

Everybody Deserves a Second Chance

Second Chance (Andra chansen) is a permanent program in Uppsala that caters to young people who neither work nor study. With Second Chance, young people get the opportunity to attend high school courses and internships tailored to their individual needs.

Participants can choose to either do an internship or study to complete high school. They study in small groups at their own pace. They are close to teachers and other staff who help them structure their lives. All participants have a mentor.

We have had seventy-something students and could accommodate more if we had the space. There is a queue and we are fully booked. It has been like that for years.

Gunlög Johansson, social worker

Second Chance identifies the participants' strengths and makes the young people aware of these. The young people also participate in activities outside the regular schedule, for example excursions, theatre visits and physical exercise. The aim is that the young people should be strengthened on several levels: academically and professionally, but also socially. Training takes place in non-conventional facilities to avoid that the participants associate Second Chance with their previous school failures.

Small Groups are Essential for Success

A couple of years ago, Second Chance was evaluated by Aquila Spa and Isis Quality Institute. Both evaluations highlight the good results and the very good reviews from both staff and participants. Aquila Spa highlights work in small groups (10 students per group) as a factor in the project's good results. An individualized treatment, engagement of staff and focus on the participants' strengths rather than weaknesses are considered important for the project's positive results as well.