

Proof of concept grant

The aim of this grant is to bridge the gap between basic research and commercialisation of research results in the life science research area. The Proof of concept-grant offers researchers who have been awarded funding by the Swedish Research Council, the opportunity to further develop their research results. This is achieved by deepening the scientific or technical verification of them and undertaking activities that prepare for innovation or commercialisation.

The Swedish Research Council will support projects that focus on the development of methods or products for treatment, prevention and diagnostics, and where the suitability and usability of the method or product is verified.

We ask you as the applicant to note that your submitted application to the Swedish Research Council is a public document!

Please note! This call text was updated May 9 in the section “Publications (pdf)” under the heading “What must the application contain?”.

Summary

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| Type of grant | Research Project funding |
| Area: | Medicine and Health Natural and Engineering Sciences |
| Focus: | Life science |
| Applicant: | Individual researcher who is or has been the holder of an awarded grant from the Swedish Research Council with a grant period ending in 2015 or 2016 |
| Participating researchers: | A maximum of six researchers may be invited to join the application. |
| Grant period: | 1 year (2016) |
| Grant amount: | Minimum 500,000 SEK per year Maximum 1,500,000 SEK per year |
| Budgetary framework: | 18 million SEK |
| Call deadline: | 17 May 2016 (at 2:00 PM) |
| Publication of grant award decisions: | No later than mid-November 2016 |

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 controls in order to ensure that applications that do not adhere to the eligibility criteria are rejected from further processing.

Focus

The call addresses the field of Life sciences. The area is broad with multiple overlapping fields and is to a large extent interdisciplinary. Research in this area generally aims to increase the understanding of how living organisms function, interact and affect their environment. Focus is on molecular, cellular and physiological processes and on how diseases arise. The call addresses projects relating to the development of methods or

products for treatment, prevention and diagnostics of medical conditions, and therefore has a clear link to the medical field.

Applicant

The Proof of concept grant is open to individual researchers. You are the project leader and scientific supervisor of the project and your active participation in the project must equal at least 20 percent of a full-time employment. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree.

At the time of application you must be or have been the holder (project leader) of a previously awarded grant from the Swedish Research Council with a grant period ending in 2015 or 2016. You cannot apply if the grant period ends later than 2016. Your application for a Proof of Concept grant must concern the verification of research results under the framework of the previously awarded grant.

The grant will be administered by a Swedish Higher Education Institution (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 equal at least 20 % of a full-time employment. You do not have to be employed by the administrating organisation when the application is submitted.

Number of applications and previous grants

The eligibility criteria under this section only apply for you as the applicant and project leader, not as participating researcher.

What grants may I apply for simultaneously?

You may submit one or more applications under this call for applications, provided that they concern different Proof of concept-ideas linked to different previously awarded grants.

Other restrictions in regard to grants you are eligible to apply for in parallel in the same year are presented in the table below.

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

What eligibility criteria apply to holders of ongoing research grants from the Swedish Research Council?

In order to be eligible to apply under this call you must be or have been the project leader of a previously awarded grant from the Swedish Research Council. The following conditions apply: your previously awarded grant must be a research project grant, any of our career support grants (international postdoc, Marie Skłodowska Curie International Career Grant, researcher position grant, distinguished young researchers) or a framework

grant. The grant may have been awarded in any of our scientific areas but must be relevant to the Life science field according to the information under Focus above. The last year of the grant period must be 2015 or 2016. The grant period corresponds to the disbursement period from the Swedish Research Council, not the period of availability (dispositionstid) which is generally longer. 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.

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 

N.B.: If you have been project leader for grants from the Swedish Research Council before, 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. For questions as to whether all financial statements have been submitted, please turn to your administrating organisation.

Participating researchers

You may include up to six participating researchers in your application, i.e. researchers with a doctoral degree whose scientific merits and competence will be crucial for the implementation of the proposed research activities. The participating researchers do not have to be employed by a Swedish HEI.

Participating researchers will themselves have to enter the required information into the application system, and link it to the application. Other collaboration partners (where applicable) and their roles shall be presented in the research plan (see instructions under Research plan below).

Costs and grant funding


The applied grant may be used to cover all kinds of project-related costs, e.g. salaries (including your own salary, which must correspond to your participation rate in the project), rental and property costs, operating costs (such as consumables, travel costs including visits to research centres, development of prototypes and production). The grant may not be used for scholarships or consultant fees. 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 a minimum of 500,000 and a maximum of 1,500,000 SEK per year, including indirect costs.

Grant period

The grant is awarded for one year (2016). Payment is made in November and/or December 2016.

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 out the text fields, retrieving information from your personal account, and by enclosing the required appendices.

In order for you to be able 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](#). We advise you to have a look at these documents when you write your application.

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. Since foreign experts are involved in most of the Swedish Research Council calls, we ask you to enter text in English in your CV data. The account will also enable you to register your publications for future use. Please note that publications stored in your account cannot be transferred to the application form. This is due to the fact that the publications function is still under development and has not yet been implemented in the Swedish Research Council's 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 participants, who will be 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 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.

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.

Signing

Both you, as applicant, and the official representative of the administrating organisation, must sign the application electronically in the Prisma system. More information can be found under the tab Registering the application below.

What must the application contain?

We ask you to familiarize yourself with the application form in Prisma at the same time as you read through the instructions below.

Language

Foreign peer reviewers participate in the scientific assessment of the applications. To guarantee a well-functioning procedure and a level playing field in the review process, 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 (pdf)
- Administrating organisation
- Review panels
- Participants
- CV

Below you will find an outline of the information required under each tab. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk* in the Prisma system.

Please note that there is a tab in the form for retrieval of publications from your personal Prisma account. This is however not used in the call and you may therefore disregard from it.

Descriptive data

Under this tab, you are requested to enter the project title in Swedish and English, the project period (one year), and to select keywords and SCB classification codes. In this section, you are also requested to provide an abstract and a popular science description (cf. instructions below).

Abstract

The research plan abstract should contain a short description of:

- The research activities to be undertaken.
- The project implementation: the project organisation and activity plan.
- The innovation potential of the project.
- The significance of the planned project, including socio-economic benefits.

Explain the significance to the research field, specifically in terms of originality and innovation potential.

Please use a language 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 half an A4 page in Times New Roman, size 12, 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.

N.B.: 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 and a half A4 page in Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing).

Research description

Under this tab, you are requested to enclose your research plan in a PDF format, describe ethical considerations and the relevance to the call, and give an account of the previous project funded by the Swedish Research Council and which the proof of concept-application concerns.

Ethical considerations

Present the ethical issues raised by the research, and explain how they will be addressed in the research activities. We also ask you to 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

Please note that your application submitted to the Swedish Research Council is a public document!

In this section you are requested to attach your research plan in a PDF format. Please observe that the appendix may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 3 MB.

The research plan should consist of a short but complete description of the research task. The maximum length is five A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single spacing, including references. The research plan should be given a forward-looking focus.

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

- **Purpose and aims:** Present the overall purpose and specific objectives of the research project (or equivalent).
- **Innovation potential:**
 - **Description of Proof of concept-idea** Outline the project, explain the idea and the expected outcome. The description must be understandable for a non-specialist.
 - **Demonstration of innovation potential** Explain the link between the proposed project and the previously funded project from the Swedish Research Council
- **Activity plan:** Describe the planning of the proposed project, the project management plan and the team that will implement it. You should demonstrate the relevance of the method chosen to determine the technical feasibility of the project. The following must be included:
 - Activity plan
 - Project management plan
 - Description of the team (skills, experience, etc.
- **Expected outcome:** Describe the expected outcome of the Proof of concept-project, including socio-economic benefits with focus on treatment, prevention and diagnostics of medical conditions. Describe:
 - Socio-economic benefits
 - Commercialisation process and/or any other exploitation process
 - Future plans for taking the project further

Provide information on the following points under a separate heading if you consider them relevant to your application:

- **Equipment:** Describe the basic equipment that you, and the team, will have at your disposal for the project.
- **International and national collaboration:** Describe your and your team's cooperation with Swedish/foreign researchers, research groups, industry or the health care sector.

Report of the previously awarded grant from the Swedish Research Council

In order to be eligible to apply you must be or have been the project leader of a previously awarded grant of relevance to the Life science field, and with a grant period ending in 2015 or 2016 (i.e., subject to disbursements from the Swedish Research Council up to and including 2015 or 2016 but not later). You are therefore requested to account for your previously awarded grant.

Provide the project title, the type of grant, the file number (diarienummer), the amount, the grant period and period of availability (dispositionstid) concerned. 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.

The outline may contain a maximum of 2,000 characters including blank spaces (equivalent to approximately a half A4 page in Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing).

Relevance

Describe your project's relevance to the Life science area (cf. definition under the heading Focus above).

The description may contain a maximum of 2,000 characters including blank spaces (equivalent to approximately a half A4 page in Times New Roman, font size 12).

Budget and research resources

Under this tab, you are requested to include staffing costs, other costs and explanation of the proposed budget.

Project staffing

Specify the dedicated time in the project (as a percentage of full-time employment) for all project staff members, i.e., yourself, any participating researchers and other personnel. Your dedicated time as project leader must at least equal 20 % of a full-time employment.

You must also include salaries for which you request funding, for yourself and/or other project staff members. Quote the amounts both in proportion to the full-time monthly salary and as actual annual earnings (including social security contributions). A person that you include in your salary request can, but does not have to, be one of the invited participating researchers. Quote the rounded amounts in SEK.

Other costs

Describe other project-related costs. These may include rental and property charges and operating costs (e.g., consumables, travel, prototype development and production). Quote the rounded amounts on an annual basis.

Total project cost

The application system will automatically add up the budget items that you enter in a table. The total amount requested shall also include indirect costs. You will have to add the indirect costs yourself to the table. In this section, you are also requested to add any other additional project costs (for which you do not request funding within the framework of this call).

For questions as to what qualifies as a direct or indirect cost, please contact your HEI.

The maximum amount you can apply for is 1,500,000 SEK, including indirect costs.

Explanation of the proposed budget

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

Publications (pdf)

Under this tab, we ask you to attach your and any participating researchers' publications lists in a PDF format. Please observe that the appendix may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 10 MB. If the attachment contains several files, you will therefore have to join them into a single file.

Include those ten publications in the last eight years that are the most relevant and important for the project. Highlight the current researcher's name in bold. ***Please note! This information was updated May 9. In the previous version was not given any restriction in the number of publications.***

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**

N.B.: You shall only include articles (or equivalent) that have been published or accepted for publication. The application cannot be complemented with publications after the call has closed.

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, you are requested to list 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 have to provide the project site information to be able to finalize the registration of the application.

Review panels

Under this tab, you are requested to enter the review panel VR-POC for assessment of your application.

[Review panel](#)

Participants

In this section, you may invite participating researchers and administrators to join the application. By participating researcher we refer to a person with a doctoral degree involved in the project and whose scientific merits and competence will be crucial for the implementation of the proposed research activities and will have a key role in the realization 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 hold 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 retrieve and enter their CV data into the application before you can finalize the application registration. Remember to make sure that you use the

right email addresses when you send invitations to participants, and that each address is linked to invited person's Prisma account.

CV

Under this tab, you are requested to retrieve and enter relevant CV data stored in your personal Prisma account. Participating researchers (where applicable) have to enter their respective CV data into the application.

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

- **Education:** Graduate studies, specialist degree, as well as basic and advanced education.
- **Professional history:** Current employment (including information if it is a permanent position or not) 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:** 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 up to 20 potential other merits of relevance to the application.
- **Intellectual property:** E.g., patents and freely available computer programs that you have developed, please indicate up to 10 of your most relevant.

Registering the application

When you open the Registering the application tab, the system will perform a check to verify if any mandatory information is missing and inform you of any need for supplements. The application will not be registered unless you click the Register button.

Remember to use the preview function in order to double-check your application before submitting it!

N.B.: Please note that all invited participants must accept your invitation before you can proceed to register the application. Invitations that have not been accepted have to be removed. Before registering, all participating researchers (if applicable) must also retrieve data from their personal Prisma account to the application.

The registered application can then be viewed in your personal Prisma account, under Applications and Applications and grants in the menu. If necessary, a registered application may be de-registered, edited and re-registered up to the call deadline.

You are responsible for ensuring that the application is complete, that is to say that the application form is filled out correctly, the required appendices are submitted, and that the requested information is provided in accordance with the instructions. We ask you to only submit specifically requested information. After the closing date, application addenda will only be accepted in cases where we have asked for supplements.

Signing the application

When you register the application, it will automatically be signed by you in your capacity of project leader. The application must also be signed by the official representative of the administrating organisation in order for it to be considered complete and be processed further in the review process. This representative is normally the head of the department where the research will be conducted, but that will depend on the organisational structure of your administrating organisation.

The signature *of the applicant* confirms that:

- The information contained in the application is correct and in line with the instructions from the Swedish Research Council.
- Any side-line occupation and/or 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, e.g. concerning the ethical review.

The signature *of the administrating organisation* confirms that:

- The organisation will accommodate the research and the equipment, and employ the applicant during the time period and to the extent presented in the application.
- The organisation approves the cost estimate presented in the application.
- The project will be conducted in accordance with Swedish law.

The parties must have discussed the above-mentioned points before the representative of the administrating organisation approves and signs the application.

N.B.: The official representative of the administrating organisation must have signed the application in Prisma within a week (seven calendar days) of the application deadline for it to be considered further in the review process.

What happens next?

When the call closes (at 2:00 PM on the final day for submission of applications), the registered application will automatically become final and given a registration number.

Your registered application will automatically be forwarded to the official representative of the administrating organisation, who shall sign the application within a week (seven calendar days) of the application deadline. You will receive an auto-generated email when the application has been signed.

You will find information about the status of the application, the registration number and the application signature under the tab Applications and grants in your account.

Scientific evaluation

The assessment of the application will be made by active researchers and representatives from the industry, health care sector and innovation offices in Sweden who will evaluate each application (in competition with the other applications) on the basis of the assessment criteria established by the Swedish Research Council.

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

[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 taken, information on the awarded grants will be published on the web page of the Swedish Research Council. After that, a notification of decision and a final statement for your application can be found in your personal account under the tab Applications and grants. The final statement contains the application grading and, in some cases, written comments.

N.B.: As from 12 October 2015, anyone who uses genetic resources (genetic material of actual or potential value) and traditional knowledge pertaining to genetic resources, which were accessed after 12 October 2014, shall follow the EU ABS declaration and declare that the resource and the knowledge used have been obtained in line with the applicable legislation, and distribute any benefit deriving from the use thereof in a fair and reasonable way. This only applies for granted applications.

Exceptions apply to human genetic resources, material covered by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, material included in the WHO's Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and genetic material obtained from the Deep Seas.

For questions about the EU ABS declaration, please contact [the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency](#) (information in Swedish).

Contact

For questions relating to the application content:

For questions relating to the application content, please email or call the contact persons listed below.

Gergana Angelova Hamberg, e-mail: gergana.angelovahamberg@vr.se, telephone: +46(0)8-546 44 146

Joachim Rosenquist, e-mail: joachim.rosenquist@vr.se, telephone: +46(0)8-546 44 047

Technical questions

We kindly ask you to first consult the help menu in the Prisma system, where you will find instructions and [FAQs](#) as well as a detailed [user manual](#), which describe most of the required steps in Prisma.

If you cannot find the answer to your technical question in the above-mentioned information material, please contact [our technical support team](#). Please note that depending on the workload, it may take up to 1-2 working days before you get a reply.