



OXFORD UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT

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## SEMINAR

### Admissions testing and the selection to Higher Education in Sweden: Fairness, efficiency and consequences

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#### Abstract

The purpose of this presentation is to describe and discuss the selection instruments to higher education in Sweden, with special focus on the general admissions test the SweSAT. The presentation will describe the tests' characteristics and role in the admissions system and validity aspects related to the test. The presentation is based on a research project funded by the Institute for Labour Market Evaluation (IFAU). This project includes studies of the characteristics of the instruments used for predicting academic performance, but foremost validity issues related to such instruments, with special focus on predictive validity and how the instruments predict academic success and performance in the job market. The findings illuminate the complexity of admissions systems, but also theoretical and methodological problems associated with test development and how to establish the validity of the admissions instruments. The main conclusion is that a general agreement of the criteria for the selection instrument, i.e. how to interpret "academic success", is of key importance and that the validity is negatively affected by having multiple and conflicting purposes. Another important finding is that the admissions instruments work differently for different students, which supports the importance to validate the chosen approach and how the instruments are implemented and used.

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