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# All about the Swedish National Police Academy



**T**he mission of the Swedish National Police Academy is to train officers for the purpose of reducing crime while promoting safety, security and the rule of law. Flexible approaches to training and skills development improve the ability of officers to perform their duties effectively and efficiently.

The academy's programme is based on government decisions and objectives. While basic training is at the core of the programme, a broad, multifaceted range of advanced training options for both officers and civilian employees is also available.

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1. Studies at the academy consist largely of group projects, lectures and seminars.  
PHOTO: PETER KNUTSON



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## • Basic training

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Future officers currently take basic training at three sites in Sweden: the Swedish National Police Academy in Sörentorp, just north of Stockholm, as well as commissioned training at Umeå and Växjö University. A distance learning programme has been conducted in 22 places throughout the length and breadth of Sweden ever since 2002.

### Full-time studies for four terms

The police training programme provides four terms of full-time studies. A student who receives a grade of Pass is awarded a Law Enforcement Degree, followed by a one-term trainee programme at a police authority. Successful completion of the programme entitles the trainee to apply for a position as a police officer.

## • Targeting 20,000 officers

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The government has set a target of 20,000 Swedish police officers by 2010. As a result, the academy admitted a record number of students in 2008. Up to 1,700 people enrolled in the autumn term.

As the target is reached, admissions will return to approximately 1,000 students in basic training.

Some 200 students began basic training to become officers in January 2009. A record number of those admitted (50%) were women. The number of students with backgrounds abroad increased somewhat to 19%.

2. Being a police officer is a popular profession. Approximately 7,000 people have applied to the training programme each term over the past few years.

PHOTO: ANNIKA ULLTIN.



3. The academy is responsible for advanced and further education of police officers and civilian employees.

PHOTO: KRISTOFFER THESSMAN.

4. The newly renovated criminal investigation premises offer students the opportunity to experiment with digital image processing, take fingerprints and secure DNA evidence by means of the latest technology.

PHOTO: PETER KNUTSON.





## • Further education

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Among the areas that further education will focus on in 2009 are investigation and interrogation methods in inquiries involving children's situation, as well as courses on domestic violence and offences against women. Various trainings that concentrate on special police tactics (for demonstrations, large crowds, etc.) will also be conducted during the year. These programmes are important as Sweden prepares to assume the EU Presidency in July 2009.

## • International training

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The academy administers participation in many international trainings under the umbrella of the European Police College (CEPOL), the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPIC), etc. The academy will host a number of international conferences and trainings when Sweden holds the EU Presidency in the second half of 2009.

## • Training emergency officers

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Sweden has approximately 1,500 emergency officers. They work in groups under police supervision when extraordinary events occur or the community faces difficult challenges. The academy has been in charge of training emergency officers since 2007. Some 750 people take basic, review and leadership training each year.

5. Creativity, innovative thinking and current research are integral to instruction. This is a national course in basic tactics.

PHOTO: MONICA LANDERGÅRD.

## • Police training of the future

A government-commissioned inquiry has been conducted over the past few years to explore future police training. A proposal for the form and content of a new programme was submitted in April 2008. In accordance with the proposal, the training would become a three-year higher education programme, be integrated with academic institutions and contain revised admission criteria. The proposal, which was sent out for consideration in summer 2008, is now being examined by the government. An official decision is expected in spring 2010.

## • Facts

The Swedish National Police Academy in Solna had approximately 240 employees in April 2009. The staff includes instructors in basic and advanced civilian and law enforcement subjects, as well as administrative and service personnel.

The academy has been located in the Sörentorp district (former headquarters of the Svea Life Guards) of Solna since 1970. The 210-acre district has some 60 buildings: lecture halls, conference space, a library, a restaurant, a technology centre, exercise areas, athletic and fitness facilities, a hotel, etc.

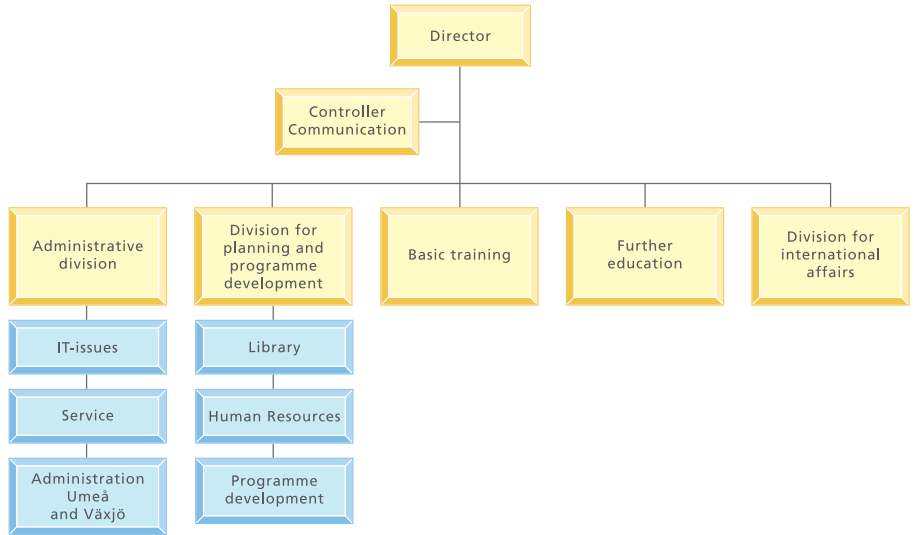
6. The police training programme covers many topics, including law, communication, tactics, self-protection, traffic, documentation and digital image processing.

PHOTO: ANNIKA ULLTIN.





## • Organisation of the Swedish National Police Academy



7. The police training programme alternates between theory and practice. The exercises reflect the real world and typical situations in daily police work.

PHOTO: PETER KNUTSON.

8. The academy currently employs some 240 people of various professions. A blend of skills and experiences is needed to ensure top-quality police training.

PHOTO: PETER KNUTSON.

## • Overall objectives

- The academy will be a leading national resource for training and skills development of Swedish police officers.
- The educational environment at the academy will be creative, instructive and stimulating of critical thought. It will prepare students for their careers and instil current officers with a greater sense of security. Ultimately it will improve and upgrade Swedish police services.

Looking forward  
to seeing you at  
the Swedish National  
Police Academy!



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