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# Admissions in Sweden



Universitets- och  
högskolerådet

# The Swedish Council for Higher Education (UHR)

- coordinating admissions to higher education
- producing the Swedish Scholastic Aptitude test
- providing support and information to everyone who wants to study in higher education
- widening participation and preventing discrimination in higher education
- evaluating foreign qualifications (ENIC-NARIC)
- brokering international exchanges
- managing and developing IT systems

300 employees

Located in Stockholm and Visby

Where  
we work



# Our talk today

- Central Admissions system – how it started
- Cooperation between Universities and UHR
- The system's interfaces and the admissions process
- Bonuses!
- Some facts and figures

# The National Admissions System (NyA)

## History – how it came about

First we had two systems: One for single subject courses and one for study programs.

- Pilot study initiated by one of the universities 1998 - 1999
- Government decision in June 2000: VHS (now UHR) to develop and own the system
- Conditions from government: All universities to
  1. participate in the development and
  2. use the system
- System development project 2000 – 2003. Extended to 2005
- Since 2006: National Admissions System (NyA)



# The National Admissions System (NyA) Today

- Used by virtually all the universities and university colleges in Sweden
- More than 500 users (admissions officers, administration etc) at the universities/colleges and the Council for Higher Education
- Used for admission to all higher education
  - Programs, single subject courses on all levels (except for doctoral studies)



# Fields of Cooperation UHR-HEI:s

- UHR has agreements with 38 universities and university colleges
- The agreements are the framework for cooperation and sharing of responsibilities between UHR and the university
- Advisory groups: What functionality to build , or not to build
- Production coordination: Timetables, planning, advice...
- Specification of requirements of NyA: Detailed description of required functionality
- Testing: Does the new functionality work well for the HEI?
- Development: Done by IT-department at the University of Umeå



# Costs

- Initial costs for the system was about 19 million €
- Yearly, about 1,5 million € spent on further development and new functionality
- About 4 million € spent on maintaining the system
- About 400 000 € spent on Service Operations
- ...a lot of money but costs are shared between HEIs
- ...complex regulations = a complex and expensive system



**How does it work?**



Universitets- och  
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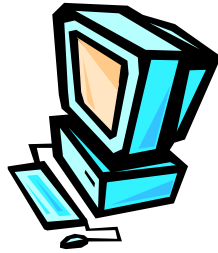


# The NyA System – User Interfaces



## Web application (Teacher web)

- Lists and statistics
- View applications and documents



## Web application (Applicant web)

- Course search and application
- Status of processing
- View credentials



NyA

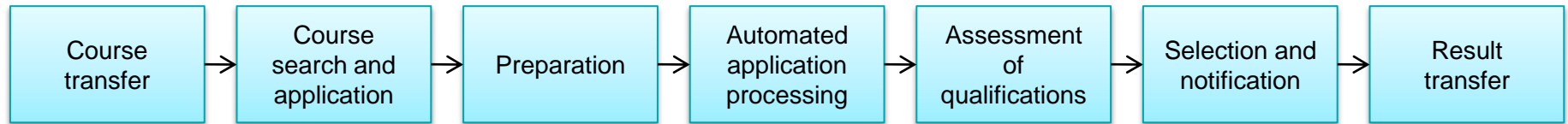
## Java client

- Applications
- Registering qualifications
- Administering system rules
- Admission rounds
- Scheduling automated processess

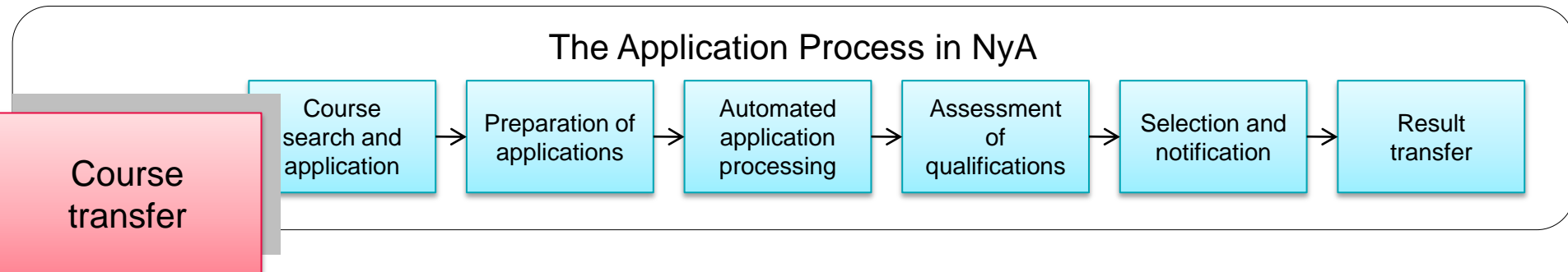


# The Admission Process in NyA

## The Admission Process in NyA



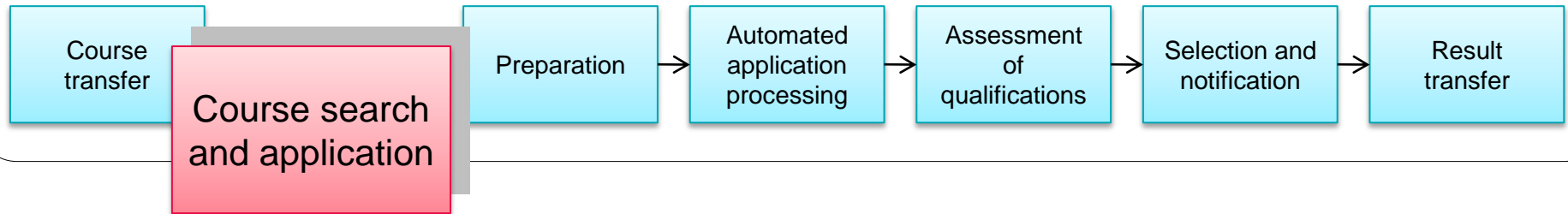
# Transferring Courses to the System



- Setting up an admission round
  - Admission round is used to administer courses and programs with the same application period
- Courses from local course databases imported to NyA
- Setting up requirement and ranking models

# Course Search and Application

## The Application Process in NyA

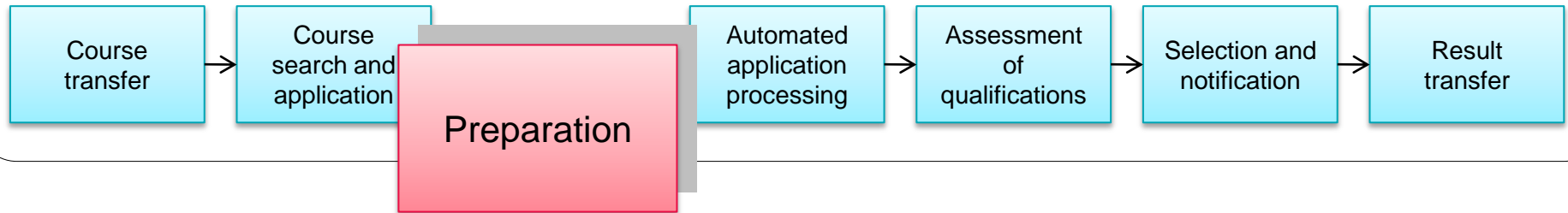


- The applicant searches for courses on the web
- Application online
- Uploading of documents (qualifications, passports, work experience)
- 99,9 % of the applications submitted electronically on [Antagning.se/Universityadmissions.se](http://Antagning.se/Universityadmissions.se)



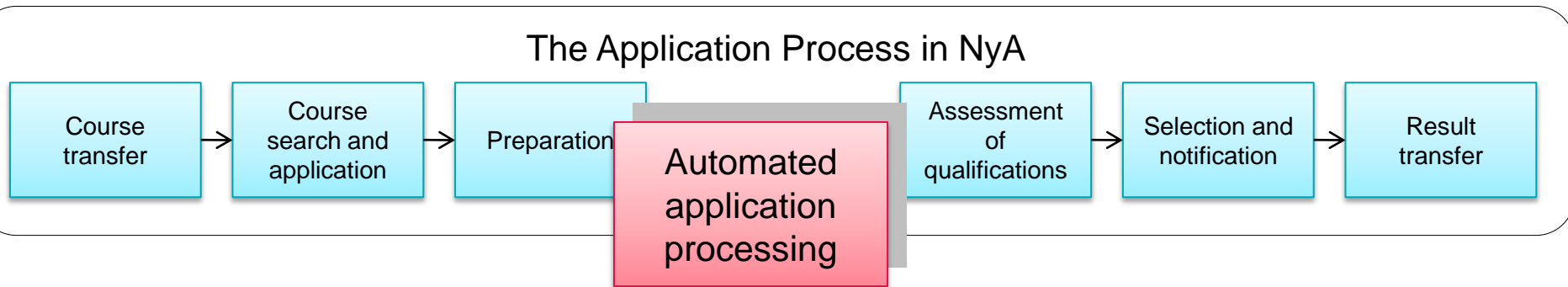
# Preparation

## The Application Process in NyA



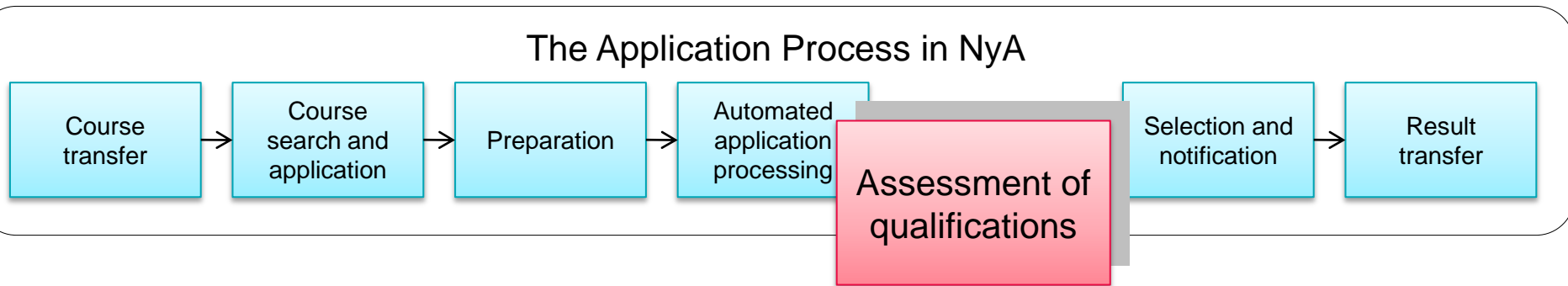
- Qualifications transferred to NyA electronically
- Documents are scanned and digitalised
- Registering qualifications into the system
- Admission fees and exemptions

# Automated Application Processing



- Automated assessment of general eligibility
- Automated matching of qualifications with entry requirements (requirement models)
- Automated ranking according to ranking models

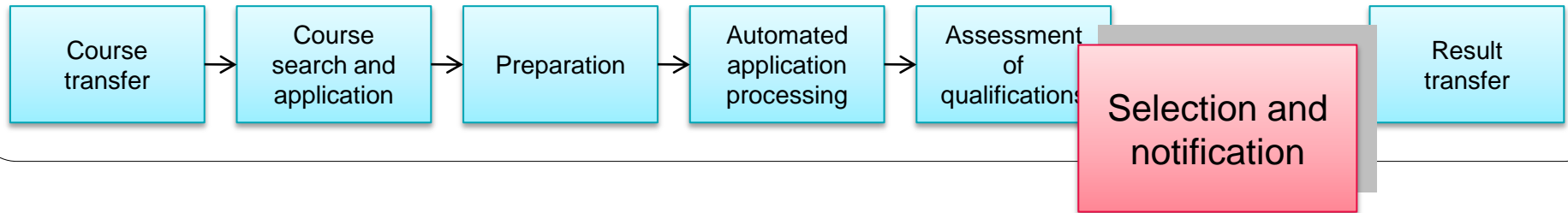
# Assessment of Qualifications



- Manual assessment of qualifications (HEI, UHR)
- Exemptions from formal requirements (HEI)
- Manual ranking of applicants (HEI)

# Admissions Selection and Notification

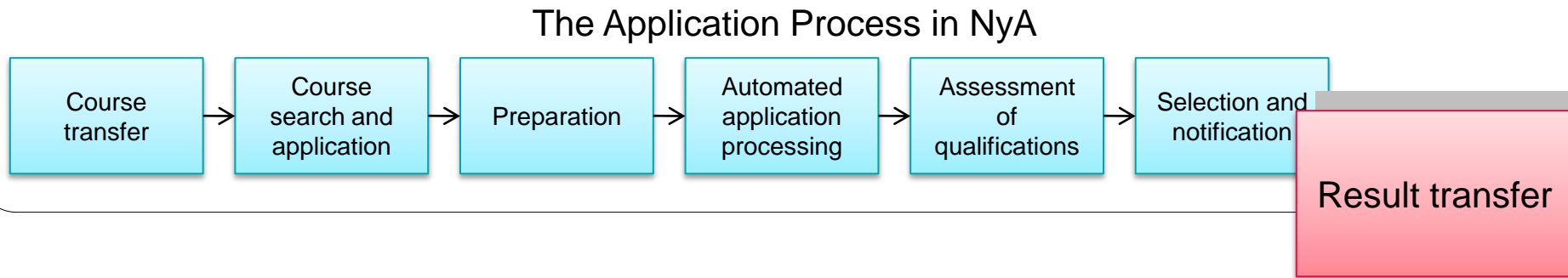
## The Application Process in NyA



- Applicants are admitted in order of preference
- Two selection rounds
- The applicants are required to reply after the first round



# Transferring the Admissions Result



- Admissions results are sent to the universities
- The results are loaded into the study documentation system (Ladok)

# Admissions Decisions

- Each university makes its own decisions regarding admissions, including exemptions
- The applicant submits an appeal of any admission decision to the decision-making university
- Legal framework:
  - University law decided by the Parliament
  - Higher Education Ordinance decided by the Government
  - Directives decided by the Swedish Council for Higher Education on behalf of the Higher Education Ordinance
  - Local regulations decided by each university/university college
  - Guidelines, manuals, handbooks



# Bonuses of having a shared admissions system



# Subcontractors

## Contact center

- Contact Center answers questions of a general character regarding the application process
- UHR and HEI provides a second line for telephone and mail for applicants with questions of a more complex and personal character

## Central registering service

- Standardized and easily recognized credentials
- Assessment of fee status

## Central scanning agency

- **Applicants send their documentation to one place – if they don't upload them!**
  - Cost efficient for the universities
  - Easy process for applicants to understand and complete
  - Every university can view applicant documentation at anytime
  - Possible to request originals and other types of documents when necessary



# Virtual organization (VO)

- Use all resources in a cost efficient way so that all participating universities can better manage their time and receive a qualified assessment of the applicants' foreign qualifications.
- One application – one admissions officer
- Consists of **specialists** from almost every Swedish university participating in the national admissions system
- The organization assesses **all applications** to both bachelor and master levels, regardless of which university the applicant has applied to!
- The know-how of admissions staff with expertise in specific areas is **shared by all** universities



# Facts and figures

# Facts and figures 2016

- 836 000 applicants
- 270 000 documents (88% were uploaded by the applicants)
- Antagning.se had 4 857 000 unique visitors
- Universityadmissions.se had 1 550 000 unique visitors
- 285 000 requests to Contact center (mail, chat and phone calls)



## Some advice...

- Prepare for the unexpected! Prepare for problems!
- No one knows the system that is being developed: people need support, a lot of training
- System developers need to quickly solve problems
- Users and technicians need to work together

Many of the functions that the universities found most difficult to hand over are now the aspects that they value the most



***Thank you for listening!***

**[www.uhr.se](http://www.uhr.se)**

**[www.antagning.se](http://www.antagning.se)**

**[www.universityadmissions.se](http://www.universityadmissions.se)**



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