



What is MFS?

Minor Field Studies, MFS, is a scholarship for students who wish to collect data for their Bachelor's or Master's thesis in a country that is represented on the OECD DAC list. It is funded by SIDA (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), and administrated by the university. An MFS should be carried out by students during minimum 8 weeks, individually or in pair. Malmö University distributes approximately 30 scholarships each year, to students of different faculties. The students have an academic supervisor at Malmö University, and a contact person in the host country to help with practicalities.

Students and topics

The MFS-students broadly comprise two categories. On the one hand, there are students of social sciences, doing fieldwork within development issues, human rights, sustainability, poverty, peace and conflict, foreign aid, etc. The other group are students of professional programs, e.g. nurses, engineers, and technicians, who often do fieldwork to study a particular project, method or organization. The particular topic and questions for each MFS is described in the student's project proposal and application, and approved by the university. The student is encouraged to contact organizations in the host country beforehand regarding relevant topics.

Results

The MFS constitute the basis for a report/thesis written in English. Upon completion and academic examination, the result of the thesis is reported to the funding agency as well as the organization in the host country. Students at Malmö University are also encouraged to share their findings to other students and researchers through different channels available at the university. In several cases MFS has led to continuing projects in collaboration with host organizations.

Host country and contact person

In order for the students to get the most out of their field experience, and minimize the risk of interruptions or problems, they need a contact person in the host country. The contact person should have knowledge about practicalities, such as helping out with transportation, security, and be able to provide contacts to organizations or individuals relevant to the student. The MFS-program does not include any funding for contact persons; any reimbursements are to be covered by the student's scholarship. The contact person has no responsibility in academic supervision or guidance. Such issues are handled by a senior scholar at Malmö University, functioning as the student's academic supervisor throughout the work.

Suggestions to what the contact person in the field can help out with:

- check security questions,
- secure necessary authorization from the authorities,
- assist the student with practical arrangements when necessary – such as transport, lodging, travel permits,
- introduce the student to authorities, institutions and persons who may be of help,
- if possible, on completion of the assignment go through the draft report with the student and give necessary comment,

The contact person in the field can also

- initiate a study and request for students through one of the MFS-institutions
- identify a local student or staff member to work together with the MFS-student.

Malmö University

At Malmö University, MFS-scholarships are administrated and coordinated by the International office. The university provides guidance and coordination for students interested in MFS as well as supports, where possible, with organizations interested in receiving students.

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