

# STUDENTLIVSPARLÖR

A guide to studentlife



# AFKKLUS

Lund's student life is divided into three separate so called "pillars"; the Nations, the Student unions and the Academic Society. This wide range of activities is unique to Lund University and is one of the reasons that Lund University has Sweden's strongest and most diverse student life.

## **Akademiska Föreningen, AF**

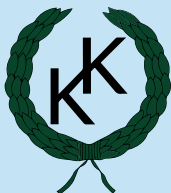
The Academic Society, Akademiska Föreningen or AF in Swedish, is a huge non-profit organization founded in 1830. Its purpose is to unite students, teachers and officials at Lund University. This is accomplished by offering a wide range of diverse activities with an emphasis on cultural activities.

## **Lunds universitets studentkårer, LUS**

All the faculty student unions at Lund niversity collaborate in their common body Lund University student union association (LUS), which is administered by two full time employees - a president and a vice president. LUS is run entirely by the student unions and they are responsible for monitoring education at a centralized university level.

## **Kuratorskollegiet, KK**

12 out of the 13 nations of Lund collaborate in their common organ Kuratorskollegiet (KK). KK is administered by a president and a vice president.



## Novisch

Novisch is a word used at Lund University to describe a student who is a newcomer, in english novice. Generally it refers to those who are starting their studies at the university, but you can also become a novice if you start a new program, for example. The term refers to being new to a situation, so you are able to take part in wide range of activities to make you feel at home in the city, at the university and among the students. If you want to get the benefits of being a novice but you're not actually new, you can get involved as a fadder (one who takes care of novices). As a fadder you also meet a lot of new friends and partake in activities.

## Nations

In Lund, there are 12 nations who are members of Studentlund. They all work to enrich your life outside of your studies and offer a variety of events that include pubs, clubs, cooking, sports, spex and other cultural activities. The nations are managed by a group of people called a Kuratel (spelled with "k" or "q"). The positions found in the kuratel vary, but every nation has a Kurator, who is the face of the nation and the main person in charge, a prokurator economy, who is responsible for the nation's finances and a prokurator social, who is typically the contact person for the foremen and responsible for purchases.



# Student influence

As a student in Sweden you are entitled by Swedish law to certain rights and ways of influence. The Student Unions are mandated to assure that the education live up to the high standards set, see to the students' interests and be the voice of the student collective. To discuss your rights as a student and exercise that power you can turn to your Student Union. It is also the Student Unions that appoint student representatives where we are represented, in all of Lunds Universitys preparatory and deciding bodies. It is also the Unions that you go to if any of your student rights are breached or if you have any other such issues related to your education.

Go to [studentombudet.se/en](http://studentombudet.se/en) to find more information and links to the different Unions.



## Akademisk kvart

Back in the day before cell phones were popular, in order to keep track on time students at Lund University would listen to the bell chimes of Lund's old cathedral. Every time they rung, you knew it was a full hour and probably time to head to your lecture. Obviously, it took some time to walk to the lecture, which resulted in everyone being a bit late. This tradition still lives on, thus in Lund we have something called "Akademisk kvart", or academic quarter in English. So when it says that your lecture is supposed to start at 8, it really means 8:15.

Note: Exams and some other events don't follow this rule! They may let you know this by typing 8 (.) or "8 prick", which means "8 sharp" in English.

## Spex

Spex is a kind of amateur comedy theatre, a farce, with a musical-like mix of acting and singing. Spex usually come with a lot of satire and parody. By applauding a scene, the audience can make the actors act out the scene or punchline again in a new way.

For other cultural activities, go to [af.lu.se](http://af.lu.se).



## Sittning

A sittning is a three-course dinner. These dinners often includes speeches and a lot of singing of student songs as well as more general ones. On many occasions, a songbook is provided. Also, don't be surprised if the sittning includes some sort of wacky dress code. Eftersläpp - the part of an evening that resembles a club night. It usually comes after a dinner party, and you can usually attend the "eftersläpp" even if you did not attend the main event.

Bal: a sittning but in formal attire. There is usually some form of entertainment and sometimes a big band to dance to, after the dinner.

## Singing traditions

The tradition of singing while dining is very deeply rooted in the Nordic countries. Since universities are particularly strong bearers of tradition, there is also a long tradition of singing at student related events. You shouldn't be surprised to find a pamphlet with song lyrics at a dinner party in Lund. You also shouldn't be worried if you know neither the lyrics nor the melody of the song. All newcomers start with zero knowledge and learn little by little, and the "more experienced" students won't judge you for it.

Each nation or organisation usually has its own set of songs that they prefer singing. Some songs are popular and have ended up in many different contexts. If you don't speak so much swedish, just listen to the melody and hum along.

# Dress codes

There will often be a dress code specified in an event invitation. This is supposed to help you to know what to wear and how formal the event is. Keep in mind that a dress code is not there to make you unhappy or broke, having to go out shopping for expensive clothes that you will only wear once. Why not ask a friend for advice and if you may borrow their formal attire? You can also talk to the event organiser if you are uncertain if a particular piece of clothing fits the occasion.

## **Högtidsdräkt/Formal**

Tail-coat OR an evening gown (nicer long dress that is floor-length).

## **Smoking/Black tie**

A black dinner jacket (sometimes called "tuxedo"), white shirt, black pants and a black tie OR a nicer long dress that hits between mid-calf and ankle.

## **Mörk kostym/Dark business suit**

Dark business suit (black, grey, brown or dark blue) OR a nicer dress or skirt with a top.

## **Kavaj/suit**

A suit which can be in any color OR a nicer dress than your everyday attire.

## **Bruten kavaj /broken suit**

Dressed up everyday attire. A suit jacket OR something you feel pretty in.

# Medals

Alongside all the other traditions, there is a longstanding one to hand out medals to those who attend an event or are active in a society. In some cases you have to meet certain criteria to be accepted into the society, and in a lot of cases you just have to show up. Medals are a lot of fun, so don't be intimidated by them or the people who have a lot of them!





## Some tips

- Get active in a committee, nation or student union. It will enable you to grow as a person and to meet other people
- Attend the activities arranged for new students.
- Keep in mind that the other people you meet are also eager to make new friends. This can help take the edge off and make you less nervous when initiating contact.
- Don't be afraid to organize your own gatherings, even at the very start of the semester. You don't have to have your room/home in order to be able to invite people over for dinner. Sit on the floor if necessary. Or go to the movies together. Other people will be happy you proposed something!
- If you find making lunch boxes boring, why not gather some friends and make a lot of portions at once?

## find out more

### **AF**

The Academic Society and its affiliate organizations offer a wide range of activities for members to take an active interest in. These include everything from radio broadcasting to politics, sports and charities.

Are you interested in what AF has to offer? Find out more: <http://af.lu.se/>

### **KK**

The majority of the Nations activities consist of food service, pubs and nightclubs, but it also offers other things like sports activities, choirs, and housing. Find out more about the different nations in Lund and choose on to get involved in: <http://kuratorskollegiet.se/>

### **LUS**

LUS promotes students' interests towards Lund University, municipality and region. Are you interested in getting involved in your student life, be a student representative or discuss your right as a student you can find more information here on how to get involved: <http://lus.lu.se/>



**AF:** @akademiska.foreningen

**KK:** @Kuratorskollegiet

**LUS:** @LundsUniversitetsStudentkarer