

Swedish University Sports

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Team Sweden



Team Sweden will consist of 60 people in the Harbin Winter Universiade, competing in alpine skiing, cross country skiing, curling, figure skating, speed skating and synchronized skating. The size of the delegation and the capacity of the athletes are results of a project initiated three years ago, with the aim of increasing the Swedish participation in international competitions. Since then, we have negotiated with more than 20 other Swedish Sports Federations with the ambition to make long-term agreements regarding participation in Universiades. We have now reached a point where a number of other sports federations have realized the potential of development through university sports. As an example, we had so many teams interested in participating in the Winter Universiade curling event that special qualification tournaments were organized.

As a spin-off effect we have also increased Swedish participation in the World University Championships and noticed an increased interest in arranging international university sports events in Sweden. In 2010, Sweden will host the World University Championships in Orienteering in Borlänge and we have other cities standing in line for arranging other WUC:s in the future.

Parallel to these elite events we pay great attention to sports-for-all activities. The interest in winter

sports is huge among Swedish students. 9 000 students go to Åre, Vemdalen and Hemavan at the end of January every year to participate in special student ski events. In the summer, the Swedish University Sports Federation arranges the "Studentiade", which is the biggest university sports event in Sweden and gives students from all over the country a possibility to meet and compete in a number of sports.

We are now looking forward to the Harbin Universiade with great anticipation. We are certain that the event will be spectacular and we hope to top the number of Swedish medals won in Torino two years ago. A Universiade is much more than winning medals, however. We are also looking forward to meetings and exchanges with student athletes from all over the world!



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Team Surprise – no surprise on the podium



Team Surprise has a long list of qualifications. The five-time world champions from Gothenburg have literally subscribed to the gold medals in Swedish national championships and never finished other than first or second in the World Championships. Team Surprise also won the gold medals in the Torino Universiade, when synchronized skating was on the program for the first time, as a demonstration sport.

- Our long-term goal is to include synchronized skating on the Olympic programme. Being on the Winter Universiade is a very important step in this development and we are really looking forward to the competitions in Harbin, says Carina Skoog, Sports Director of the Swedish Figure Skating Association.





Swedish Champions aiming for Olympic Games

Team Sweden consists of a number of Swedish champions and athletes with experience from European Championships, World Championships, Olympic Games and Universiades. The most recent Swedish champions are Team Edin, curling.

- The Universiade is probably the single most important competition to us this season, the skipper Niklas Edin says. Besides being an unforgettable experience in itself, the Universiade will give us valuable impressions and experiences on our way to future Olympic Games.

Högskolan Dalarna University produces medal winners

Since Högskolan Dalarna University launched its elite university sports project some 25 years ago, their students have won 72 medals in Olympic Games, World Championships and European Championships. They have also won 10 medals in World University Championships and Universiades. Some of their most famous athletes are Pernilla Wiberg (alpine skiing) and Susanna Kallur (athletics).

Högskolan Dalarna University sends seven athletes to the Harbine Universiade, competing in cross country skiing and alpine skiing.

