

## Checklist for your choice of upper-secondary school

Here, we have gathered some points which can be good to think about before your choice study path. Find out the facts! Ask questions and compare different alternatives.

### Yourself

Write down what is important to just you and compare it with what the schools offer. Maybe you want to be able to study a certain language? Be able to work with a specific sport? Or work according to a certain method? Don't put off the choice until the last minute, give yourself the proper time to find out more about different alternatives.

### Educational content

If you choose an education you are truly interested in the chances are greater that it will go well. Look closely at the educational content and see to that you get with what you need out in the working world and before advanced studies.

### Studies

If you are going to study after upper-secondary school, check which qualifications you may need and compare them with what the upper-secondary school offers for courses. There is information about admission rules at Utbildningsinfo.se. It is extra important right now since there are new university admission rules starting 2010.

More information about admission rules: <http://www.utbildningsinfo.se/sb/d/195/a/771>

### Work

You who want to be out in the working world quickly – please read our labour market projections under respective upper-secondary school programmes. It says both how the labour market is currently looking and within which sectors advanced education is often required in order to get a job. You can find further information at the employment office's (Arbetsförmedlingen's) website Yrkeskompassen. Also please study the interviews we have conducted with employers.

Since 2008 there has been an ongoing attempt with apprentice education within the occupational preparing programmes. This is when you can be out at a work place more than half the time. Ask if the school offers this possibility.

Also study what the school offers for possibilities for internship education (APU). Here you get important contacts and experience!

Be open and choose according to your genuine interests.

Yrkeskompassen: <http://yrkeskompassen.arbetsforwithlingen.se/>

### Own choice

What does the school offer for different courses? Be aware that the extent of your own choice can differ between various paths of study. A specially-designed programme or a study path at an independent school does not need to offer eligible courses in the same way as a national programme at a municipal school. This doesn't necessarily mean that it is negative, but it is important to check this out in advance.

Study what is hidden behind that "cool" course line that the school offers. How many courses and points will you actually get? And what courses are you leaving out?

If you feel uncertain it can also be good to find out the possibilities you have to postpone your decision. Choose a programme and a school where you need choose an intensive course of study in school years 2 and 3. Then you have time to find a little about yourself first.

## **Language**

Which languages does the school offer? Languages are valuable skills you can use your entire life. Note that higher courses in English and modern languages give extra points when you apply to university starting 2010.

## **Be ready!**

Surveys show that those who have the absolute worst starting point in the labour market, are those who dropped out of upper-secondary school and never finished. Even if it sometimes feels like things are going against you – try to finish your studies and graduate. Seek help from the school if subjects or anything else is piling up. Contact your mentor, careers officer, a teacher you trust or counsellor.