

Sweden
(Information provided by the Swedish delegation to the CCBE, March 2012.)

A. Contact point

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B. General information

1.	Legal basis	Legal basis is the Charter of the Swedish Bar Association (Section 3, Paragraph 3).
2.	Overview of procedural steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applicants from the EU, the EEA or Switzerland, who fulfill the requirements of becoming a member of the Bar Association in their home country, should send their applications to the Swedish Bar Association (the Association thereafter). 2. Equivalence assessment: according to Section 3 of the Charter of the Swedish Bar Association (the Charter thereafter), any such applicant needs to establish sufficient knowledge of the Swedish legal system. The Association will consider each application on a case-by-case basis and it will take account of the applicant's previous education and level of professional experience¹. The aim of the equivalence assessment is to establish whether the applicant has sufficient knowledge of the Swedish legal system. 3. Practical training: the length of the training required to be undertaken can vary depending on the previous professional experience of the applicant. 4. Preparatory classes to the Bar exam. 5. Bar exam.

C. Processing of application

1.	Information and documents requested from the applicant	<p>In applying to become a member of the Association, the following documents need to be submitted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) certificate of law degree obtained in EU, EEA or Switzerland, ii) testimonials from all previous employers, and iii) a list of references (i.e. information about the lawyer, courts and other authorities the applicant has been in contact with in his/her professional activities). <p>Additionally, a Certificate of Domicile and certificates showing no-bankruptcy, no-trustee and no-tax arrears need to be submitted.</p> <p>The Association administers documents in Swedish, Norwegian, Danish and English. Hence, for the Association to be able to take account of the content, documents need to be prepared in any of these languages. In practice, the applicant is otherwise always asked to provide an English translation. There is however no formal requirement that translations are authenticated by a notary public.</p>
2.	Submission of application	<p>In applying for the membership, the applicant needs to submit a completed and signed application form (available here) accompanied by the compulsory attachments (Section C 1 above).</p> <p>The application should be posted to:</p> <p>The Swedish Bar Association Box 27321 102 54 Stockholm Sweden</p>
3.	Application fees	None.
4.	Expected duration of the application processing	Approximately 3 months.

¹ NJA 2002 s. 130 (decision by the Swedish Supreme Court).

D. Assessment of application and possible outcomes		
1.	General requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Holder of a law degree obtained in EU, EEA or Switzerland. 2. No requirement of citizenship. 3. Certificate of Domicile. 4. Certificates showing no bankruptcy. 5. Certificate of no trustee. 6. Certificate of no tax arrears
2-3.	Equivalence of relevant knowledge and/or professional education Outcome	<p>All applications for admission are decided upon by the Board of the Association. The Board consists of 20 advocates, the President, Vice President, nine delegates (members of the Bar) and their deputies (The Charter, Section 5ff). The Board decides whether the candidate has sufficient knowledge of the Swedish legal system.</p> <p>Establishing sufficient knowledge normally includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) attending the university class Introduction to Law², run by the University of Stockholm³ in cooperation with the Association, followed by passing a written exam at the end of the class, ii) attending the university class Procedural Law⁴, run by the University of Stockholm in cooperation with the Association, followed by passing a written exam at the end of the class, and iii) attending three mandatory preparatory courses for the Bar exam, followed by passing the Bar exam⁵. <p><i>“The extent of these classes and tests is to be decided in each individual case, depending on the applicant’s previous education and level of professional experience”</i> (The Charter, implementing Directive 2005/36/EC).</p> <p>The university classes are fully administered by the University of Stockholm, not the Association. Results of the exams are generally not appealable. However, there is a limited possibility to require a responsible academic to reconsider the grade obtained due to new circumstances (6 kap. 24 § Högskoleförordningen (1993:100)).</p> <p>Results of the Bar exam may be appealed within two weeks. The appeal is sent to the Association and decided upon by the Education Committee.</p> <p>Fees for University courses: £ 1,800.</p> <p>After having completed the above, an application to become a member of the Association may be submitted. No additional training is needed; instead, an applicant who has established sufficient knowledge of the Swedish legal system is considered to have fulfilled the requirements on practical/theoretical training included in the normal route of becoming a member of the Association.</p> <p>A decision by the Board to deny an applicant admission may be appealed to the Supreme Court.</p>
E. Normal route to qualify as a lawyer		
1.	Academic stage	<p>Legal studies: Degree of Master of Law (L.LM).</p> <p><i>Regarding this requirement and Morgenbesser applications, see Sections B2 and D 2-3 above.</i></p>
2.	Work experience	<p>Work Experience: 3 years of practicing law by professionally assisting the public in legal matters, either as an employee of a member of the Association or as a self-employed person.</p> <p><i>Regarding this requirement and Morgenbesser applications, see Sections B2 and D 2-3 above.</i></p>
3.	Preparatory Course for the Swedish Bar exam	<p>The preparatory courses, which are mandatory for the Bar exam, include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i) ethical issues, ii) negotiations, iii) constitutional law. <p>Fees for preparatory courses: £ 3,000.</p>

² The class Introduction to Law covers a brief induction to most areas of law, including civil, criminal, administrative and procedural law.

³ There is no standard application form regarding registering for University courses.

⁴ The class Procedural Law covers a detailed overview of the procedural legislation governing civil, criminal and administrative law.

⁵ This requirement is also one of the requirements that have to be fulfilled in order to become a member of the Association following the normal route.

4.	Bar exam	<p>The Bar exam is an oral exam and the Board includes an examiner and a censor.</p> <p>The subjects covered by the exam are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) deontology, ii) organization, iii) procedural technique, iv) risk Management, and v) other issues relating to the legal profession. <p>There is a fee for taking the Bar exam (£500 for each test).</p> <p>If the Bar exam is failed three times, the preparatory courses need to be retaken. Regarding time limits, the applicant needs to have passed the Bar exam at the time of the Board meeting where his/her application is being processed. Other than that, there are no time limits to take the Bar exam.</p>
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5.	Registration to the Swedish Bar Association	<p>After completing the above, an application to become a member of the Association can be submitted for the decision of the Board.</p> <p>The Association will follow the requirements of the Charter, Section 3. In addition to the requirements mentioned under Section D 1-3 above, Section 3 of the Charter states that the applicant should i) be working, offering legal services to the public at the time of the application, ii) have a reputation of integrity and iii) most important of all, be considered suitable for the legal profession (e.g. list of references).</p> <p>Further information, including guidelines on the examinations on the Swedish legal system for candidates wishing to apply for the membership of the Association, can be found at http://www.advokatsamfundet.se/Advokatsamfundet-engelska/Membership-and-registration/.</p>
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F. Statistics

1.	Closed cases	Approximately 5 cases per year. Nationalities include applicants from the UK, Germany and Norway.
2.	Outstanding cases	Approximately 3.