

# Swedish Higher Education Sector and Autonomy

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# What is a University?

- Several answers and several models in different contexts...
- But

The "guild nature of" medieval European universities:

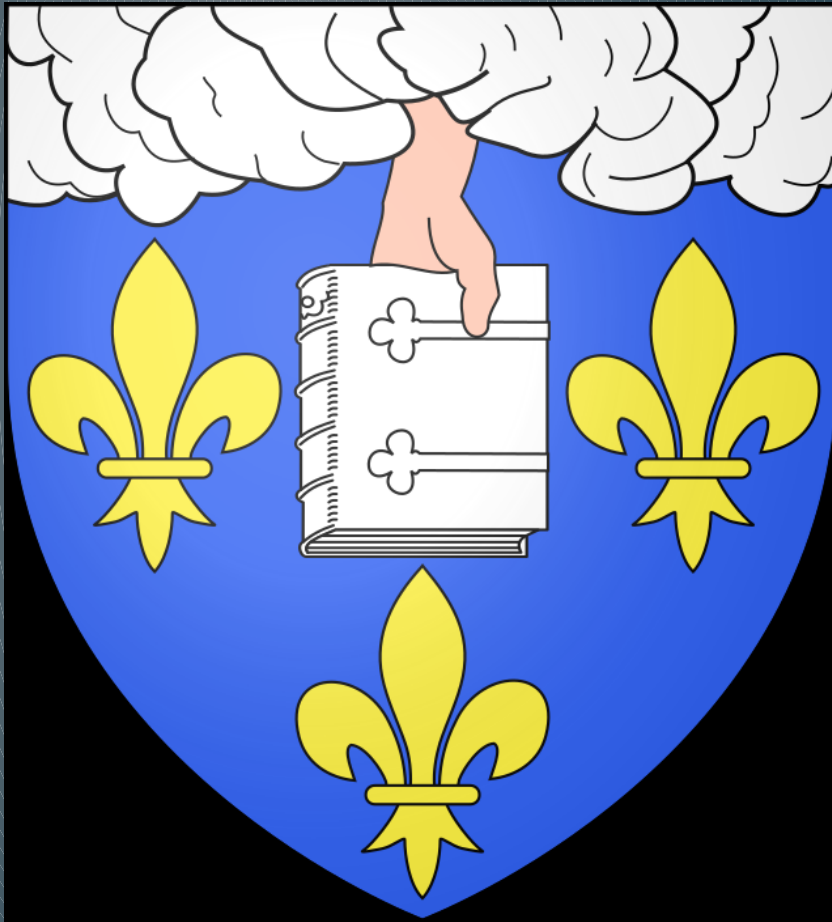
The word "university" "universitas" in medieval latin meant "guild" and a correct translation of "universitas magistrorum et scholarium" is the "guild of teachers and students".

# Bologna University 1088





# Paris University 1257



# Swedish Higher Education Sector Historical Background

- 1477 Uppsala University
- 1632 Tartu University
- 1666 Lund University
- 1810 Karolinska Institute
- 1827 Royal Institute of Technology
- 1829 Chalmers Institute of Technology
- 1878 Stockholm University
- 1909 Stockholm School of Economics
- 1954 University of Gothenburg

# Swedish Higher Education Sector Historical Background

- From 1960 expansion of the HE sector:
- Growth of student numbers and new institutions. Foundation of 4 "university branches".
- 1977 Foundation of University Colleges: teacher education, nursing and shorter engineering education (3 years) were included in HE. From the start just UG education
- "Academic drift". Research and second cycle gradually introduced.
- 1999 Three "new universities": Växjö, Karlstad and Örebro



# Swedish Higher Education Sector

## Some facts

- **48 Higher Education Institutions**

### **State Institutions**

- 30 are state institutions
- 25 are entiteled award first- second and third-cycle qualifications, 14 of them are "comprehensive universities", 11 have restricted right to award third cycle degrees
- 5 are entiteled to award first- and secon cycle degrees

### **Independent Institutions**

- 14 big variation in size and rights to award degrees

### **Independent course providers**

- 4 smaller "seminars"

# Swedish Higher Education Sector Governance

- Over all responsibility for higher education and research rests with the Swedish Parliament and Government.
- They decide about the rules and regulations: HE Act and HE Ordinance.
- Resources are allocated by the Parliament after proposition from the Government.
- The HE institutions are relatively free to decide about their own organisation, how to use resources and their course offerings.

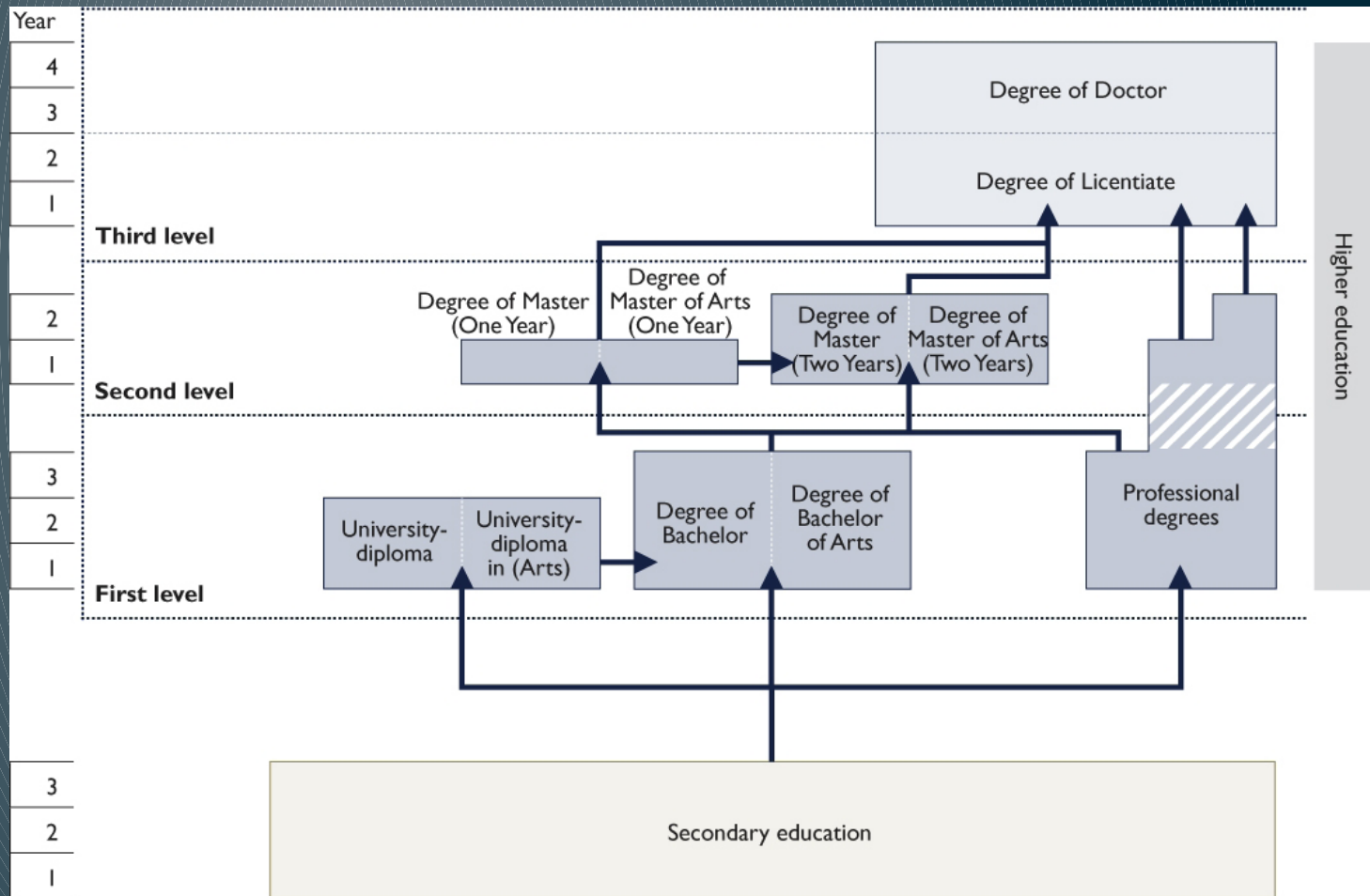


# Swedish Higher Education Sector Funding

- Resources are allocated to the institutions for first- and second cycle programs. Based on the number of students enrolled (FTE) and the number of credits attained by the the students.
- The Government determines down every year a "funding cap" which lays down the maximum amount that can be paid to each HEI.
- Direct funding for research and third-cycle programs is based mainly on past allocations but from 2009 a proportion of the funding and new resources has been allocated on the basis of two "quality indicators": publications and citations and research funding from external resources.

# Swedish Higher Education Sector

## The degree system



# Swedish Higher Education sector

- No tuition fees for European students at first – and second cycle programs.
- Tuition fees for students from outside Europe
- Thirs- cycle programs No tuition fees. Application in competition. After admission position as PhD student with salary



# Swedish Higher Education Sector

## Some statistics

### Students

- About 300 000 FTE in first- and second cycle courses = 350 000 persons. (200 000 women & 150 000 men)
- About 70 000 graduates (45 000 women & 25 000 men)
- 18 010 third-cycle students (47% women, 53% men)
- About 3500 graduates each year

### Staff

- 29 420 FTE research and teaching staff
- 21 100 FTE without research and teaching duties

# Swedish Higher Education Sector

## Some statistics

### Economy

- Total expenditure: 68 954 million SEK
- 41% to first and second cycle programs
- Research about 50% public funding

# What is autonomy?

- Universities does not work in a vacuum, they have been, and are still dependant on the "outside world", which is uusually the state but also other stakeholders.
- University governance and the relationship between the state and HEI:s are seen as an important condition for the modernisation of the European universities



# University autonomy - background

Many voices have been heard about university autonomy:

1. Magna Carta Universitatum (September 1988):

The university is an autonomous institution at the heart of societies differently organised because of geography and historical heritage.

2. The Bologna Declaration (June 1999):

acknowledges the necessary independence and autonomy of universities

3. European Commission have stressed the necessity of more autonomus HEI:s in its message about the mordenisation of the HEI:s (KOM, 2006, 208).
4. The same theme is expressed in the "green book" of the EUCommission about the European research area (KOM, 2007, 161).
5. The Council of Europe: The Committee of Ministers recommended the member states about the public responsibility for higher education and research. (COM/Rec. 2007, 6).

6. OECD has in the report *Tertiary Education for the Knowledge Society (2008)* outlined six aspects for institutional autonomy: Institutional Governance, Staff, Students, Finance, Education and Research.

7. John Fielden has in a similar way listed aspects of university autonomy in the report :*Global Trends in University Governance*, Published by the World Bank, 2008.



# The Swedish Debate

- Inspiration from the international discussion. But as the HEIs in Sweden mainly are state agencies has the debate been concentrated on the legal form for the institutions. The Swedish Association for HEIs has published two reports about this problem.
- A special commission, with professor Daniel Tarschys as responsible, presented in 2008 a proposal that the HEIs should not any longer be state agencies. The idea was that another public form of organisations should be created.

# EUA Scorecard Tool

European University Association has developed a scorecard in order to rate and rank the autonomy of the European universities.

- Four dimensions of University autonomy:
  - Organisational autonomy
  - Financial autonomy
  - Staffing autonomy
  - Academic autonomy

# Organisational autonomy

Divided into seven aspects:

- Selection procedure of the executive head
- Selection criteria for the executive head
- Dismissal of the executive head
- Term of office of the executive head
- Inclusion and selection of external members in governing bodies
- Capacity to decide on academic structures
- Capacity to create legal entities



# Financial autonomy

- Funding modalities
- Possibility to keep surplus
- Ownership of land and buildings
- Decide about tuition fees

# Staffing autonomy

- Recruitment procedures
- Salaries

# Academic autonomy

- Student numbers
- Admission
- Introduce new programmes
- Selection of quality assurance providers
- Academic content
- Hours of instruction



# University autonomy – academic freedom

- The 200 year “Berlin contract” of freedom of speech, teaching and research is it threatened by the moves toward more autonomy?

# University autonomy – academic freedom

- University autonomy refers to the governance of the institution.
- Academic freedom refers to position of the individual teacher and or researcher within the system.
- An autonomous institution can threaten the academic freedom but so can also centrally governed institution.

# **Thank you for your attention!**

- Questions and comments:

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