Now you can apply to KED Exchange. Here is Debaleena Sen from Kunskapsskolan Bengaluru interacting with students at Kunskapsskolan Täby during her recent exchange in Sweden.

KED

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FUTURE SKILLS KNOWLEDGE

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Everything is in Motion

The universe is expanding, the earth is spinning in its orbit around the sun, and every atom is vibrating. Everything is in motion (which is also the title of a fictional novel I enjoyed reading this summer – Allt är i rörelse, Ulf Lundell, 2011.)

Everyone in the KED Network is also constantly on the move. This Newsletter highlights a new round of teacher exchanges between schools in different parts of our global community. Debaleena from Bengaluru gives a personal insight into how it feels to go to a KED school far away.

One thing often leads to another, KED exchanges no exception. Teachers who have completed an exchange themselves tend to become excellent project leaders for student exchanges. Next month, Peter from Kunskapsskolan Tumba is going back to India where he had his teacher exchange last year. This time he is accompanying his own students to attend KED Model United Nations together with students and two more teachers, Karin and Zandra, from two other Swedish KED schools. This international conference takes place on November 7–9 in Gurgaon. We update you here and along the way.

Another promising movement is Yvette's progress from student to teacher at her KED school in the Netherlands. Over in Sweden, Christina takes the opportunity to switch from a work place in upper secondary to primary as Kunskapsskolan Nacka grows younger.

Expansion and movement, here we go.

Cecilia Aronsson
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Kunskapsskolan
EDUCATION

KED Model United Nations 2025

Autumn in India means time for traditional Diwali celebrations, and it is also the season for another hallowed practice at Kunskapsskolan Gurgaon in India: KED Model United Nations (MUN).

The KED MUN conference brings together hundreds of 15–18-year-olds from schools across India and abroad for a three-day roleplay. Students are divided into different committees, mirroring different sections of the United Nations organization. In previous rounds of KED MUN, the committees have addressed challenges such as world trade, human migration, nuclear weapons, gender equality and plastic pollution. Each student represents a real member state of the UN.

This year, ten students from Kunskapsskolan in Sweden will join KED MUN on 7–9 November. Before the conference in Gurgaon, they are going to Kunskapsskolan Lucknow for a few days. Three teachers are coming with them.

As a teacher, one of my biggest joys is watching my students grow and succeed, not just in their command of knowledge and various school subjects, but also in their understanding of other people and of the

Students from Kunskapsskolan India, the Netherlands and Sweden in a previous round of KED MUN.

world. So when the opportunity arose to travel with a few of my ninth graders to India, I knew it would be an amazing experience for all of us. A great way to literally follow my students on part of their lifetime learning adventure.

This journey we are about to embark on, will take us far away from our Swedish schools and the regular teaching week. It will test our ability to create new friendships through a language we mostly use inside the classroom walls. It will test our social skills to embrace a new culture and learn through the host families that will open their homes to make sure we get to experience every little piece of India. It will test our abilities to discuss global issues at the KED MUN conference far away from textbooks. Will I be able to help our students navigate these unfamiliar and new environments? I am curious and excited to meet my Swedish colleagues from Enköping and Tumba, and my Indian colleagues in Lucknow and Gurgaon as I wish to show our students that the most profound lessons are learned outside the classroom walls.

A great way to literally follow my students on part of their lifetime learning adventure.

The underlying mission of KED Model United Nations is to foster understanding and cooperation. Stay tuned as we will share a full report with photos and insights from our journey in November.

Karin Inger Key

Sports Teacher and Team Leader, Kunskapsskolan Borås

“It’s your dream to work here and ours to keep you here”

Yvette Wittingen, teacher at KED partner school Van Kinsbergen college

At Van Kinsbergen college in Elburg – one of the Dutch Kunskapsskolan partner schools – the circle has come full. One of the students who once experienced Kunskapsskolan’s personalized education there has returned as a chemistry teacher. Surrounded by many of the same colleagues who once taught her, she now stands on the other side of the classroom. A unique position that allows her to approach education from two perspectives: that of the student and that of the teacher.

We are talking about Yvette Wittingen, who is grateful for the role she now plays. She calls it ‘teaching for the sake of teaching:’

“Honestly, the subject I teach – chemistry – is not the most important thing. For me, it’s about contributing to the learning process. That’s what makes it so special! Of course, the students do the learning themselves, but being able to contribute to that process is the most beautiful part,” says Yvette.

A conscious choice – and a twist of fate

Becoming a teacher at the same school where she once studied was both a deliberate decision and something that seemed to happen naturally. At 17, she already knew she wanted to teach. So she entered teacher training and also gained experience in regular schools during her internship. But that didn’t feel right: there was too little room for flexibility and too few opportunities for the kind of coaching moments that define the KED Program and make teaching so rewarding.

So, when Yvette received a message that Van Kinsbergen college was looking for new colleagues, she didn't hesitate.

"It was exciting," she recalls.
"I was only in my third year of teacher training, just 19 years old. But the interview was such a pleasant experience – it felt like coming home."

Now in her third year as a chemistry teacher and fully graduated, Yvette is – as far as known – the very first Kunskapsskolan student in the Netherlands to become a teacher within the same philosophy, and even at the same school.

A perfect fit

Kunskapsskolan fits Yvette like a glove – it felt that way as a student, and still does as a teacher. She praises her colleagues for the way they welcomed her:

"At first I found it hard to call them by their first names. But they guided me so well, and now I feel like a fully recognized colleague in a school of thought where being seen and heard is always central."

Two years ago, on Teachers' Day, Yvette received a card she still treasures, with the message: 'It's your dream to work here – and ours to keep you here.'

Two years ago, on Teachers' Day, Yvette received a card she still treasures, with the message: 'It's your dream to work here – and ours to keep you here.'

"That says it all – from both sides," she smiles.

The power of perspective

Her dual perspective also helps when talking to parents.

"I understand when students sometimes don't see the point of weekly coaching or learning to plan. But I can tell them, from my own experience, how valuable it was for me. For example: later in my studies, people were impressed by how well I could plan. Parents also appreciate knowing that I was once a Kunskapsskolan student myself. I can tell them how it felt, at 15, to travel to Sweden and connect with peers at Kunskapsskolan schools there."

Yvette Wittingen is a teacher because she truly wants to teach – and she is at Van Kinsbergen college because this is where she feels she belongs.

"I feel at home here. This is my school, and this is my classroom."

Koos Woltjes

Communication Manager,
Kunskapsskolan Nederland

During a KED Exchange you get to work with students and teachers in another school, using the same Program for teaching and learning.

It is time for a new round of the global KED Exchange Program. Teachers and other team members at all schools in the KED Network are welcome to join. All participants get a personal collaboration partner. Both of you spend one week in each other's schools, exploring your personal research questions. To give you a taste of KED Exchange, Debaleena from Kunskapsskolan Bengaluru will tell you about her recent exchange in Sweden.

Time to Apply for KED Exchange

So, this year I went to Sweden in the summer. No, not for a vacation or family trip, but for connecting with Swedish Exchange Partners in their school in Täby, to meet their students and learn about their education system. Though the weather was not particularly summery, the warmth of the hearts of people really made up for it.

The process was fair and transparent. I had to fill out a form and express my interest in visiting Sweden, followed by an interview, and voila! I got selected. I packed my bag excitedly and reached the "Land of the Midnight Sun." The place was full of beautiful landscapes, warm people, and rich Viking history. My exchange partners, Helena and Sara, made sure that I had a comfortable and memorable stay.

I packed my bag excitedly and reached the "Land of the Midnight Sun."

I got the opportunity to observe meetings, shadow different subject teachers in different kinds of sessions, and have discussions with students and the Head of

Debaleena leading a Biology Session with Year 9 students at Kunskapsskolan Täby.

School. Days were busy and nights were sunny! I even got lucky to have a Biology session with the Year 9 students, who were about to graduate. A big thanks to my Swedish friends for arranging it for me amidst their busy schedules.

As I was planning for the session, I was excited as well as nervous. So many things could have gone wrong – language barriers, unfamiliarity with the classroom setting, and so on. And sure enough, my laptop stopped working just as I was about to enter the class! Luckily, my mobile could be connected to the projector, and we started the session with a video from Jurassic Park explaining about DNA. That "hook" clicked with most of the students, and we went on researching, exploring, and discussing the structure and significance of the biomolecule, which was our learning goal for the session. While interacting with the students, I realized something beautiful. The questions they asked, their curiosity, their learning hurdles – they were just like the ones my students face in India. On the outside, students from both countries may look different, wear different clothes (uniforms are common in India), or eat different food – but deep down, they're the same – young people trying to find their place in this big world. As the session ended, students came up to thank me. That moment? That was the highlight of my visit.

Debaleena Sen, to the right, with her exchange partners, Sara Strömsten and Helena Zenzén, along with the Principal of Kunskapsskolan Täby, Niklas Åkerblom.

As part of my research, I interviewed students from nine different school committees. The conversations were enlightening. The values they spoke about – confidence, independence, freedom of expression – aligned so closely with what my students in Kunskapsskolan Bengaluru express.

They shared how Kunskapsskolan made them more confident, gave them the independence to learn at their own pace, and the freedom to express themselves openly, without hesitation. I could actually picture my own students in that setting; they, too, feel the same way about their school.

And I thought – this is the true beauty of the KED Program and the values it holds at its core.

These shared values, across borders and continents, create the same impact: Preparing children for their future, in their own unique way.

Talk to your Head of School if you want to be part of the next round of KED Exchange.

Debaleena Sen

Biology Faculty, Kunskapsskolan Bengaluru

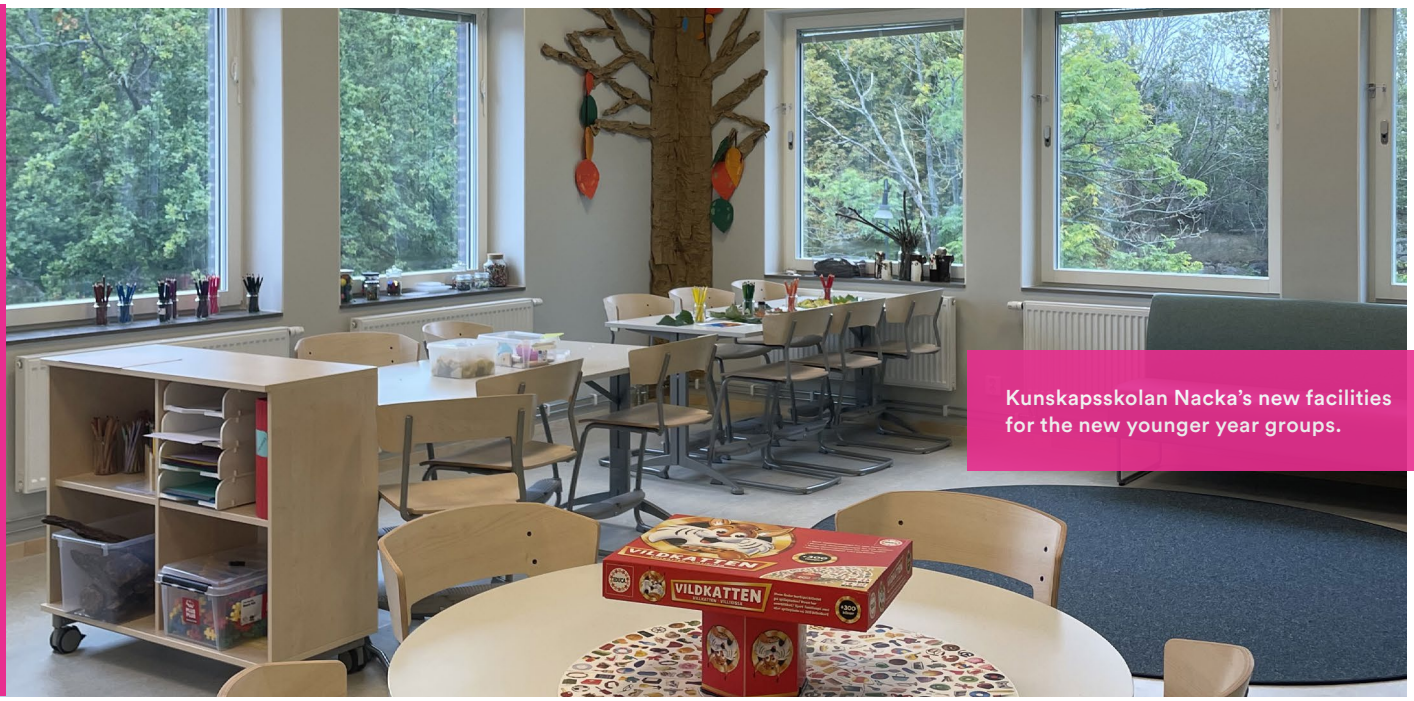
Kunskaps-skolan Nacka Growing Younger

Christina Becerra is the Deputy Head for the new primary school at Kunskapsskolan Nacka.

”We are so happy, excited, and hopeful about it.”

Kunskapsskolan Nacka, as the first KED school in Stockholm, has now transitioned from being a Year 6–9 school to a Kindergarten–Year 9 school, and we are so happy, excited, and hopeful about it. I also feel extremely humble about this, as it is a significant transition for the school. We have brought in a fantastic team for the new unit, where everyone has truly worked to ensure the best possible start for our students, and we have indeed had a super start.

It also feels reassuring to be part of various networks for collaboration with other KED schools, some with long experience of the primary level and some beginners like ourselves. There are networks for school leaders as well as subject teachers, meeting with a structured agenda based on the schools’ various goals and processes. I appreciate the opportunity to raise various matters and discuss. So far, it has been highly valuable.



Kunskapsskolan Nacka's new facilities for the new younger year groups.

For my part, this is a very special journey, as I previously worked at upper secondary KED school Kunskapsgymnasiet Globen, Stockholm and am thus moving from working with the oldest students to working with the youngest. Now the focus will be more on supervision, pedagogy for the younger ones, and learning a lot about after-school activities. I feel so positively surprised by how much energy one gets from working with younger students.

They are keen to talk about their day, themselves, and their thoughts – a sociable group that share generously of themselves.

I look forward to shaping the primary school activities in collaboration with our principal Sara Hillefors and my deputy colleague Cecilia Wågström, so that we provide the best possible school from Kindergarten to Year 9. Our guiding principle is good student well-being and alignment with the KED Program, focused on personalized learning. Good student well-being is my first priority, as we know that it is good for knowledge progression and growth.

Exciting times for all of us at Kunskapsskolan Nacka, for myself and for everyone in Kunskapsskolan's primary school community worldwide!

Christina Becerra

Deputy Head of School, Kunskapsskolan Nacka

Kunskapsskolan Nacka now provides the KED Program from Kindergarten to Year 9.

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