



Costs for Students at Umeå University – Rules and Guidelines

This document replace the Vice-Chancellor's decision regarding Rules and Guidelines for Fees and Other Costs for Students in Higher Education (ref. no. 500-3-05), which hereby ceases to be valid.

Swedish education at universities and colleges has traditionally been free of charge, and an earlier version of Chapter 1, Section 10 of the Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) decreed that higher education was free for students. This provision ceased to apply on 1 July 2010 through the Ordinance (2010:544) on amending the Higher Education Ordinance. The current provisions are governed by the Ordinance (2010:543) concerning application fees and tuition fees at higher education institutions¹.

In addition to any tuition fees, there are other costs in connection with the education. However, the Fees Ordinance (1992:191) limits the University's right to impose fees for goods and services provided. Although, pursuant to Sections 4 and 15 of the Fees Ordinance, the University can charge fees for some of these costs. The premise is that Umeå University will bear the costs necessary to provide and implement the education, while the students shall bear the costs necessary to participate in the education².

The students must personally bear the costs for such disposable materials that, after being utilised by the student, provide a result that the student can obviously benefit from through private use. Other disposable materials are paid for by the University.

Furthermore, the University has the right to charge students for items such as

- printouts and copies of degree projects, essays used in connection with seminars
- Printouts and copies of other study material
- digital storage media
- copying and scanning
- deposit fees for keys, pass cards, ID cards and the like
- fees that the University library charge for later returns or when books are lost

The price shall not exceed the cost price. The students shall always be free to otherwise acquire what is necessary for the education.

For foreign students, the following also applies regarding housing. According to the appropriations letter (government decision), the University has permission to, for example, charge fees for the leasing of residential flats. Under Section 9a of the Ordinance (1993:528) concerning the Supply of Premises to Central Government Authorities, higher education institutions covered by the Higher Education Act

¹ On 16/09/2010, the University Board decided to establish principles for tuition fees at Umeå University as well as instruct the Vice-Chancellor to make decisions on size of the fees. For more detailed information regarding these fees, see the Vice-Chancellor's decision ref. no. 200-1910-10.

² The Swedish National Agency for Higher Education's investigation "Students' Costs associated with Higher Education" [Studenternas kostnader i samband med högskoleutbildning] (2003) examines the differences between costs necessary to provide and implement the education and costs necessary to participate in the education.

(1992:1434) may enter into rental agreements for residential flats in order to sublet the flats to foreign students within exchange programmes with other countries. When leasing in this manner, the University has the right to charge the student rent.

The above rules and guidelines apply to students in first-cycle, second-cycle and third-cycle education. They do not apply to contract education.

The University may not apply pressure, for example, through omitting to examine or award degree certificates, in cases where a student does not fulfil their financial obligations to the University.

In the event of costs relating to personal injury or property damage caused by the student during placement, reference is made to the Ordinance (1982:1077) on the compensation of public funds for damage caused by students at governmental higher education entities during placement and at non-governmental workplaces. For information on compensation in other contexts, please refer to the University's insurance with Kammarkollegiet.