

# Doctoral programme grant – Educational Sciences

**The aim of this grant is to strengthen expertise in the field of educational science and increase national and international cooperation by contributing to research training activities. The Swedish Research Council supports research of the highest scientific quality in national competition.**

**High quality applications within specific areas with a major requirement for accumulation of research capacity will be prioritised in the call.**

## Summary

<b>Type of grant</b>	Research environment and collaboration grant
<b>Area</b>	Educational sciences
<b>Applicant</b>	Organisation (Swedish HEI). The coordinator of the doctoral programme at the host organisation applying shall be invited to be the project leader for the application.
<b>Participating researchers</b>	One contact person per collaborating HEI shall be invited as a participating researcher
<b>Grant period</b>	4 years
<b>Grant amount</b>	Maximum 3 000 000 SEK per year
<b>Budgetary framework for the call</b>	12 000 000 SEK per year for four years (which means that at least four doctoral programme grants may be awarded)
<b>Call deadline</b>	4 April 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.)
<b>Publication of grant award decision</b>	No later than November 2017
<b>Grant period start date</b>	January 2018

## Eligibility criteria for grant applications

The organisation must fulfil the requirements set out below to be eligible to apply for the grant. We will carry out checks to ensure that ineligible applications are rejected from further processing.

### Framework for the Doctoral Programme

The Swedish Research Council invites Swedish higher education institutions (HEI) to apply for funds for the establishment of a national doctoral programme in educational sciences.

Depending on various needs and requirements, a doctoral programme can be designed in different ways. In order to receive funding from the Swedish Research Council, the doctoral programme must meet the following general requirements.

The doctoral programme shall:

- Be operated by several Swedish HEIs in collaboration. Collaboration may also be international, and with foreign doctoral programmes financed by other means

- Be in close proximity to well-functioning and stimulating research environment/s with international connections
- Have a structured educational curriculum with joint courses and seminars of high scientific and educational quality that are nationally and preferably internationally accessible
- Have a clearly defined organisation and leadership, including a board or steering group with overall responsibility for quality assurance of the activities of the doctoral programme in collaboration with the participating institutions
- Have a sufficient national base of postgraduate students

## Focus

The Swedish Research Council's goals for national doctoral programmes in educational sciences are:

- to create an educational structure that supports a new generation of researchers and research leaders with international experience
- to create dynamic research environments and added value in science
- to strengthen the recruitment base and quality in the subject area
- to promote national and international networking (postdoctoral education may be tied to the doctoral programme to strengthen networking on several levels)

Grants may be sought for doctoral programmes focusing on areas relevant for education at pre-school, primary and secondary level. High quality applications with special focus on one of the following four areas will receive special priority, however.

### **1. Quantitative analysis in educational sciences**

A national doctoral programme focusing on measurement and quantitative methods and how they can be combined with qualitative methods to promote the management of the complex contexts faced by educational science research. The doctoral programme shall in the first instance contribute to strengthen national competence in quantitative methods.

### **2. Special education**

A national doctoral programme shall contribute to the accumulation of competence meeting the need for knowledge development within this area. The doctoral programme shall aim to build up capacity in terms of research competence in order to carry out various types of studies within the area of special needs education for all forms and levels of schooling, such as longitudinal studies, studies of prevention and early intervention, studies of inclusion and participation, or didactic research.

### **3. Digital technologies in education**

A national doctoral programme shall promote the development of research into the new prerequisites offered by digital technology to learning and communication. Reinforced capacity is needed in terms of research into the use of new technology and digital media in education, and their implications for the learning of individuals and the work of teachers.

### **4. Didactic research in specific areas**

A national doctoral programme with a subject-didactic focus aims primarily to build up capacity for the needs of the educational system and of teacher training. Prioritised areas are subject didactics for social sciences, aesthetic and practical subjects, language didactics, technology didactics, didactic research in relation to the learning of younger children and pupils, the development of reading and writing, or multilingualism.

## Applicant

Applications for doctoral programme funding are invited from Swedish HEIs that fulfil the Swedish Research Council's requirements for administrating organisations. The HEI acts as the coordinating body for the

national doctoral programme and is also responsible for activity reports and the final scientific and financial reports on grants awarded.

The doctoral programme shall be operated by several HEIs in collaboration. Collaboration is also possible with international and foreign graduate schools receiving other funding.

The application must include a named researcher designated to coordinate the doctoral programme and thus responsible for coordinating and monitoring studies in the doctoral programme (invited as project leader in the application). The coordinator must be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period begins, unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation or another employer (where applicable) agree otherwise. The employment must equal at least 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. The coordinator does not have to be employed by the administrating organisation when the application is submitted.

A named representative must be specified for each of the participating HEIs (see instructions under Research programme below) and also be included as a participating researcher in the application.

### **Number of applications**

There is no limit to the number of applications that one HEI may submit or participate in.

### **Participating researchers**

The application shall include one representative from each of the HEIs participating in the doctoral programme as a participating researcher, i.e. a researcher with a doctoral degree whose scientific merits and competence will be crucial to the implementation of the activities of the doctoral programme.

All participating researchers shall enter the required data in Prisma about themselves, and retrieve these in the application.

### **Costs and grant funding**

The grant is intended to cover the costs of implementing a national doctoral programme. The grant does not cover salaries for postgraduate/postdoctoral students. The grant may not be used for scholarships.

The application may include costs up to 3 000 000 SEK per year, including indirect costs, for four years.

### **Grant period**

The grant is awarded for a period of four years, starting from January 2018. The first disbursement of funds will be in January 2018 at the earliest. The coordinating HEI shall submit a report to the Swedish Research Council no later than September 2018 stating the number of doctoral students admitted to the doctoral programme. If the number does not correspond to the conditions on which the grant was awarded, a reassessment of the grant amounts for the last three years of the grant period may be made.

### **How do I apply?**

The application shall be made electronically in Prisma, the application system used by the Swedish Research Council.

In order to apply, the organisation must have become an approved administrating organisation and created an organisation account in Prisma.

The application is initiated by the administrating organisation (by the person responsible for the organisation's account or for the organisation's applications). The person initiating the application in Prisma then invites the person appointed by the administrating organisation to be the coordinator of the doctoral programme and responsible for the content of the application.

Most of the required steps in Prisma are described in the [User Manual](#) and the [FAQ answers](#). Please refer to these documents when writing the application.

Please avoid stating your or anybody else's full personal identity number in the application except where specifically requested.

## Creating a personal account in Prisma

The person initiating the application at the administrating organisation and the person invited as project leader/coordinator of the doctoral programme must have a personal account in Prisma. The person invited as project leader/coordinator must also agree to his/her participation in the application. The personal account stores personal and CV data. The information only has to be entered once, and may subsequently be supplemented or amended whenever necessary. Since foreign experts are involved in most of the Swedish Research Council calls, please enter descriptive text in CVs in English.

Please remember to create the personal account well in advance. The applications registered in Prisma will be linked to the personal account.

All other participants involved in the preparation of the application must also create an individual Prisma account, and agree to their participation. Once that has been done, they will be able to link their account data to the application.

## Text

Some text fields are formattable, which means that the font and size can be changed, and that some tables, formulas and symbols can be inserted. Text written in advance in Microsoft Word can also be copy-pasted with retained formatting. Images cannot be inserted in the text fields however.

All text fields have limitations in terms of the number of characters, which is illustrated by means of a character counter. If a field contains too many characters, the application cannot be registered.

## Attached documents and appendices

Some fields shall have an appendix, designed according to the instructions provided. The appendix may only consist of one file, and documents can only be attached in PDF format. All attachments are limited in terms of file size and number of pages. You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum file size.

## Signing

All signatures are added in conjunction with registering the application, by the person at the administrating organisation who has created it. More information can be found under the tab Registering the application below. The Swedish Research Council assumes that the person initiating, completing, registering and signing the application has a mandate from the vice chancellor/similar at the HEI to do so.

## What must the application contain?

Please familiarise yourself with the application form in Prisma at the same time as reading through the following instructions.

## Language

Foreign experts participate in the scientific evaluation of the applications. In order to guarantee a well-functioning procedure and a level playing field, please therefore submit the application in English.

## Application subsections

The application form contains the following tabs:

- Descriptive data
- Research description
- Budget and research resources
- Publications
- Administrating organisation
- Participants
- CV

Below is a description of the information required under each tab. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk (\*) in Prisma.

### **Descriptive data**

Under this tab, please enter the project title in Swedish and English, and select SCB classification codes and keywords. Please also state whether the doctoral programme relates to any of the four priority areas, provide an abstract and a popular science description (see instructions below).

#### ***Abstract***

The abstract should contain a brief description of:

- the focus of the doctoral programme
- the planned organisation
- the significance for the research area

The abstract should include a brief outline of the aim and the implementation of the doctoral programme. Please use wording that can also be understood by somebody with a different scientific background.

The description may contain a maximum of 1 500 characters, including blank spaces (approximately half an A4 page in Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing).

#### ***Popular scientific description***

Describe the activities of the doctoral programme in a way that makes it possible to understand for a person not familiar with the subject area. Describe what will be done and why, and explain in what way the doctoral programme will support research in educational sciences.

The popular scientific description is an important tool for us when we provide information about research financed by the Swedish Research Council. If your application is approved, we therefore reserve the right to use the description for information purposes.

**Note:** Unlike the rest of the application, the popular scientific description must be written in Swedish.

The description may contain a maximum of 4 500 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing).

### **Research description**

Under this tab, please attach the research plan for the doctoral programme and describe any ethical considerations (if applicable).

#### ***Ethical considerations***

Present the ethical issues raised by the doctoral programme, and explain how they will be addressed in the activities. Please also indicate whether the research includes animal experiments, experiments involving human subjects, or the handling of personal data. If the research does not raise any ethical issues, this should also be stated.

### **Research plan**

The research plan should consist of a brief but complete description of the design of the doctoral programme. The maximum length is ten page-numbered A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single spacing, including references and any images. Please note that the plan may consist of one file only, maximum size 10 MB. **Please note that any content exceeding the stated maximum number of pages will not be taken into account in the evaluation of the application.**

The following information must be included under separate headings in the research plan, listed in the given order:

- **Objective.** Present the theme and orientation of the doctoral programme.
- **Research environment.** Describe the research environment/environments supporting the doctoral programme. Describe the environment/environments in terms of focus and management, and the orientation of current research. Describe in particular how the environment/environments may contribute to the development of the doctoral programme.
- **Programme description.** Summarise the planned curriculum of the doctoral programme and describe the recruitment base.
- **Organisation.** Provide a detailed description of how the doctoral programme will be organised and administered (courses offered, seminars, course development, coordination, study follow-up, division of work between supervisors, examiners, and course providers), and a plan for the doctoral programme when the grant period ends. The dimension of the programme in terms of number of doctoral students should also be described.
- **Significance.** Describe the plan for the national doctoral programme to reach its goals of strengthening the national recruitment base and quality in order to support research in educational sciences. The description should specify how you intend to promote networking in the area (such as by connecting postdoctoral researchers to the programme, mentoring, etc.).
- **National coordination.** Describe the other Swedish HEIs involved in the doctoral programme activities and indicate the person or persons (name, title, organisational unit) who will be responsible for the participation at each HEI. Also, briefly describe the planned allocation of the roles, tasks and responsibilities for the activities of the persons involved (including the coordinator), as well as the specific contributing competences of each participant.
- **National and other international collaboration.** Briefly describe the collaboration with Swedish and foreign research environments and/or other doctoral programmes.

Provide information on the following points under a separate heading if relevant to the application:

- **Equipment.** Describe the basic equipment of relevance that the doctoral programme will have at its disposal.
- **Need for infrastructure.** Specify the doctoral programme's need for national and international infrastructures. Also, specify the need for local infrastructure if the depreciation costs for this are included in the application.

[Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council.](#) 

### **Budget and research resources**

Under this tab, please state staffing costs, other costs and any other doctoral programme funding sources.

### **Project personnel**

Specify the dedicated time in the project (as a percentage of full-time equivalents) for all personnel active within the doctoral programme, i.e. the project leader/coordinator, the other researchers responsible for participation in the doctoral programme at other HEIs, and other personnel.

Also include salaries for which funding is requested, for the project leader/coordinator or other personnel active within the doctoral programme. Quote the amounts both as percentages of the full-time monthly salaries and as actual annual earnings (including social security contributions). Quote rounded amounts in SEK. Contributions to salaries for doctoral students or post-doctoral researchers are not allowed.

### **Other costs**

Describe other costs (such as course development, lecturers and participating students, premises costs, operating costs). Quote annual rounded amounts.

### **Total cost of the doctoral programme**

The application system will automatically add up the budget items in a table. The total amount requested shall also include indirect costs. The applicant will have to add the indirect costs to the table according to the HEI's own calculation. Please also add any other additional doctoral programme costs (for which funding is not requested in this application).

### **Explanation of the proposed budget**

Write a brief justification statement for each item in the proposed budget. The statement may contain a maximum of 4 000 characters including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Times New Roman, font size 12, single spacing).

### **Other funding**

List any other funding (either subject to an application or awarded) of the doctoral programme besides the funding requested in this application. Quote rounded amounts in SEK.

### **Publications**

Under this tab, please attach the publications lists of the doctoral programme coordinator and participating researchers at collaborating HEIs, in a PDF format. Please note that the attachment may only contain a single file, with a maximum size of 10 MB. If the attachment contains several files, they will therefore have to be joined up into a single file.

Each list shall include publications made in the last eight years, and the five publications that are the most relevant to the doctoral programme shall be marked with an asterisk (\*). In each list, the researcher's name shall be indicated in bold, and also shown in the page header of each list. Sort the publications under the following numbered headings in the given order:

1. **Peer-reviewed original articles**
2. **Peer-reviewed conference contributions** (the findings presented may not have been reported in other publications).
3. **Monographs**
4. **Research review articles**
5. **Books and book chapters**
6. **Popular science publications including books/presentations**

**Note:** Please only include articles (or equivalent) that have been published or accepted for publication at the time of application. The application cannot be supplemented with publications after the call has closed.

### **Administrating organisation**

Under this tab, please state the site of the doctoral programme. The administrating organisation is the HEI coordinating the doctoral programme, and is filled in automatically when the application is created. The site is the department or similar organisational unit with main responsibility for the doctoral programme (normally where the coordinator of the doctoral programme will be employed during the grant period).

## Participating researchers

In this section, the person invited to be the project leader/coordinator can in turn invite participating researchers and administrators to join the application. Participating researchers are named representatives from each of the Swedish HEIs involved, whose scientific merits and competence will be crucial for the implementation of the doctoral programme. Participating administrators are persons who do not participate in the project itself but can help to register and edit information in the application.

Participants who do not yet have an account in Prisma may be invited, but in order to participate in the application they must each open a personal account in Prisma.

All participants must accept the invitation, and participating researchers must retrieve and enter their CV information in the application before the registration of the application can be completed. Please ensure the correct email address is used in the invitation, and that this address is linked to the invited person's Prisma account.

## CV

Under this tab, the doctoral programme coordinator shall retrieve and enter relevant CV data stored in his/her personal Prisma account. Participating researchers have to enter their respective CV data in the application.

The following information (where available) must always be provided and limited to the number specified:

- **Education:** Graduate studies, specialist degree, as well as basic and advanced education.
- **Professional history:** Current employment and longer relevant positions you have held, postdoctoral visits and research exchanges that are relevant for the described research and any longer interruption in the research that has affected your ability to qualify as a researcher.
- **Merits and awards:** Associate professorship (docentur), supervised persons (postdocs and postgraduate students; indicate the total number for each category and indicate up to 10 persons that are most relevant), up to 10 of your most relevant awarded competitive grants, up to 10 of your most relevant awards and distinctions, as well as up to 20 potential other merits of relevance to the application.
- **Intellectual property:** For example patents and freely available computer programs that you have developed; please indicate up to 10 of your most relevant.

## Registering the application

Under the tab Registering the application, a summary is shown of the fields that may need correcting in order for the application to be registered (such as mandatory fields that have not been completed, text fields with too many characters, discrepancies from limitations of the possible project period or budget). The application will not be registered until you click on the button Register.

Please use the preview function to double-check the application before submitting it.

**Note:** All invited participants must accept the invitation before the application can be registered. Invitations that have not been accepted must be removed. Before registration, any participating researchers must also add CV data from their respective personal accounts in Prisma to the application.

The registered application can then be viewed by the project leader/coordinator in his/her personal Prisma account under Applications in the Applications and grants tab. If necessary, the registered application can be de-registered, edited and re-registered up to the call deadline.

The person responsible for the organisation application at the administrating organisation is responsible for ensuring the application is complete, i.e. that the application form is correctly filled in, the correct appendices submitted and the information requested has been provided according to the instructions.



Please only submit specifically requested information. After the closing date, additions to the application will only be accepted in cases where we have asked for them.

## Signing the application

Applications where the applicant is an organisation are signed automatically when the application is registered. The Swedish Research Council assumes that the person responsible for organisation applications at the administrating organisation and who registers and signs the application has a mandate from the vice chancellor/corresponding at the HEI to do so.

A signature from the applicant entails confirmation that:

- The information in the application is correct and complies with the Swedish Research Council's instructions.
- Any secondary occupation and commercial ties have been reported to the administrating organisation and that no conflict with the principles of good research practice has been established.
- The necessary permits and approvals are in place at the start of the project, such as ethical reviews.
- The research, employment and equipment described can be accommodated during the period and to the extent stated in the application.
- The administrating organisation approves the cost calculation in the application.
- The research carried out within the project will be conducted in accordance with Swedish law.

## What happens next?

When the call closes (14.00/2 p.m. on the final day for submission of applications), the registered application will automatically become final and given a registration number.

Information on the status of the application, registration number and application signature can thereafter be found by the project leader/coordinator of the doctoral programme in his/her account under the tab Applications and grants.

## Scientific evaluation

The scientific evaluation of the application will be done by active researchers. These peer reviewers evaluate each application in competition with the other applications on the basis of the assessment criteria established by the Swedish Research Council.

If the application does not comply with the instructions, this will be taken into account in the evaluation.

[Review panel](#) 

[How your application is evaluated](#) 

[The Swedish Research Council's conflict of interest policy](#) 

[The Swedish Research Council's gender equality strategy](#) 

## Decisions

Shortly after the grant funding decisions have been made, a notice of the grants awarded will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website. Thereafter, the project leader/coordinator will receive notification of the decision and a final statement on the application in his/her personal account in Prisma, under the tab Applications and grants. The statement contains the application grading and, in some cases, written comments.

## Contact

## Questions relating to the application content

For questions relating to the content of the application, please email [ansokuv@vr.se](mailto:ansokuv@vr.se) or telephone +46 (0)8 546 44 053. The telephone is staffed on weekdays 9.00/9 a.m. to 16.00/4 p.m. while the call is open.

## Technical questions

In the first instance, please consult the help menu in Prisma, which contains instructions and [FAQ](#), as well as a detailed [user manual](#), which describe most of the required steps in Prisma.

If you cannot find the answer to a technical question in the above-mentioned material, please contact our [technical support team](#). Please note that, depending on the work-load, it may take one to two working days to get a response.