

Research project grant Röntgen-Ångström Cluster

The Röntgen-Ångström Cluster (RÅC) is a Swedish-German research collaboration within structural biology and material sciences. The aim of the grant is to strengthen research in materials science and structural biology that uses neutron and/or synchrotron/free-electron-laser radiation and to stimulate the use and/or development of expertise in large-scale research infrastructures currently available or being planned in the geographic area.

The Swedish Research Council's grant aims to give researchers the opportunity to do research with significant scope and depth. Framework grants can give strong research groups the freedom to act within relatively generous frameworks regarding funding and choice of research direction. The Swedish Research Council supports basic research of high quality in all scientific disciplines and promotes research cooperation and exchange of experiences.

Please note: The following instructions are (unless otherwise stated) addressed to the Swedish applicant (researcher based on a Swedish university or other research institution), also **called project leader**. The German applicant (collaborating researcher based on a German university or other research institution), also **called international project leader**, should turn to Projektträger DESY for information on how to apply in the German application system.

Summary

Type of grant	Research project funding
Subject field	Natural and Engineering Sciences Medicine and Health Research Infrastructure
Focus	Röntgen-Ångström Cluster
Applicant	Individual researcher
Participating researchers	At least one and up to six researchers may be invited to join the application. One of these is the German applicant/international project leader.
Grant period	1-4 years
Grant amount	Minimum 400 000 SEK per year, maximum 2 000 000 SEK per year
Call budget	A total of 56 million SEK is allocated for a four-year period
Call deadline	21 November 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.)
Publication of grant award decisions	No later than March 2018
Grant period start date	January 2018

[Read more about previously awarded RÅC framework grants](#) 

Eligibility criteria for applicants

The following criteria must be fulfilled in order for you to be eligible to apply for the grant. We carry out checks to ensure that unqualified applications are rejected from further processing.

General outlines

The RÅC research collaboration is enabled by a bilateral agreement between the Swedish and German governments and regularly calls for joint Swedish-German project grant applications. The agreement and its calls for applications are handled by the Swedish Research Council and the Project Management Organization at DESY (Projekträger DESY) on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The research applied for must be a collaboration between a Swedish and a German university or research organisation. The project leader in both countries must each submit separate applications to the respective national funding agencies, however, the research plans in each separately submitted application must be identical.

The applications will be jointly evaluated and the funds for each successful application is divided between the two collaborators, handled by the respective funding agencies in accordance to their respective rules and regulations. The Swedish Research Council only finances granted research projects hosted by Swedish universities or research organisations, and the BMBF only finances granted research projects hosted by German universities or research organisations.

Focus

The research must address materials science or structural biology, and aim for an advanced use of or prepare for the use of one or more of the following research infrastructures: PETRA III, FLASH, BESSY II, MAX IV Laboratory, BER II, ESS and XFEL. Neutron sources that may be used are BER II, ILL, ISIS, FRMII and SNS.

Special initiatives:

- CSSB (Center for Structural Systems Biology) – at least one grant will be awarded for research at the CSSB. The intention is to strengthen Swedish research skills and make best use of the laboratory that Sweden is financing in the CSSB at DESY, Hamburg
- Hard x-rays (>40 keV) - at least two grants will be awarded. The intention is to strengthen Swedish research skills to make best use of the planned beamline at PETRAIII.

Apart from the above special initiatives (related to Swedish investments), the remaining funds will be awarded in equal shares to research projects in materials science and structural biology that uses neutron and/or synchrotron/free-electron-laser radiation

Applicant

The applicant for a research project grant must be an individual researcher. You will be the project leader and have scientific responsibility for the project funded by the Swedish Research Council, and your level of activity in the project must be no less than 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or a corresponding foreign degree, awarded no later than the deadline for this call. The degree award date we use is the date you fulfilled all the criteria for a doctoral degree, such as mandatory courses, oral defence and an approved doctoral thesis. For applicants with Swedish doctoral degrees, the award date listed in Ladok applies.

The application must include an ongoing or a new collaboration with researchers and/or research groups active at a university or research institute in Germany. One of the collaborating researchers is the German applicant, from further on called German applicant/international project leader, who must hold the equivalent academic qualifications to the Swedish counterpart. Please note:

- the German applicant/international project leader must submit a separate application, comprising the identical research plan, to the BMBF/PT DESY system [easy-Online](#); this is a legal requirement of the BMBF.
- the Swedish application must be **submitted first** to obtain a registration number in Prisma. The German application to the BMBF must refer to the registration number given to the Swedish application in Prisma when the call has closed.

Grants from the Swedish Research Council shall be administered by a Swedish university or HEI or another Swedish public organisation that fulfils our [criteria for administrating organisations](#). To apply, your organisation must therefore be approved as an administrating organisation.

If you are awarded a grant, you must be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period starts, unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation or any other employer agree otherwise. The employment must equal at least 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You do not have to be employed by the administrating organisation at the time of applying.

Number of applications and previous grants

The conditions described in this section only apply to applicants and project leaders.

What grants may I apply for simultaneously from the Swedish Research Council?

You may only submit one application for this grant under this call. On the other hand, you may apply for undirected project grants, or project grants with a different focus but for another project concept. Other restrictions on the grants you may apply for during the same year are shown in the table below.

Table: Grants you may apply for simultaneously



What eligibility criteria apply, if I already have a grant from the Swedish Research Council?

There are certain restrictions if you are the project leader of a previously awarded grant that is ongoing, that is to say where the grant period (disbursement period from the Swedish Research Council) overlaps the grant period of the grant the application covers. Please note that the period of availability, that is to say the time during which you can draw down the grant awarded, is normally longer than the grant period. Information about the criteria for your previous grant can be found in the "Approval of Conditions" you received from the Swedish Research Council. If your ongoing grant is an undirected project grant, or has another focus, you are eligible to apply, provided that your application is for another project concept. If you are the project leader of or co-worker in an ongoing RÅC framework grant from the call in 2015, you may apply in this call provided that the content is new and does not overlap with the awarded framework grant. Under any of these conditions, you should clearly describe how the new framework grant application differs from the previous one in the research plan.

Please see the table below for further information on what you may apply for if you have an ongoing grant.

Table: Grants you may apply for, if you have an ongoing grant



Note: If you have been the project leader for previous grants from the Swedish Research Council that have ended, a final financial statement for all of these must have been submitted within the permitted time frame in order for you to apply for a new grant. Please contact your administrating organisation if you are unsure whether all your final reports have been submitted.

What applies for applications to or grants from other funding bodies?

If your application to the Swedish Research Council relates to the same project concept as a grant you have already been awarded, or are applying for to another funding body, please account for this.

Participating researchers

The application must include a collaboration between a Swedish project leader and researchers and/or research groups active at a university or research institute in Germany. This part of the collaboration is represented by the German applicant, referred to as the international project leader in Prisma. Besides the German applicant/international project leader, other researchers affiliated to the project may be invited as participating researchers, that is to say researchers with a doctoral degree or corresponding competence,

whose scientific merits and competence will be crucial for the implementation of the proposed research. Participating researchers do not have to be employed by a Swedish HEI or a German counterpart.

The German applicant/international project leader and any participating researchers shall provide the required CV information themselves in Prisma, and upload these to the application. A maximum of six researchers (including the international project leader) may be invited to participate in the application.

Any further participating partners and their roles shall be described in the research plan (please see instructions under "Research plan" below).

Costs and grant amounts

Grants may be applied for to finance all types of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, however no more than corresponding to your level of activity in the project), premises, operating costs (such as consumables, travels including stays at research facilities, publication costs and minor equipment), plus depreciation. Grants may not be used for scholarships. If a doctoral student participates in the project, project funds may not be paid out as salary for the period when the doctoral student is teaching.

The minimum amount you may apply for is 400 000 SEK per year, including indirect costs. The maximum amount you may apply for is 2 000 000 SEK per year.

Grant period

You may apply for a grant to cover a minimum of 1 and a maximum of 4 years, starting from January 2018. The first payment will be made in May 2018, at the earliest.

How do I apply?

You apply electronically in [Prisma](#), which is the application system used by the Swedish Research Council. You create your application in Prisma by filling in the text fields, uploading information from your personal account, and attaching the appendices requested.

In order for you to be able to apply, your organisation must have been [approved as an administrating organisation](#) and have created an organisation account in Prisma.

For most items in Prisma, there is a [user manual](#) describing all the steps, as well as answers to [FAQ](#). Please refer to these when filling in your application.

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

Creating a personal account in Prisma

Before you apply, you must create a personal account in [Prisma](#), where you can save your personal and CV data. The information only needs to be entered once, and can thereafter be supplemented or changed as required. As most of the Swedish Research Council's calls employ foreign reviewers, please use English when entering any descriptive text in you CV data. You can also input your publications for future use. Please note that no publications can currently be uploaded from your account to the application form. This is because the publications function is under development and not yet implemented in the Swedish Research Council's calls. You should therefore submit your publication list as an attached PDF file instead (please see instructions under "Publications" below).

Please allow sufficient time to create your personal account. The applications you register in Prisma will be linked to your personal account.

All other persons participating in your application must also create a personal account in Prisma and actively confirm their participation. Thereafter they can add their data to the application via their personal accounts.

Text

Some text fields can be formatted, which means that you can change the font and size, and also include some tables, formulae and symbols. If you have written the text in Microsoft Word in advance, you can also copy-paste it and keep some of the original formatting. Images cannot be included in the text fields, however. We recommend that you use the fonts Arial, Calibri or Verdana.

All text fields have a limit on the number of characters, and this is illustrated by a character counter. If you use too many characters, the application cannot be registered.

Attached documents and appendices

You will need to attach an appendix to some fields as instructed. The appendix must consist of one file only, and you can only attach documents in PDF format. All appendices are limited as to file size and number of pages. You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum size.

Signing

Both you as applicant and an authorised representative of the administrating organisation shall sign the application electronically in Prisma. Please see further information under "Register your application" below

What must the application contain?

Please refer to the application form in Prisma in parallel with reading the instructions below.

Language

Foreign experts are involved in the scientific evaluation of the applications. To ensure fair and equitable assessment and efficient processing, please therefore complete your application in English.

Sections of the application

The application form includes the following tabs:

- Descriptive data
- Research description
- Budget and research resources
- CV (German applicant/international project leader)
- Publications
- Administrating organisation
- Participants
- CV (Swedish applicant and other researchers)

Descriptions of the information requested under each tab follow below. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk (*) in Prisma.

Descriptive data

Under this tab, please fill in the Swedish and English project title, project period (number of years), the name and affiliation of the German applicant/international project leader, and select SCB codes and key words. Please also state whether the project relates to any of the two special initiatives CSSB or PETRA III and fill in the abstract and popular science description as instructed below.

Abstract

The abstract shall include a brief description of:

- what is to be done
- how the research is to be carried out: project organisation, time plan and the scientific methods to be used
- what is important about the planned research

The abstract shall provide a summary guide to the purpose and implementation of the research. Please use wording to ensure persons with another subject specialisation can understand the information.

The description may cover a maximum of 1 500 characters including blank spaces (approximately one third of an A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing).

Popular science description

Describe the project in such a way that a person who is not familiar with the subject can understand it. Describe what is to be done and why, and explain in what way the new knowledge may be important.

The popular science description is an important tool when we inform about the research financed by the Swedish Research Council. If we grant your application, we reserve the right to use the description for information purposes.

Note: The popular science description must be written in Swedish, unlike the rest of the application.

The description may cover a maximum of 4 500 characters including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing).

Research description

Under this tab, please attach your research plan and describe any ethical considerations.

Ethical considerations

Describe the ethical issues raised by the research and how they are managed in the research work. Please also state whether the research involves any handling of personal data, or experiments on animals or human subjects. If no ethical issues are raised, please state this also.

Research plan

Please attach your research plan in PDF format. The research plan shall consist of a brief but complete description of the research task. The focus of the research plan shall be forward-looking, and it shall cover a maximum of 15 page-numbered A4 pages in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing, including references and any images. **You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages or is larger than 10 MB.**

Please note that the German applicant/international project leader must submit an identical joint research plan to the [BMBF/PT DESY system](#).

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

- **Purpose and aims:** State the overall purpose and specific goals of the research project or similar.
- **Survey of the field:** Provide a summary of the research carried out by you and others, and any previous results within the research area. State key references.
- **Project description:** Make a summary of the project where you describe the theory, method, time plan and implementation. Describe the project organisation, and clarify the roles of yourself and any participating researchers in the project. Here you may also describe any additional researchers who have not been listed as participants in the project application.
- **Significance:** Describe the project's significance to the research area.

- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own experiments and pilot studies within the research area. Also state if no preliminary results exist.

Report the following under separate headings if relevant to your application:

- **Equipment:** Describe the basic equipment you and your team have at your disposal for the project.
- **Need for infrastructure:** Specify the project's need for international and national research infrastructure. Also specify the need for local research infrastructure, if depreciation costs for this are included in the application. [Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council.](#)
- **International and national collaboration:** Describe your own and the team's collaboration with foreign and Swedish researchers and research teams. State whether you contribute to or refer to international collaboration in your research. You may use research project grants from the Swedish Research Council to co-finance EU projects with a corresponding focus. State in the research plan whether you are planning such a coordination.
- **Other applications or grants:** If you are applying for or intend to apply for other grants from the Swedish Research Council, the relationship between the projects shall be clarified. This applies also if you are receiving ongoing grants from the Swedish Research Council with grant periods that wholly or partly overlap with the one you are now applying for. You should also justify why you are submitting one or several further applications. Describe also the relationship with other applications to or grants from other funding bodies for the same project concept (from you or another researcher).

Budget and research resources

Under this tab, please list personnel costs, other costs and any other funding of the project. Please note that the following instructions for filling out budget and research resources concerns the Swedish part of the research budget and are to be filled out by the Swedish applicant in Prisma.

Project staff

State the dedicated time/activity level (per cent of a full-time equivalent) of all personnel active within the project, that is to say yourself, any other researchers and other personnel. Your activity level as project leader must correspond to no less than 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent.

Please also state the salary you are applying for, for yourself and/or other personnel active within the project, both as a percentage of a full-time salary and as actual annual amounts (including social security contributions). Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Other costs

Describe any other costs of the project (premises costs, operating costs and depreciation). Please state rounded annual amounts.

You may include depreciation costs for research equipment to be used in the project, provided that:

- the equipment has an economic lifetime of at least three years
- the equipment has an acquisition value exceeding a certain amount (please contact your administrating organisation for information about the amount that applies to your HEI)
- the equipment needs for your proposed project cannot be satisfied through use of national or international research infrastructure open to all

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

You may only include the proportion of depreciation costs that corresponds to the use of the equipment in the proposed project. You may not include depreciation costs for equipment that is wholly financed via other grants. Please contact your HEI for information about what is included in local research infrastructure, acquisition values or how to calculate depreciation costs.

Total project cost

Prisma will automatically add up your budget items listed in the table. The total amount you are applying for shall also include indirect costs. You will have to add these to the table yourself. Here you can also add any additional costs covered by the project (for which you are not seeking funding under this call).

Please contact your HEI for information on what constitutes indirect and direct costs.

Explanation of the proposed budget

Justify briefly each cost in the applied budget. The description may cover a maximum of 4 000 characters including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing).

Other funding

Please state any funding for the project (whole or part) received by you or another researcher, in excess of the amount requested in this application. Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

CV (German applicant/international project leader)

Please attach the CV of the German applicant/international project leader in PDF format, comprising no more than two A4 pages. **You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages.**

Please note that the publication list shall be included under the separate "Publications" tab below.

Publications

Under this tab, please attach your, the German applicant's and any participating researchers' publications lists in PDF format. Please note that the attachment may consist of one file only, with a maximum size of 10 MB. If the attachment consists of several documents, you must therefore merge them into a single file before up-loading in Prisma.

Each researcher's list shall include publications from the most recent eight years, with the five publications of greatest importance for the project marked with an asterisk (*) in each list, and the name of the researcher marked in bold. The researcher's name shall also be included in the header of the list in question. Please sort the publications in each list under numbered headings in the following order:

1. **Peer-reviewed original articles**
2. **Peer-reviewed conference contributions**, the results of which are not included 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 corresponding publications that are published or accepted for publication at the time of applying. The application cannot be supplemented with publications after the deadline for the call.

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, please state the administrating organisation and project site of the project. The administrating organisation is the organisation that administers the funds for a project awarded and is responsible for it according to the conditions set. The project site is the organisational unit where the project is carried out. Normally, the administrating organisation and project site correspond to the HEI and the department where the project leader is employed.

To allow you to link your application to an administrating organisation, the organisation must have an approved account in Prisma. Please contact your administrating organisation and ask it to [apply for an organisation account](#) with the Swedish Research Council, if it does not already have one.

If you cannot find your project site, please contact the person responsible for the organisation account at your administrating organisation. You will not be able to finalise the registration of your application if the location is missing.

Participants

Under this tab, the Swedish project leader and applicant invites the German applicant, any other participating researchers, or participating administrators to the application. The German applicant represents the German part of the research collaboration and is distinguished from other participating researchers by the Swedish applicant giving her/him the status of *international project leader* in the table provided in the application form. A participating administrator is a person who is not involved in the project, but who can help you to input and edit information in the application.

When inviting participants, please make sure you use the correct email address linked to the person's Prisma account. You may invite participants who do not already have an account in Prisma, but in order to participate in your application they must register their own personal accounts in Prisma. All participants must accept their invitation, and participating researchers must upload their CV data to the application before you can finalise the registration of the application.

Once a participating researcher has accepted your invitation, you can allocate authority to him/her to edit the application.

CV

Under this tab, please upload your relevant CV information from your personal account in Prisma. Any participating researchers must upload their own CV information to the application.

The following information, where available, must always be included in each CV, taking into account the stated limitation in numbers:

- **Education:** Graduate studies, specialist degree, as well as basic and advanced education.
- **Professional history:** Current employment (including whether it is a permanent position or not) and longer relevant positions you have held, postdoctoral visits (should also be included as a position/employment if applicable), research exchanges that are relevant for the research described and any longer interruption in the research that has affected your ability to qualify as a researcher.
- **Merits and awards:** Fellowship, 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 any 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.

Note: The German applicant/international project leader is only required to upload her/his doctoral degree as well as current employment from the personal Prisma account. The full CV is attached in PDF format as instructed above.

Registering the application

The tab "Register application" shows a summary of the fields in your application that may require action in order to register it (such as mandatory fields not filled in, text fields with too many characters, discrepancies from limits on the possible project period or budget applied for). The registration of your application is not finalised until you click on the "Register" button.

Please make sure you use the preview function before registering your application.

Note: Everybody you have invited in your application must accept the invitation in Prisma before you can register the application. If an invitation is not accepted, it must be deleted. Before registration, all participating researchers must also upload their CV information from their own personal accounts in Prisma.

The registered application can thereafter be found in your personal Prisma account under the tab "Applications and grants", under the menu choice "Applications". Until the deadline for the call, a registered application may be de-registered, amended and re-registered again as necessary.

It is your responsibility to ensure the application is complete, that is to say the application form is correctly filled in, the correct appendices are attached and the information requested has been provided according to the instructions. Please only submit material specifically requested. We do not accept any additional information after the deadline date, except when specifically requested.

Signing

When you register the application, it is signed by you as project leader. To ensure the application is deemed complete and included in the review process, an authorised representative of the administrating organisation also has to sign the application. The representative is normally the head of the department where the research will be carried out, but this is dependent on your administrating organisation's structure.

The applicant's signature confirms that:

- the information in the application is correct and complies with the Swedish Research Council's instructions
- secondary occupations and commercial ties have been reported to the administrating organisation and that nothing has emerged that breaches good research practice
- the necessary permits and approvals have been obtained for the project start, such as an ethical review

The signature of the administrating organisation confirms that:

- the research, employment and equipment described can be given room during the period and to the extent stated in the application
- the administrating organisation approves of the budget in the application
- the research carried out within the project complies with Swedish legislation

The above points shall have been discussed by the parties before the representative of the administrating organisation approves and signs the application.

Note: The authorised representative of the administrating organisation must sign the application in Prisma no later than one week (seven calendar days) after the call deadline in order for the application to be considered further in the review process.

What happens next?

[How your application is evaluated](#)[The Swedish Research Council's gender equality strategy](#)[The Swedish Research Council's conflict of interest policy](#)[Review panel](#)When you have registered your application and the call closes (at 14.00/2 p.m. on the deadline date of the call), the registration of your application is automatically finalised and you are given a registration number.

Your registered application is automatically forwarded to the representative of the administrating organisation for signature in Prisma. The application must be signed by the administrating organisation no

later than one week (seven calendar days) after the deadline date. You will receive an email when the application has been signed.

Thereafter you will find information about the status of the application, registration number and signature of the application in your personal account in Prisma, under the tab "Applications and grants".

Evaluation

The scientific evaluation of your application is carried out by active researchers. These peer reviewers evaluate the application in competition with the other applications on the basis of the evaluation criteria set by the Swedish Research Council and BMBF.

If an application is not completed according to the instructions, this will be weighed into the evaluation.

[How your application is evaluated](#) 

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

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

Decision

Shortly after the award decision has been made, a notice of the grant awards will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website. You will thereafter find a notice of the decision and a final statement on your application in your personal account in Prisma, under the tab "Applications and grants". The statement consists of a grading and, in some cases, written comments.

Contact



Questions about application content


If you have any questions about application content, please contact one of the following persons:

Johan Holmberg, email: Johan.Holmberg@vr.se, telephone: +46(0)8-546 44 214

Hanifeh Khayyeri, email: hanifeh.khayyeri@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 44 061

Technical questions

In the first instance, please consult the help menu in Prisma for instructions or [FAQ](#) , including a detailed [User Guide](#)  that describes most items in Prisma.

If you cannot find the answer to your technical question, you may contact our [Technical Support](#) . Please note that it may take 1 to 2 working days to get an answer, depending on the work load.