

## **Contribute to research on how internationally mobile families solve the issue of the schooling of their children**

### **What is the research about?**

The research project “Families in a new educational landscape” is funded by the Swedish Research Council. It comprises a study that aims at gaining a picture of the views and experiences of internationally mobile families and of the challenges they meet with regard to the schooling of their children. The study is being carried out in the regions of Stockholm and Uppsala.

In one part of the research, general statistical patterns of school choice are analysed using data from Statistics Sweden. An equally important second part comprises a large number of interviews with internationally mobile families who come to work and live in Sweden for a longer or shorter period, as well as with Swedish families returning from stays abroad. The interviews take place with one or both parents/carers of children who attend grades 1-9 or upper secondary education.

The aim of the interviews is to seek answers to questions connected to school choice. How do internationally mobile families choose schools and what is important to them when planning for their children’s schooling? What constraints and possibilities do families face when choosing education for their children? What are their priorities as regards school education with different orientations such as language and school curricula? How do they balance their prospects of returning to their country of origin, staying in Sweden or future international mobility? Do families seek out particular pedagogic profiles or particular qualities among teachers? What other aspects or factors, such as proximity to the school, are valued? How do parents’ own school experiences inform or influence their plans for their children’s schooling?

No previous knowledge on school choice is needed to be a part of the study. Families may not have had a reason to actively choose a school for their child. These families’ experiences are just as important for gaining a comprehensive picture of how internationally mobile families relate to school choice in elementary and secondary education. The study is not evaluative of individual schools but seeks to contribute to a fuller understanding of internationally mobile families’ situation.

### **What does the interview involve?**

The interview takes approximately one hour and can be done at a time that suits you either in your home, at your workplace, at a café or at any other convenient place. Interviewed parents and families are completely anonymous and all information will be handled according to the Swedish Research Council’s ethics regulations. The aim is not to put forward individual cases but to give a general but complex picture of an area of which too little is known.

### **How do I get involved?**

We would highly appreciate your participation. You may be contacted by the research team with a polite request through the school your children attend or you can send a short note to the research project leader, Mikael Palme at [mikael.palme@edu.uu.se](mailto:mikael.palme@edu.uu.se), providing your contact information (email and preferably mobile phone number) along with information on when it would be suitable for you to be contacted.

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