

Research Environment grant in ageing and health

The aim of the grant is to create added value from collaboration in a larger group than a standard project. The objective of the special project within ageing and health is to support research in the development of individualised diagnostics, prevention and medication, and more efficient use of existing medications and the development of new treatments for elderly persons with illness. The applicant shall be a group of researchers working towards a joint research goal that in the longer term can contribute to better health, increased quality of life and healthy ageing, based on the prerequisites of the individual patient.

The Swedish Research Council rewards science of the highest scientific quality in national competition.

Summary

Type of grant	Research Environment Grant
Area	Medicine and health
Focus	Ageing and health
Application status	Individual researcher
Participating researchers	No less than one and no more than five participating researchers may be invited to join the application. At least one applicant shall be employed at a Swedish HEI
Grant period	6 years
Grant amount	3-5 million SEK per year including indirect costs
Budgetary framework	Up to 25 million SEK during 6 years
Call deadline	5 September 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.)
Publication of grant award decisions	No later than early December 2017
Grant period start date	January 2018

[Read more about framework grants within ageing and health previously awarded](#) 

Eligibility criteria for grant applications

You 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.

Focus area

An important aim of the call is to support projects that create clear added value through collaboration between several groups of researchers with complementary focuses within the area of ageing and health.

For many, ageing is associated with impaired health, and many persons suffer from age-related illness, or illnesses that almost exclusively occur in older persons. Older persons with health problems are one of the greatest challenges facing healthcare. An ever larger number of older patients will need life-long treatment, where knowledge about the sub-groups of diseases and the effects of medication needs to increase to

achieve optimal impact with minimal side effects. The side effect spectrum in older patients also differs from that of younger patients, and is significantly less well-documented.

More research is needed to understand specific factors that impact on the emergence of illness in ageing individuals, and that affect health and the illness. A translational approach between basic research and clinical research is important in order to facilitate a transfer of molecular and genetic findings into clinical practice and treatment. The area of "*personalised medicine*", or **individualised medicine** aims to tailor medications and other forms of treatment according to the patient's individual prerequisites, and thus **offer more effective treatment with greater precision and fewer side effects**. The area covers many different research areas, such as development of individualised diagnostics, prevention and medication, as well as more effective use of existing medications and the development of new treatments for treating older ill persons. The large amount of data that can be gathered from registers, patient records and bio banks constitutes a major resource for characterising illness mechanisms and the course on illness in an ageing population. Collection and analysis of and research into this comprehensive material provides entirely new prerequisites for ever more individualised treatment, where the results are expected to provide new knowledge about illness mechanisms, where the type of treatment required by a certain patient can be predicted.

Applications within the call must include at least two groups of researchers, with clearly complementary focuses (for example different thematic focuses or disciplinary basis). The expected added value of the project described shall be clearly detailed and is a prerequisite for a grant being awarded.

Applicant

The applicant shall be an individual researcher. You are the project leader/representative of the larger constellation of several participating project groups and the scientific supervisor of the project, and your active participation in the project must at least equal 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree, awarded before the deadline of this call. The date of issue will be considered to be the point in time when all the requirements of the degree were fulfilled, such as mandatory courses, oral public defense of the doctoral thesis and the approved doctoral thesis).

The grant shall be administered by a Swedish HEI, or another public organisation in Sweden that fulfils the Swedish Research Council's [requirements for administrating organisations](#). Please note that you will not be able to apply unless your organisation is an approved administrating organisation

If you are awarded funding, you 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 at least equal 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You do not have to be employed by the administrating organisation when the application is submitted.

Number of applications and previous grants

What grants may I apply for simultaneously?

Research environment grants and research project grants:

You may apply for this grant simultaneously with research project grants. However, a prerequisite for both being granted is that the project grant application is not part of an application for a research environment grant. If the project grant application is part of a research environment grant application, and both grants are awarded, the amount awarded for the research environment grant may be reduced.

Number of applications for research environment grants:

You may take part (as applicant or participant) in no more than two applications for this type of grant under this call. However, you may only submit, that is be the applicant for, one application.

You may apply for the grant even if you have applied for a research environment grant with another focus under any other call, provided the project concepts are different. There are no restrictions on participating in any other such application.

All other restrictions on what grants you may apply for during the same year are shown in the table below.

[Table: Grants that can be applied for in parallel](#)

What applies if I already have a grant from the Swedish Research Council?

There are certain restrictions if you are the project leader of a grant already awarded and ongoing, with a grant period (disbursement period) overlapping the grant period of the current grant application. Please observe that the availability period, that is the period during which you may draw on the awarded grant, is generally longer than the grant period. You will find information on the rules that apply to your ongoing grant in the "Approval of terms" that you received from the Swedish Research Council.

If you have previously been awarded a project grant:

You may apply for this grant if you are the project leader of an ongoing project grant. A prerequisite for being awarded a research environment grant is that the ongoing project grant is not part of an application for a research environment grant, but conversely the ongoing project grant may be a supplement to the application for a research environment grant.

If you have previously been awarded a research environment grant:

You may apply for this grant if you are the project leader for an ongoing research environment grant with another focus, provided they are for different project concepts and costs.

If you have previously been awarded a distinguished professor grant, or are a researcher recruited via the Swedish Research Council's call for international researchers:

If you have been awarded a distinguished professor grant or are a researcher recruited via the Swedish Research Council's call for international researchers, you may not apply for a research environment grant. However, you may participate in an application for a research environment grant.

Please see the table below for further information on grants that are eligible for holders of ongoing grants.

[Table: Grants eligible for applicants with ongoing grants](#)

Note: If you have been project leader for grants from the Swedish Research Council that have now ended, you will only be able to apply for a new grant if the final financial report on all previous grants were submitted within the stipulated time period. Please contact your administrating organisation if you are unsure whether all financial statements have been submitted.

What applies for applications to or grants awarded by other funding bodies?

If your application to the Swedish Research Council is for the same project concept as a granted awarded by or applied for to another funding body, please state so.

Participating researchers

Your application must include no less than one and no more than five participating researchers, who hold a doctoral degree or the equivalent, and whose scientific competence is crucial for the execution of the proposed research. At least one of the participating researchers must be employed by a Swedish HEI at the time of application and during the grant period.

Participating researchers must enter the necessary information in the application system and import this into the application. Information on any other participants and their roles shall be included in the research plan (see information under "Research plan" below).

Costs and grant funding

The grant applied for may cover all kinds of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, which must correspond to no more than your participation rate in the project), premises costs, operating costs (such as consumables, travel including stays at research institutions, publication costs and minor equipment) and depreciation costs. The grant may not be used for scholarships. If a doctoral student takes part in the project, the grant may not be used to pay for his/her teaching hours.

You may apply for maximum of 3-5 million SEK per year, including indirect costs.

The Swedish Research Council assumed that the administrating organisation will cover any costs in excess of the grant awarded, should any arise.

Grant period

The grant period is six years. The first payment will be made in December 2017 at the earliest. The project leader shall submit a report no later than 1 March 2021, focusing on the collaboration between the participating researcher and the added value of the research environment, and on how the research is complying with the requirement for focus on individualised medicine within ageing and health. If the findings do not correspond to the prerequisites on which the grant was awarded, a review of the grant amounts for the last two years of the grant period may be carried out.

How do I apply?

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

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

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

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

Creating a personal account in Prisma

Before you can apply, you must create a personal account in [Prisma](#), where you will store your personal data and your CV. The information only has to be entered once, and may subsequently be supplemented or amended whenever necessary. As most Swedish Research Council calls use foreign peer reviewers, please use English when entering any descriptive text in your CV. You can also register your publications for future use. Please note that publications stored in your account cannot be imported into the application form. This is because the publications function is still under development and has not yet been implemented in the calls. The publications list must therefore be presented in the form of an attached PDF file (see instructions under "Publications" below).

Please remember to create your personal account well in advance. The applications that you register in Prisma will be linked to your personal account.

All other persons participating in the preparation of the application must also create an individual Prisma account, and agree to their participation. Thereafter they can add their information to the application via their accounts.

Text

Some text fields are formattable, which means that in those fields you can change the font and size and insert certain tables, formulas and symbols. If you have written the text in advance using Microsoft Word, you will also be able to copy-paste the text and keep the initial formatting. Pictures can however not be inserted into the text fields. We recommend that you use the fonts Arial, Calibri or Verdana.

All text fields have limitations as to the number of characters, and this will be illustrated by means of a character counter. If you use too many characters, you will not be able to register the application.

Attached documents and appendices

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

Signing

The applicant and an authorised representative of the administrating organisation must sign the application electronically in the Prisma system. Further information can be found under "Registering the application" below.

What must the application contain?

Please familiarise yourself with the application form in Prisma while reading through the instructions below.

Language

The scientific assessment of the applications is partly done by foreign peer reviewers. To guarantee a fair and equitable assessment, as well as for the sake of efficiency, we therefore ask you to submit your 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 you will find a description of the information required under each tab. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk (*) in Prisma.

Descriptive data

Under this tab, please list the project title in Swedish and English, select SCB classification codes and keywords. Please also provide an abstract and a popular science description (see instructions below).

Abstract

The research plan abstract should contain a short description of:

- the research activities to be undertaken
- how the research will be carried out: project organisation, time plan and the scientific methods to be used, and the way in which the collaboration in the research environment creates added value
- the importance of the research planned

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

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

Popular scientific description

Describe the project in a way that makes it possible to understand for a person not familiar with the subject. Describe why and how the research will be conducted, and explain in what way the new knowledge might be important.

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 Arial, size 11, single spacing).

Research description

Under this tab, please enclose your research plan and describe the added value achieved by the collaboration, as well as any ethical considerations and the relevance of the application for the area of ageing and health.

Ethical considerations

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

Research plan

In this section, please attach your research plan in a PDF format. Please observe that the appendix may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 4 MB.

The research plan should consist of a brief but complete description of the research task. The research plan should have a forward-looking focus, and shall cover no more than ten page-numbered A4 pages in Arial, font size 11, single spacing, including references and any images. **You will not be able to attach an appendix exceeding the stated maximum number of pages.**

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

- **Purpose and aims:** Describe the overall purpose and specific objectives of the research project or equivalent, and how they relate to ageing and illness in an ageing population.
- **Survey of the field:** Provide a summary of the research carried out by yourself and other and previous findings in the research area. Please state key references.
- **Project description:** Summarise the research project, describing the theory, method, time plan and implementation. Describe also the project organisation and clarify the roles of yourself and the

participating researchers. Here you may also describe any further researchers who have not been listed as participants in the application.

- **Significance:** Describe the importance of the project for the research area.
- **Clinical relevance:** In the framing of the research question, implementation and objectives, the project shall show that there is clear translational and clinical anchoring (the project shall be based on healthcare structures and resources). Explain also how and in what way the results of the project may be put into practical clinical use and benefit patients.
- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own trials and pilot studies within the research area. Please also state whether there are any preliminary results.
- **International and national collaboration:** Describe the 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 project grants from the Swedish Research Council to co-finance EU projects with a corresponding focus. Please state in your research plan whether you are planning such coordination.
- **Other applications or grants:** If you are applying or intend to apply for other grants from the Swedish Research Council, the relationship between the projects shall be clarified. This also applies if you have ongoing grants from the Swedish Research Council with grant periods that wholly or partly overlap with the one now applied for. Please also justify why you are submitting additional application(s). State also the relationship to any other applications or grants for the same project concept from other funding bodies (from you or another researcher). Describe too the relationship between this application and any ongoing grants or grants applied for by participating researchers.

Please provide the following information under a separate heading if relevant to your application:

- **Equipment:** Describe the basic equipment that you and your team will have at your disposal for the project.
- **Need for infrastructure:** Specify the project's need for international and national infrastructure. Specify also the need for local infrastructure if depreciation costs for this are included in the application. Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council.

Added value from collaboration

Please attach a description of the added value from the collaboration in a PDF format. Please note that the attachment may consist of one file only, with a maximum size of 4 MB.

The description may be no more than three A4 pages in Arial, font size 11, single spacing, including references. **You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages.**

Describe how the proposed research environment makes it possible for the researcher constellation, together and through close collaboration, to take on research tasks that are more comprehensive and challenging than would be possible if the researchers were working separately. State the central research questions framed about ageing and health, how the environment is to be designed and developed, and how it can significantly improve the career opportunities of young researchers, post-docs and doctoral students working in the environment. Describe how the environment will be integrated with the work of the HEI(s), and how you intend to organise the work in order to achieve the objectives of the research environment as efficiently as possible.

Relevance

State in what way the application is relevant to the area of ageing and health (see the description in the call introduction), and how the research promotes the development of this area.

The description may cover no more than 4 000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single spacing).

Budget and research resources

Under this heading, please list personnel costs, other costs and any other financing of the project.

Project personnel

State the activity level (percentage of a full-time equivalent) of all personnel active in the project (that is yourself, any other researchers and other personnel). Your activity level as project leader must be at least 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent.

Please also state the salary applied for, for yourself and/or other personnel working in 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 other costs for the project (premises costs, operating costs and depreciation costs). Please state rounded annual amounts.

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

- the equipment has an economic life of no less than three years
- the equipment has an acquisition value in excess of a certain amount (please contact your administrating organisation for information about the amount applicable at your HEI)
- the equipment need for the project applied for cannot be met by freely available national or international infrastructure

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

You may only include the percentage of the depreciation costs that corresponds to the use of the equipment in the project applied for. You may not include depreciation costs for equipment that is fully financed by other grants. Please contact your HEI if you have any questions about what is considered to be local infrastructure, acquisition values or how to calculate depreciation costs.

Total cost of the project

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

Please contact your HEI if you have any questions about what is included in indirect and direct costs.

Explanation of the budget applied for

Provide a brief justification of each cost item included in the budget applied for. The description may cover no more than 4 000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single spacing).

Other funding

Please state any other financing of the project, paid to you or another researcher, in addition to that sought in this application. Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Publications

Under this tab, please attach your publications list and those of the participating researchers in a PDF format. Please note that the attachment may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 10 MB. If the attachment contains several files, they will therefore have to be joined into a single file.

Each list shall include publications from the most recent eight years, with the five publications of greatest relevance to the project marked with an asterisk (*) in each list, and the researcher's name highlighted in bold. The researcher's name shall also be shown in the page header of each list. Sort the publications in each list 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. The application cannot be supplemented with publications after the call has closed.

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, please state the administrating organisation and the project site. The administrating organisation is the organisation that administers and accounts for the funds of the awarded project under the terms and conditions laid down. The project site is the organisational unit where the project will be based. The administrating organisation and the project site generally correspond to the HEI and the department where the project leader will be employed.

An application can only be linked to an administrating organisation with an approved Prisma account. Unless your administrating organisation already has such an account, you will have to ask it to [apply for an organisation account](#) with the Swedish Research Council.

Please contact your administrating organisation if your project site does not appear on the list. You will not be able to finalise the registration of the application if the project site is not stated.

Participants

In this section, you may invite participating researchers and any participating administrators to join the application. A participating researcher is a person who is part of the project and whose scientific competence will be crucial for the implementation of the proposed research. A participating administrator is a person who does not take part in the project itself, but can help you register and edit information in the application.

You may invite participants who do not yet have a Prisma account. Each one of them must however open a personal Prisma account to be able to contribute to your application. All participants must accept the invitation, and participating researchers must upload their CV data to the application before you can finalise the registration of the application. Remember to make sure you use the correct email address when inviting participants, and that the address is linked to the person's Prisma account.

Once a participating researcher has accepted your invitation, you may authorise her/him to edit the application.

CV

Under this tab, please retrieve and upload relevant CV data from your personal Prisma account. Participating researchers shall upload their own CV data to the application. **As project leader, you must state your leadership merits under "Other merits".**

The following information (where available) must always be included in your CV and limited to the number specified:

- **Education:** First, second and third cycle higher education and specialist degrees.
- **Work:** Current employment (including whether permanent or not) and longer relevant employment, postdoctoral visits (including whether employment or not), research exchanges relevant to the research described and any longer interruptions in the research that have impacted on your opportunity to gain merits as a researcher.
- **Merits and awards:** Fellowships, supervisees (postdoctoral and doctoral students; state the overall number of each category and list the 10 most relevant to you), up to 10 of your most relevant grants awarded in competition, up to 10 of your most relevant prizes and awards, and up to 20 other merits relevant to the application.
- **Intellectual property right:** For example, patents and open access computer programs developed by you; state up to 10 of your most relevant.

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 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 in 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 deadline in order for the application to be considered further in the review process.

What happens next?

When 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 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 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.

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

[Review boards](#)

[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.

ABS Regulation and due diligence declaration: As from 12 October 2015, users of genetic resources (genetic material of actual or potential value) and traditional knowledge relating to genetic resources obtained after 12 October 2014 shall comply with the ABS Regulation by making a "due diligence declaration". This declaration only applies to persons awarded a grant. Due diligence entails the user being able to show that the genetic resource was obtained according to applicable legislation in the country in question and that the possible benefit of the genetic resource will be allocated in a reasonable and equitable way. Exceptions apply to research into: the human genome, plant genetic material included in the international agreement on plant genetic resources, pandemic influenza virus and genetic material obtained from international waters.

If you have any questions about the regulations and due diligence, please contact [Naturvårdsverket](#) .

Contact

Questions concerning application content

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

Johan Nilsson, email: johan.nilsson@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 44 202

Eva Bergström, email: eva.bergstrom@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 12 305

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.