

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET) LOAN PROGRAMME

Do you want to pursue a career in education, business, social welfare, healthcare, tourism, building, construction, IT, electrical engineering or hospitality and work at a top Swedish organisation? If so, you may want to consider enrolling in a Vocational Education and Training Course!

You may also have the opportunity to be assigned a mentor who can provide guidance and support. After completing the vocational training you could have the opportunity to work in leading companies in Sweden.

The Aga Khan Economic Planning Board (AKEPB) in the UK in collaboration with The Aga Khan Education Board (AKEB) and The Aga Khan Economic Planning Board (AKEPB) in Sweden are opening applications for **interest-free loans** to highly motivated murids in Sweden who wish to upgrade their skills through vocational training programmes or further education.

What does this mean for your social benefits?

If you enrol in a Vocational Education and Training Programme (VET) you will move to the Student Loan Programme offered by the Swedish Board of Student Finance - CSN. Under CSN, you will receive roughly **10,676 SEK** to cover all living costs per month (including rent). This is made up of a **Grant of 3,236 SEK** and a **Loan of 7,440 SEK**. You will need to repay this loan at a low-interest rate (e.g. 0.16%) within 25 years. The change in your benefits may mean that there is a shortfall in your monthly income.

What is the National Council offering you?

For some, it can be challenging to upgrade your professional skills through VET due to numerous financial constraints. Therefore, we are opening applications for **interest-free loans** which could enable you to attend a VET course of your interest. Depending on your individual needs, you could be eligible to receive a **maximum of 400 EUR** (approximately 4,400 SEK) **per month for 2 years** to support your studies. If successful, you will be allocated a dedicated Mentor from the Jamat to support you throughout your training. Your mentor will coach you to enable your successful transition into a new sector.

How can I apply?

Please email **Rizwan Mir** (rizwan_mir86@hotmail.com) or **Mudar Shakra** (mudar.shakra@focusha.org) for the application form and for further information on this programme.

What is the process?

- **Stage 1:** Identify and enrol in your chosen VET Programme and apply for the Swedish Board of Student Finance CSN Grant and Loan.
- **Stage 2:** Complete and send your application form to Rizwan Mir on rizwan_mir86@hotmail.com by **xx/xx/20**
- **Stage 3:** If successful at Stage 2, you will have a 30-minute phone interview.
- **Stage 4:** If successful at Stage 3, your application will be assessed by the review panel to authorise the loan
- **Stage 5:** If successful at Stage 4, you will begin to receive your interest-free loan from the National Council. You will be allocated a dedicated Mentor from the Jamat to support you through your training and search for employment in your chosen sector.