



Peer review handbook

Tage Erlander visiting professorship 2024

Swedish
Research
Council

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Warm welcome as an expert reviewer for the Swedish Research Council.

This review handbook is intended to function as an aid for your assignment as an external reviewer or a member of the review panel for our call for Tage Erlander visiting professorship.

We hope you will find the experience interesting and rewarding.

Introduction

Through the Tage Erlander visiting professorship, an internationally prominent foreign researcher is invited to spend 6-12 months at a university, higher educational institution or research institute in Sweden to develop a subject area. A grant amount of up to 2 000 000 SEK including indirect costs may be applied for to finance salary costs including social security contributions and insurance, rent of housing and travel. The professorship shall start during 2026.

The researcher proposed for the visiting professorship shall be a holder of a professorship, or corresponding, at the time of the application, and must not already be active in Sweden. The application for the grant must be made by a Swedish university, higher education institution (HEI) or research institute that has been approved as an administrating organization for grants from the Swedish Research Council. For more information please see the [call text](#).

Important starting points and principles

Peer review

The Swedish Research Council regards peer review as a guarantor that our support goes to research of the highest scientific quality in all scientific fields. The Board of the Swedish Research Council has formulated guidelines for peer review based on eight principles. [Read the guidelines for peer review](#).

Conflict of interest

To avoid any conflict of interest situation, we have established strict guidelines. [Read the Swedish Research Council's conflict of interest policy and guidelines for managing conflicts of interest](#).

If you have a conflict of interest, you must not take part in the handling or assessment of that application during any part of the process. The following applies for panel members:

- Any application where you are the applicant or co-applicant must not be reviewed by your review panel.
- Any application where a close relative of yours is the applicant (does not apply to co-applicants) must not be reviewed by your review panel.

You are obliged to notify any conflict of interest for all applications handled by your review panel.



Gender equality

The Swedish Research Council aims to ensure that women and men have the same success rates and receive the same average grant amounts, taking into account the nature of the research and the form of support. The review panel shall calculate the approval rate in the proposal and refer to, and possibly comment on, how this impact the gender equality.

Confidentiality and integrity

Handle the applications and the review of them in a confidential manner:

- Do not disseminate documents that you get access to.
- Delete documents that relate to the review work after completing the task.
- Do not speak to outsiders about what was discussed during the review.
- Do not use information in the application for personal gain.
- Let the Swedish Research Council personnel manage all communications with applicants.

Review work in Prisma

All the review work is carried out in the web-based system Prisma. If you have any questions concerning the system and cannot find the answer in [Prisma's User Manual](#), please contact the research officer responsible.

Evaluation criteria and grading scales

The assessment of the applications considers the proposed visiting professor's scientific merits and position internationally together with the relevance for the call; that is the motivation of the stay especially how well the visiting professor can contribute to the development of the research at the host institution and to the Swedish research in general in the scientific field. The applications will be evaluated by appointed external reviewers with competence in the specific topic of the call within natural and engineering sciences and discussed by a review panel within the topic of the call.

For each criterion, there are guiding questions to support your assessment of the application.

Guiding questions

Scientific merits and position internationally of the visiting professor (1-7)

- How significant are the scientific merits of the guest professor in relation to the suggested research area?
- How scientifically eminent is the guest professor internationally?

Relevance to the call (1-7)

Motivation of the stay, in particular how the nominated guest professor can contribute to the development of the host institution and more generally of research in Sweden within the scientific area.



- What competence is the guest professor expected to bring to the host institution? To what extent will the guest professor contribute to the development of the research at the host institution?
- How well is the research plan formulated regarding the quality and scope of the guest professor's contribution to the host institution, as well as other institutions in Sweden? How well are the suggested activities motivated?
- How will the guest professor contribute to the development of the scientific area in general in Sweden?
- What is the quality of the suggested research program and to what extent is it relevant to the scientific area?

A seven-grade scale is used to evaluate the two criteria:

Grade	Definition
7	Outstanding Exceptionally strong application with negligible weaknesses
6	Excellent Very strong application with negligible weaknesses
5	Very good to excellent Very strong application with minor weaknesses
4	Very good Strong application with minor weaknesses
3	Good Some strengths, but also moderate weaknesses
2	Weak A few strengths, but also at least one major weakness or several minor weaknesses
1	Poor Very few strengths, and numerous major weaknesses

You can also mark "Insufficient", if you consider that the application lacks sufficient information to allow a reasonable evaluation to be made of the criterion.

Review panel meeting

The appointed review panel meets to discuss and prioritize the applications taking into consideration the statements from the external reviewers and makes a proposal for a decision to the Scientific Council for Natural and Engineering Sciences. The motivation for the decision should reflect the review panel's discussion and will be communicated to the applicant.

Decision

A formal decision, based on the priority list produced by the review panel, is made by the Scientific Council for Natural and Engineering Sciences, and shortly thereafter published on vr.se and in Prisma.



Complaints and questions

If you as a reviewer receive any questions about the assessment of an individual application, you must refer this to us. The Swedish Research Council personnel make sure that all complaints or requests for clarification are registered and handled by the secretary general responsible in consultation with the research officers of the review panel. The Swedish Research Council personnel will contact you as necessary.