

Pediatric Training in Sweden



Approximately 10 million inhabitants

38 pediatric clinics in 21 counties

All the hospitals in Sweden are teaching hospitals

All pediatric clinics are accredited by an external committee (SPUR)

Approximately 330 ± 30 total resident doctors in pediatrics



7 University Hospitals in 7 different counties.

Karolinska University Hospital (Solna, Huddinge), Stockholm

Skåne University Hospital (Malmö, Lund), Skåne

Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg

University Hospital of Umeå (NUS) Area, Umeå

Akademiska University Hospital, Uppsala

Linköping University Hospital, Linköping

Örebro University Hospital, Örebro

Medical Residency Entry

- To work as a doctor of medicine in Sweden you need a Swedish license.
- In Sweden the medical studies are 5,5 years. After the studies you need to do a 21 month internship to receive your medical license. This also applies for some other European medical degrees and all the non-European countries.
- In order to get a license you also need to have language skills in either Swedish, Danish or Norwegian, equivalent to the C1-European language level.
- There is not a specific established number for pediatric resident positions per year. This depends on the need and economy of the corresponding pediatric clinic.
- There is no specific entry exam in order to obtain a position for pediatric residency.

Pediatric Training

- Minimum 5 years of clinical training.
- As a resident doctor you take part in the daily working routine, wardrounds, outpatient clinic, pediatric emergency room.
- Those who work in a regional hospital must do at least one rotation in a University Hospital.
- There is both obligatory clinical and theoretical training (see table).
- There are obligatory courses in communication skills, leadership, management, research techniques and ethics.
- Courses are organized in national (5 day course), regional (1-2 day course) and local (1-2 hours lecture) level.
- In general, every resident attends to minimum 1 national and 1-2 regional courses per semester.

List of obligatory theoretical courses and clinical training in pediatric subspecialties

Emergency medicine

Hematology / Oncology

Neonatology

Neurology/Rehabilitation

Gastroenterology/Hepatology

Cardiology

Endocrinology/Metabolic diseases

Allergy/Pulmonology

Primary Child Health Care and preventive medicine

Nephrology

Infectious diseases

Immunology / Rheumatology

Child Psychiatry

Adolescence Medicine

Insurance Medicine

Pediatric Training

- There is a list of procedures / check-lists which is a guidance to what you have to perform during your clinical training.
- There are some obligatory theoretical e-learning programs, e.g. pediatric and neonatal CPR.
- Some European courses such as APLS are recommended, but not mandatory, to attend during your residency.
- Every resident doctor have to do a research project by the end of the training.
- Every resident doctor has a main supervisor during the pediatric training.
- The progress and development of every resident is evaluated regularly by different methods, such as:
 - Mini-clinical evaluation exercise form (Mini-CEX)
 - Direct observation of procedural skills (DOPS)
 - Sheffield peer review assessment tool

Becoming a specialist

- All the courses, theoretical trainings and clinical rotations must be certified during the residency.
- The certified documents together with the application form for obtaining the specialist title is signed by the head of the clinic and then sent to the National Board of Health and Welfare for approval.
- There is an elective exam in the end of the pediatric residency organized once a year by the Pediatric Association of Sweden. This exam is not yet mandatory to pass for becoming a specialist.

Subspecialisation

- There are five main certified subspecialisations in pediatrics according to the National Board of Health and Welfare in Sweden:
 - Neonatology
 - Neurology
 - Cardiology
 - Oncology
 - Allergy/Pulmonology
- The duration of the subspecialisation is 2-3 years.