



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Directorate-General for Education and Culture

Policy and interinstitutional coordination

The European Commission's attention has been drawn to a new system for admission to courses at Lund University which appears to make it more difficult for nationals of other Member States to have access. We would like to examine whether this new system is in conformity with EU law, especially whether it is in conformity with article 18 TFEU which prohibits any discrimination on grounds of nationality. Therefore, we would like to ask for information concerning this system to analyse whether it ensures the application of this rule for the access to courses of students from other Member States.

According to our information, it appears that there is a system of four groups. Students who apply for a course are categorised into these four groups depending on their school qualifications. The first group is the group of students who have Swedish high school qualifications, the second are those with municipal adult education qualifications, called Komvux, the third are those with foreign qualifications and the fourth group are those who have completed a period of study in a further education college, the Folkhögskola. The places for students from each group in university courses are allocated in proportion to the number of applicants in that group. When there is only a limited number of students in a particular group, it may happen that there are no places on the programme allocated to this group.

In such a case, it appears that the only possibility for a student to be admitted to a course for which there are no places allocated for a group to which this student belongs is to move up within the queue of people on a reserve list, drawn up on the basis of the ECTS-points the waiting student achieved already. In practice, such a student may not ultimately be selected because of the number of other candidates higher up the list.

According to our information, this system was approved by the Parliament in 2007 and introduced for the academic year 2010-2011.

We would like to ask for a detailed explanation of the operation of the new system, including, but not limited to, the following points:

- which persons fall into which group and how the system of queuing functions (ie into which group a national from another Member State of the EU falls when (a) this student has qualifications from his own country and when (b) this student has Swedish qualifications, and secondly, according to which criteria students are put on the reserve list of candidates who can be admitted to the course and under which circumstances and in which order the waiting students are admitted to the course);

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- which qualifications determine the group to which a candidate is allocated (i.e. the secondary school-leaving certificate or the last educational certificate the student received, e.g. more recent certificates awarded by universities);
- the method used to calculate the proportions of students accepted from each group;
- information about provisions which make the system flexible to allow taking special situations into account which might require exceptions from this system.

We would also be grateful for the view of your authorities on the compatibility of the new admissions system with the requirements of European Union law on non-discrimination.

We therefore kindly request that you provide us with a reply to the points above within two months of the date of this letter.