



A New Curriculum at SSE

THE BOLOGNA ACCORD IN PRACTICE

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THE STOCKHOLM SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (SSE) is one of the oldest business schools in the world. Since its foundation nearly a century ago, SSE has enjoyed a close relationship with the Swedish business community. Over the past few decades, as business has developed and internationalized, changes in business education have not always followed at the same pace. Therefore, implementation of the Bologna Accord for higher education is a significant event both in Sweden and in Europe. The harmonization of European education as a result of the Bologna Accord will create a transparent and shared system, promoting the exchange of knowledge, ideas and skills through an open educational market.

The advantages for students, employers, and institutions of higher learning are substantial. Students will have more educational options, employers will have a larger and more qualified workforce from which to recruit, and for institutions of higher learning, the greater consistency with one single system of degrees will improve their attractiveness and take our internationalization aims one step further.

SSE's focus is international – more than 20% of our graduates currently begin their careers outside of Sweden – and a common European system will serve this perspective well. (SSE's academic competitiveness within Europe was acknowledged in a recent Financial Times ranking of Master's in Management Programs, where SSE was ranked eighth in Europe.) We see the Bologna Accord as a welcome opportunity, allowing us to demonstrate that the high quality of business education available at SSE attracts the very best students, not merely the very best in Sweden.

Karl-Olof Hammarkvist
Professor, Vice President
Stockholm School of Economics
November 2006



The new five-year Bologna Accord curriculum will commence at the Stockholm School of Economics in the fall of 2007. Simultaneously, SSE will introduce the European credit and grading system, ECTS.

SSE BACHELOR'S PROGRAM

The first three years of undergraduate education will result in a SSE Bachelor of Science (BSc), Business and Economics (or, in Swedish, "Ekonomie kandidatexamen HHS").

The focus on disciplinary, topic-based education during the program creates a structured environment for students to learn the concepts they need to acquire in order to become successful managers.

During the third year, undergraduates will choose two out of five possible areas of specialization, equivalent to 30 ECTS credits. In addition, during the third year, students will be expected to write a paper within the field of one of their specializations, advancing a new point of view based on research, which will account for another 15 ECTS credits. A limited Student Exchange Program will also be offered.

Following successful completion of the program, students will receive a Bachelor of Science degree. At this point, students may choose to enter the labor market or to continue their studies, progressing to the Master's level at SSE or at another university of their choice. All graduates from SSE's BSc Program are guaranteed a place in the Master's Program at SSE for five years from the day they start their BSc studies.

SSE MASTER'S PROGRAM

In the fall of 2009, SSE will launch a two-year Master's Program, building on the participants' BSc studies in Business and Economics. Specializations will be offered within the fields of Marketing, Management, Economics, Finance and Accounting. In addition to the mandatory coursework, students will be required to write a Master's thesis accounting for 30 ECTS credits.

An extended Student Exchange Program will be offered at the Master's level, providing students with the opportunity to spend one academic semester at another leading business school, attending either a Master's or an MBA program. SSE's participation in the prestigious CEMS network will continue, providing a valuable opportunity for Master's level students to participate in this internationally renowned program.

All specializations at the Master's level will be taught entirely in English.



"A synchronization of the degree systems in Europe is a change for the better from our point of view. The transparency will give the recruitment department a bigger applicant pool to draw from, and the structure of several degree levels means that it will be easier to match job requirements with the right level of education."

Carina Malmgren Heander
Group Vice President Human Resources
Sandvik AB

ECTS

European Credit Transfer System

As defined by ECTS, one academic semester comprises 30 credits. Under the current Swedish system the corresponding number of credits is 20, i.e. 1 current credit = 1,5 ECTS credits. The ECTS grading scale has seven steps ranging from A (the highest) to F (fail).

SSE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (3 YEARS)

- Business Administration
- Economics
- Statistics
- Law
- Finance

YEARS 1 & 2

- Students choose two out of five areas of specialization
- Student paper (15 credits)
- Student Exchange Program

YEAR 3

SSE MASTER OF SCIENCE (2 YEARS)

- In-depth study in a chosen specialization
- Master's Thesis (30 credits)
- Student Exchange Program
- CEMS Program

YEARS 4 & 5

The Bologna Accord

In 1998, education ministers from eight European countries met at Sorbonne in France, where they unanimously agreed on the need for change in higher education in Europe. Individual education systems had, over the centuries, created a disparate variety of degrees, structures and program lengths even for the same type of education.

The following year, 29 countries gathered in Bologna, Italy, and an initial agreement was signed, encompassing three goals:

1. To enhance mobility of graduates within the European system of higher education
2. To improve employability of graduates within the European system of higher education
3. To strengthen European higher education's attractiveness and competitiveness.

To date, 45 countries have signed the treaty.

One result of the Bologna Accord is that all higher education in Europe will be divided into three levels: Bachelor, Master and Doctor.

A second outcome is the introduction of a common credit and grading system,

the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

In February 2006, the Swedish Parliament, the Riksdag, voted to adapt the Swedish higher education system to the Bologna model. Accordingly, beginning in the fall of 2007, Sweden will implement the Bologna three-level system for higher education.

With the introduction of the Bologna model in Sweden, student transfers are expected to increase. After being awarded a Bachelor's Degree, students will be able to apply to a Master's level program at the academic institution of their choice, either in Sweden or elsewhere in Europe. In Sweden, with some 25 educational programs in business administration and economics, this transformation will lead to a more competitive educational market.

About the Stockholm School of Economics

Founded in 1909 by royal statute, the Stockholm School of Economics (SSE) is the oldest private institution of university standing in Sweden. Since its inception, SSE has provided the Swedish business community and public sector with highly qualified graduates in business administration and economics. Academic

research has a central position at SSE. The high quality of the School's educational programs builds on the extensive research activities of professors and researchers.

The School's international focus is a crucial part of its strategy. SSE operates throughout the Nordic and Baltic region in Norway, Finland, Latvia and Russia. Close ties to Swedish multinational corporations and organizations provide insights in the multifaceted challenges of global business, ensuring an internationally oriented curriculum. SSE is a member of both CEMS (Community of European Management Schools and International Companies) and PIM (Partnership in International Management).

In addition to the Bachelor's and Master's programs discussed in this brochure, SSE offers a PhD program, a full time MBA Program (SSE MBA), several executive MBA programs (offered in Sweden, Russia and Latvia), as well as an International Graduate Program (IGP), leading to a Master's in Economics, Finance or Business.

