Research Project Grant – Energy-Oriented Basic Research

This call is a collaboration between the Swedish Energy Agency and the Swedish Research Council. The aim of the call is to support basic research projects in natural and engineering sciences, of high scientific quality and with very strong potential to contribute to the energy transition. The call concerns research project grants, which allow researchers the freedom to identify the research idea, methods and implementation steps, and to solve a specific research task within a limited period of time.

Projects can be supported with a maximum of one million SEK per year. In recent years, the Swedish Energy Agency has awarded approximately 15 million SEK per year for new projects in energy-oriented basic research.

Summary

Type of grant	Research Project funding
Area	Natural and Engineering sciences
Focus	Energy-oriented research
Applicant	Single researcher
Participating researchers	A maximum of six researchers may be invited to join the application.
Grant period	1-4 years
Grant amount	Minimum 300,000 SEK per year, maximum 1,000,000 SEK per year
Call deadline	5 April 2016 (at 2:00 PM)
Publication of grant award decisions	Funding decision is planned for December 2016
Grant period start date	January 2017

Read more about previously awarded grants (Swedish only)⬀

Grant application requirements

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.

The Swedish Energy Agency makes the funding decision and administers awarded grants. More information about the terms and conditions that apply to awarded grants can be obtained from the Swedish Energy Agency contact persons (cf. "Contact" below).

Focus

For this project research grant, it is an absolute requirement that the focus on energy-oriented basic research is considered relevant. In addition to being of high scientific quality, research projects in this call must show very strong potential to produce knowledge that significantly facilitates the development of a long-term sustainable

energy system. More information about the energy area and strategies and prioritizations of the Swedish Energy Agency can be found here🔗 (Swedish only) .

It is recommended that the project aims include objectives related to that project results should reach actors that may utilise these, since good preconditions for such utilisation is judged as a strength in the assessment of the project's relevance to the energy area. The Energy Agency's final selection in the call will be made with regard to the overall project portfolio's potential to contribute to the transition to a sustainable energy system.

Please note that research related to nuclear fission is not covered by this call.

Applicant

The Research project 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 at least equal 20 percent of a full-time employment. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree. The doctoral degree must have been 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 for example mandatory courses, the oral public defence of the doctoral thesis and the approved doctoral thesis.

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

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 only submit one application for this grant under this call for applications in energy-oriented basic research. You may apply for this project grant if you have submitted applications with another focus, both at the Swedish Research Council (provided that the project idea is different) and directly to the Swedish Energy Agency. In these cases, you have to address this in your research plan.

The Swedish Research Council's other restrictions in regard to grants that are eligible 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?

There are no restrictions governing the types of grants that a project leader may apply for when his/her project benefits from an ongoing project grant awarded by the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish Energy Agency

or another funding agency. By ongoing grant, we refer to a previously awarded grant with a funding period which overlaps in part or in full with the funding period of the current application.

You may apply if you are currently acting as the project leader of an already awarded and ongoing grant from the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish Energy Agency or other funding body, with a grant period (disbursement period) overlapping the grant period of the current grant application.

N.B.: The Swedish Energy Agency requires that progress reports, economic progress report, final report and final financial report must be submitted within the time specified for all grants funded by the Agency. The Agency will verify that all your or your institution's reports have been submitted to the Energy Agency. In the case of a missing report, the funding decision can not be taken until the report has been submitted.

For questions as to whether all financial statements have been submitted, please turn to your administrating organisation.

Participating researchers

You may include 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 Higher Education Institution (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

You may apply for and be awarded a maximum of 1,000,000 SEK per year, including indirect costs. You may apply for a minimum of 300,000 SEK per year, including indirect costs.

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, publishing costs and minor equipment) and depreciation costs. The grant may however not be used for the following: costs covering activities at foreign HEIs, costs related to undergraduate education such as supervision of master thesis and scholarships. If a doctoral student takes part in the project, the grant may not be used to pay for his/her teaching hours.

Indirect costs for Swedish HEIs are covered according to the full-cost accounting principle. Indirect costs should be calculated according to the HEI's individual accounting model or according to the SUHF accounting model.

Grant period

You may apply for a grant period of at least one and a maximum of four years, starting from January 2017. First payment is made in January 2017, at the earliest.

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

The scientific assessment of the applications is partly done by foreign peer reviewers. 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 unless where otherwise is called for.

Application subsections

The application form contains the following tabs:

- Descriptive data
- Research summary
- 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 list the project title in Swedish and English, the project period (number of years), 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, the time table and the scientific methods to be used.

- The significance of the planned research, including its potential to contribute to the energy transition.

The abstract should include a brief outline of the aim and the implementation of the research activities. 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 funded research. 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 summary

Under this tab, you are requested to enclose you research plan in a PDF format, describe ethical considerations and relevance to the focus area.

Ethical considerations

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

Research plan

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 10 MB.

The research plan should consist of a short but complete description of the research task. The maximum length is ten 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:** Present the overall purpose of the research project.
- **Project aims:** The aims may for instance include which research questions that will be answered or the specific research objectives to be achieved. The aims should preferably be stated as bullet points. The aims should preferably include objectives related to that project results reach actors that may utilise these, since good preconditions for the utilisation is judged as a strength in the assessment of the project's relevance to the energy area.
- **Survey of the field:** Outline previous research, either conducted by yourself or by others, as well as earlier research results in the field. Provide key references.
- **Project description:** Summarize the project by describing the theories, methods, time table and implementation. You should also describe the project organisation and clarify your own and any participating researchers' roles in the project. In this section, you may also include other researchers, who are not listed as participants in the application form.
- **Significance for the research field:** Describe the project's significance to the research area.
- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own experiments and pre-studies in the research area. If there are no preliminary results, this should also be stated.

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.
- **Need for infrastructure:** Specify the need for international and national infrastructure within the project. Also specify the need for local infrastructure if such equipment depreciation costs are included in the application. Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council .
- **International and national collaboration:** Describe your and your team's cooperation with Swedish/foreign researchers and research groups. Indicate whether you participate in, or refer to, international cooperation in your research. You may use project grant funds to co-finance EU projects with a similar aim and direction. Indicate whether such coordination is being envisaged in the research plan.
- **Other grants:** If you intend to apply for several research grants, or if you have an ongoing grant awarded by the Swedish Energy Agency and/or the Swedish Research Council, you need to clarify how the projects relate to each other. You should also justify why you submit several applications.
- **Independent line of research:** If you are currently - or will be - working in a large group, you are requested to show how your project relates to the other projects of the group. If you continue working on a project, which was fully or partly initiated during your doctoral or postdoctoral studies, you must also describe how your project relates to the research conducted by your former research advisor.

The project's contribution to the energy transition

Describe in what way your project may contribute to the energy transition. The description may contain a minimum of 4,000 characters and a maximum of 8,000 characters including blank spaces (equivalent to approximately 2-4 A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing). **The description must be written in Swedish.**

The following information must be included under separate headings:

- **Potential**
  In what way does the project contribute to a sustainable energy system? What are the main challenges in the field, and how can the project assist in addressing these?
- **Preconditions for the project results to reach the actors that will utilize the results**
  What are the preconditions for the results to be put into practical use for the development of a

sustainable energy system? Which collaborations, receiver capability in the industry, etc., can facilitate this?

- **Project aims**
  The aims may include for example which research questions that will be answered or the specific research objectives to be achieved. The aims should preferably be stated as bullet points. The aims should preferably include objectives related to that project results reach actors that may utilise theseresults, since good preconditions for utilisation is judged as a strength in the assessment of the project's relevance to the energy area. **Note that the aims should be identical to those specified in the research plan, but in Swedish!**

Budget and research resources

Under this tab, you are requested to include staffing costs, other costs and other project funding sources (where applicable). The applied grant may be used to cover all kinds of project-related costs, e.g. salaries, rental and property costs, operating costs (e.g., consumables, travel including visits to research facilities, publication costs and minor equipment) and depreciation costs. Exceptions are costs covering activities at foreign HEIs, supervision of master thesis and scholarships, which may not be funded.

Projects may be awarded a maximum of 1,000,000 SEK per year.

Project staffing

Specify the dedicated time in the project (as a percentage of full-time employment) for all project staff members, both for 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 (e.g. rental and property charges, operating costs and depreciation costs). Quote the rounded amounts on an annual basis.

You may evoke depreciation costs relating to equipment that will be used in the project, provided that:

- The equipment has an economic life span of at least three years.
- The acquisition value of the equipment exceeds a certain threshold (please turn to your administrating organisation for information on the amount used by your department).
- The equipment need for the proposed project cannot be met by means of freely available national or international infrastructure.

Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council.

You may only evoke the part of the depreciation costs that corresponds to the use of the equipment in the project for which you request funding. You may not evoke depreciation costs relating to equipment that is fully financed

by means of other grants. If you have questions about what qualifies as local research infrastructure, acquisition values, or about how to calculate the depreciation costs, please contact your administrating organisation.

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 according to the SUHF accounting model. In this section, you are requested to add 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.

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 1 A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing).

Other funding

List any other project funding (either subject to an application or awarded) besides the funding requested under this call. Quote the rounded amounts in SEK.

Publications (pdf)

Under this tab, we ask you to attach your and the 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 publications made in the last eight years and mark the five publications on each list that are the most relevant to the project with an asterisk (*).Highlight the current researcher's name in bold. Sort the publications under the following numbered headings in the given order:

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

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.

Citation data, including the number of citations per publication, must be provided after each publication reference. The number of citations (n) must be preceded by the phrase "Number of citations: n". **Do not count self-citations when calculating the number of citations.**

You are also required to present information on the five most cited publications in the same way, independent of the publication year.

Citation data must be presented for:

- Peer-reviewed original articles
- Peer-reviewed conference contributions
- Research review articles, books and book chapters

List the database used at the top of the publications list. You may choose from the following databases:

- Web of Science
- Google Scholar
- Scopus (Elsevier)
- SPIRES
- ADS (The SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System)
- MathSciNet

N.B.: The Swedish Research Council has a restrictive view on bibliometric comparisons between individuals. The citation data given will only be used as one part of an overall evaluation performed by experts in the respective subject field. Bibliometric indices that are not quality-related, such as h-index, are of no value in such an assessment.

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, or the review panels (in order of priority), that you would want to scientifically assess your application. The final decision on the distribution of applications between the review panels will be made by the Swedish Research Council.

Review panels

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. You may include a maximum of six participating researchers in the application. 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 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.

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 scientific assessment of the application will be made by active researchers of the Swedish Research Council's review panels. These peer reviewers evaluate each application (in competition with the other applications) on the basis of the assessment criteria established by the Swedish Research Council. The applications found to be of high scientific quality are forwarded to the Swedish Energy Agency, where the Agency's Basic research committee assesses the applications based on their potential to contribute to the energy transition. The Energy Agency's final selection in the call will be made with regard to the overall project portfolio's potential to contribute to the transition to a sustainable energy system.

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

Not later than November, the Swedish Research Council will make its decision on the applications. The decision will result in your application being rejected or forwarded to the Swedish Energy Agency for funding decisions. The notification of decisions and final statements from the Swedish Research Council will then be published in your personal Prisma account. Potential statements from the Swedish Energy Agency will be provided separately.

The Swedish Energy Agency will then make its funding decision on the applications forwarded to the Agency. If your application is concerned by the Energy Agency decision you will personally receive information about the decision as well as the statement from the Energy Agency in December (according to the planned time-schedule). The Swedish Energy Agency will handle all administration of awarded project grants.

The grant disbursements will start in January 2017 at the earliest.

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:

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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.