

SASNET - Swedish South Asian Studies Network

Lund University

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Large number of South Asian students at Swedish universities 2001–2010

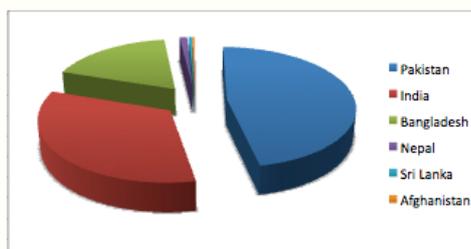
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During the period 2001-2010, no less than 23 662 South Asian students studied at Swedish universities.

The number is based on official statistical data regarding all foreign students studying at Swedish universities provided by the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education (Högskoleverket). SASNET has made an excerpt presenting the number of students from the South Asian nations.

Pakistan tops our list with more than 11 000 students – 47% of all South Asian students in Sweden during the 10 year period 2001-10, whereas India contributed with 33% and Bangladesh with 18%. Smaller number of students came from Nepal, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan. The statistics does not show any students from Bhutan and Maldives.

See the table below, and the chart to the right.



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South Asian students in Sweden 2001-2010

Country	Number of Students
TOTAL	23662
Pakistan	11091
India	7870
Bangladesh	4248
Nepal	267
Sri Lanka	111
Afghanistan	75

South Asian students in Sweden 2009/2010

In the statistical material from the Swedish National Agency for Higher Education, information is given for each individual year from 2001, but we have chosen only to give details for the final year available in the statistics, 2009/2010. [See the full statistical material](#) (as an Excel file).

The trend is the same regarding the proportion of South Asian students as for the entire 10 year period.

The statistics however show another interesting feature, namely the proportion of free mover students, that come to Sweden on their own initiative, and those coming through different forms of exchange programmes (Linnaeus Palme, Erasmus Mundus and others).

Country	free movers	exchange students
TOTAL	7167	
Pakistan	3574	3558
Indien	1895	1588
Bangladesh	1514	1327
Nepal	157	157
Afghanistan	21	0
Sri Lanka	6	6

The high proportion of free movers is a cause of alarm, since Sweden has introduced education fees for non-European students from 2011. This will most probably result in a sharp decline of free movers during coming years, whereas students in exchange programmes are exempted from fees.

An interesting trend to be noted is the appearance of exchange students from Afghanistan, starting from the academic year 2008/2009, and continuing at the same levels into 2009/2010. These students were hosted by Karlstad University, the only one in Sweden that has had Afghanistan students since 2001.

Most South Asian students at BTH and KTH

Another interesting finding is that Blekinge Institute of Technology (BTH) and the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) are the major recipients of students from South Asia, primarily from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. What is more, Blekinge Institute of Technology holds the absolute leading place in numbers of accepted Indian students, a result of successful collaboration with some leading IT universities in India.

The table below presents a ranking of all Swedish universities that have received South Asian students since 2001. It

The table below presents a ranking of all Swedish universities that have received South Asian students since 2001. It clearly shows that most of the South Asian students that came to Sweden between 2001 and 2010 were interested in natural sciences and technology, while less interest has been in pedagogical and other humanitarian fields of study. This interest has obviously given advantage to the major technical universities, but also to smaller university colleges such as Dalarna, Halmstad and Skövde.

South Asian students per university, 2001-2010		of which					
University	Total	Pakistan	India	Bangladesh	Nepal	Afghanistan	Sri Lanka
Blekinge Institute of Technology	3 963	2 151	1 244	502	66	0	0
Royal Institute of Technology	3 393	1 526	840	926	35	0	66
Linköping University	1 738	830	664	228	16	0	0
Chalmers University of Technology	1 455	600	586	263	6	0	0
Dalarna University	1 235	498	505	227	5	0	0
Lund University	1 114	442	399	226	42	0	5
Stockholm University	931	416	143	339	18	0	15
Umeå University	955	356	404	187	8	0	0
Halmstad University	900	583	204	113	0	0	0
Skövde University	858	140	651	67	0	0	0
Gothenburg University	825	384	227	214	0	0	0
Uppsala University	717	225	320	125	22	0	25
Mälardalen University	658	375	236	47	0	0	0
Jönköping University	552	225	298	29	0	0	0
Växjö University	523	422	51	38	12	0	0
Mid Sweden University	489	259	129	101	0	0	0
University of Borås	482	178	244	60	0	0	0
Malmö University	471	299	28	126	18	0	0
Luleå University of Technology	463	263	166	34	0	0	0
University of Kalmar	235	99	118	18	0	0	0
Karlstad University	230	95	45	15	0	75	0
Linnaeus University	208	161	23	17	7	0	0
University of Gävle	206	85	68	53	0	0	0
University West	185	99	63	23	0	0	0
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	180	67	32	69	12	0	0
Karolinska Institutet	166	49	60	57	0	0	0
Södertörn University	146	34	28	84	0	0	0
Örebro University	145	66	46	33	0	0	0
Kristianstad University	135	95	40	0	0	0	0
Gotland University	82	56	8	18	0	0	0
Stockholm Institute of Education	17	8	0	9	0	0	0
Stockholm School of Economics	5	5	0	0	0	0	0

Data source: Högskoleverket

Summary made by Julia Velkova, SASNET



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