and students to document actual knowledge of Swedish.

We are independent

Folkuniversitetet is not controlled by any political, religious or commercial interests. This means we are free to design our activities without reference to special interests. Any financial surplus is always reinvested back into the organisation.

All the world's knowledge

Folkuniversitetet organises study circles, both in the form of open course activities and in cooperation with free groups and associations.

Watercolour painting, Arabic, law, IT, dance and business economics are just a few examples of the thousands of courses offered by Folkuniversitetet. This makes Folkuniversitetet one of the most multifaceted education providers in Sweden. All courses are taught by people with solid knowledge within their subject areas.

Together with associations and groups, we help to develop the work of such organisations and enhance the shared interests of participants. In a study circle, it's the interests, ideas and motivations of each and every participant that are in focus. The idea is that everyone will be able to develop together, as individuals and as a group. A study circle could be a group that likes acting, a band that plays music, a club that reads and discusses philosophy or an association interested in globalisation. Starting a study circle is free and easy, and opens the way to new possibilities.





Leader in art and cultural programmes

We are the leading provider of aesthetic courses and programmes. We offer lectures, study circles, weekend courses and longer vocational and university preparation programmes. Our teachers in these areas have a high level of artistic training and are professionally active within their fields.

Upper-secondary schools with a personal atmosphere

Folkuniversitetet has upper-secondary schools offering university preparation programmes. Our schools are relatively small and are characterised by a personal atmosphere and close contact between students, teachers and the school management. Several of the schools have international partnerships.



Folk High Schools with different profiles

In the Swedish Folk High School (Folkhögskola) system, education is based on the students' needs, previous knowledge and experience. Education at the Swedish Folk High Schools is free of charge. At all Folk High Schools you can achieve an upper secondary school level of knowledge and qualify for higher education. Folk High Schools are independent, and the range of courses varies from school to school.

Folkuniversitetet's Folk High Schools are situated on several places around the country.

A long tradition of international activities

Folkuniversitetet has significant international activities, both in Sweden and abroad. Examples include our extensive range of language courses and our language schools in England, Spain, Germany, France and Estonia, as well as many years' experience of operating as a partner or coordinator in numerous international projects.

Our international schools

Internationella Skolorna (the International Schools) is part of Folkuniversitetet, offering language courses in a number of countries, from beginners' level to advanced programmes at university level. Internationella Skolorna runs schools in Spain, Germany and France, and acts as an agent for selected language institutes throughout the world.

We renew ourselves —constantly

Folkuniversitetet offers courses, programmes and lectures that contribute to development and learning as the world and society change. We renew ourselves by testing out new avenues, developing the forms of our educational offering and using modern teaching techniques.





Major assignments for municipalities and public bodies

Folkuniversitetet organises training programmes on behalf of municipalities and other public bodies, such as Arbetsförmedlingen (the Swedish employment service). We also provide municipal adult education (komvux) and Swedish for immigrants (sfi) programmes in several municipalities.

Experts in company training

Well-trained and motivated staff are the key to success for both the companies and the individual employee. Folkuniversitetet develops the skills of staff from companies and organisations of all sizes, through everything from short courses and longer diploma programmes to tailor-made training in groups or individually, all based on relevant need.

One of Sweden's largest providers of vocational training

We are one of Sweden's largest organisers of vocational training (Yrkeshögskolan). This is a form of training that is characterised by a strong link to work life and the approach of "learning at work". These programmes offer excellent opportunities for employment. Folkuniversitetet runs around fifty vocational training courses.

The individual in focus

When we plan and implement our activities, we always start from the needs of the individual. Our participants are inquisitive and interested, and believe — just as we do — in the power of knowledge to effect change.



Our organisation

Folkuniversitetet consists of five regional offices, located in Stockholm, Uppsala, Göteborg, Lund and Umeå. Representatives of the university and student bodies in the relevant regions make up the board of directors in each region.

Folkuniversitetet has the equivalent of approximately 1,500 employees per year and turnover of around SEK 1.3 billion.

You can visit our website at **www.folkuniversitetet.se**

