



Swedish
Research
Council

Instructions for reviewers and prioritization panel

Project grant for research on coronavirus and
COVID-19 2020

Instructions for reviewers - Project grant for research on coronavirus and COVID-19

Dear reviewer,

Thank you for accepting the commission to review applications in the Swedish Research Council's call for Project grants for research on coronavirus and COVID-19. Below will follow brief instructions for your review work.

Please observe that the Swedish Research Council has policies for gender equality and handling of conflict of interest. At the end of this document you will find links to documents explaining the policies.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Instructions

Fundamentals of the call

The aim of the call is to support research that can quickly contribute to stopping the spread of COVID-19 and preventing future pandemic outbreaks. **A fundamental requirement for projects considered for funding in this call is that the research shall generate reliable and implementable results within the availability period of the grant, that is before 31 December 2021.**

Focus/Scope of the call

The initiative focuses on research that can reduce the spread and the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and also research aimed at preventing future pandemics. The research may relate to medical devices, treatment methods, medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, transmission, and pathogenesis for COVID-19, but data-driven research and questions relating to epidemiology and public health linked to COVID-19 are also relevant.

We ask you to carefully consider the relevance of each application in relation to the above requirement. Applications concerning research that does not fall within the focus of the call should be graded as "Not relevant".

[The full call text can be found here.](#)

Assessment and grading of the applications

Your work will be done in the Swedish Research Council's application system, [Prisma](#).

You shall assess the quality of the applications based on the Swedish Research Council's criteria **Scientific impact** and **Relevance**. A three-grade scale (1-3) is used for both criteria. For each criterion there are a set of Guiding questions to help you understand what we would like you to consider during your assessment.

Criterion:

Scientific impact (1–3; low impact, moderate impact, high impact)

Guiding questions:

- Will the results of the project fill a significant knowledge gap?
- Does the project have the potential to deliver reliable and implementable results that are beneficial to patients and/or society within the availability period of the grant (until 2021-12-31)?
- Are the project organisation, the selected methods, and the availability of equipment and infrastructure adequate for the proposed project?
- Is the budget requested reasonable for the implementation of the proposed project?
- Does the proposal have a clear plan for dissemination of the results in order to quickly impact society and/or health care?

Criterion:

Relevance to the call (1–3; not relevant, relevant, very relevant)

Guiding questions:

- Is the project aimed at mitigating the spread and/or the effects of the ongoing covid-19 pandemic?
- Could the project if successful lead to additional long-term benefits such as increased preparedness or prevention of future pandemics?

We recommend to first judge the applications you assess according to ***Scientific impact***, and then to consider ***Relevance*** as the next step. It is important that you ask yourself if an application is relevant to the scope of the call, i.e., does it address a research question that need immediate attention and could lead to rapid impact on the scientific and/or societal challenges that covid-19 constitutes?

When you have finalized your grading, you have to rank the applications in Prisma. You shall rank each application against all the other applications you have reviewed. Use the scores for your ranking. The ranking will be a supplement to the grading result when the applications are compared with each other. You must rank all the applications you have been allocated. For example, if an application receives high impact but is considered not relevant it shall not be highly ranked. Neither should an application considered very relevant but of low impact be highly ranked.

For the applications you assess you need to write a statement for each criterion. The assessment should consist of short comments/justification on your grading. The assessment is extremely important as it will be used later by the prioritization panel, which will finalize the priority list before the grant decision.

[Instructions for how to work in Prisma can be found here.](#)

Additional comments

Budget

The budget period in the call is set to 2020 (August – December) and coincides with the payment period of the grant. However, the applicants have been instructed to budget for a project that can deliver results before 31 December 2021, but to budget for all costs during 2020. (This is due to a technicality in our application system).

If an applicant has received funding from another source or agency, you should assess the budget more carefully and consider how the applicant accounts for any overlap or additional funding between the two projects.

We also ask you to assess the applicant's description of any scientific overlap between the projects, and whether it is justified to fund two projects to the same research group.

Links to policy documents

[How applications are assessed](#) (general information on the SRC website)

[Gender equality](#)

[Conflict of interest](#)

Contact information

Kristian Haller
kristian.haller@vr.se
[+46 \(0\)8 546 12 307](tel:+460854612307)

Emilie Sörås Antila
emilie.sorasantila@vr.se
[+46 \(0\)8 546 44 011](tel:+460854644011)

Instruktioner till Prioriteringspanelen - Projektbidrag för forskning om coronavirus och covid-19

Om utlysningen och granskningsprocessen

Utllysningen om projektbidrag är en del av ett regeringsuppdrag med syftet att stödja forskning som snabbt kan bidra till att stoppa utbredningen av covid-19 och förhindra framtida pandemiutbrott.

Två huvudsakliga krav finns för att projekt ska kunna beviljas bidrag inom utlysningen.

- 1) Relevans för inriktningen
Det innebär forskning som kan dämpa utbredningen och effekterna av den pågående covid-19 pandemin, men också forskning med syfte att förhindra framtida pandemier. Det kan handla om medicintekniska produkter, behandlingsmetoder, läkemedel, vaccin eller diagnostik, smittmekanismer och patogenes för covid-19, men även datadriven forskning och frågeställningar kring epidemiologi och folkhälsa kopplad till covid-19 är relevanta.
- 2) Forskningen som stöds ska generera tillförlitliga och implementerbara resultat inom den tid som bidraget disponeras, det vill säga innan 2021-12-31.

Bidragsbeslut ska fattas den 3 juli 2020.

Granskning

Varje ansökan har bedömts, betygsatts och rankats av 3 granskare. Två kriterier har använts i bedömningen; *Relevans* och *Scientific impact*. Dessa har bedömts på en tregradig betygsskala. Till varje kriterium finns ett antal vägledande frågor för att hjälpa granskarna med bedömningen. Granskarna har också ombetts att motivera sin betygsättning skriftligt.

Första prioriteringssteget

Utifrån den sammanställning som erhållits efter den individuella granskningen har en första prioritering gjorts, vilket innebär att de ansökningar som fått högst betyg går vidare till det slutliga prioriteringssteget.

Slutlig prioritering

Prioritering av de ansökningar som passerat det första prioriteringssteget görs av en prioriteringspanel. Prioriteringspanelens huvudsakliga uppgift är att ta fram ett underlag för beslut om vilka ansökningar som bör beviljas, och en lista med reserver.

Panelen ska prioritera ansökningarna med utgångspunkt från granskarnas betyg, rankning och skriftliga motiveringar och ska inte göra en egen bedömning av den vetenskapliga kvaliteten. Då ansökningar bedöms ha likvärdig kvalitet ska tre strategiska parametrar användas (angivna utan inbördes ordning):

- 1) Täckning av områden inom utlysningen. Om flera ansökningar bedöms som likvärdiga, bör täckning av flera områden inom utlysningen prioriteras.
- 2) Annan finansiering. Om medel redan finns för projektet, exempelvis från andra nationella Covid-19 satsningar, ska behovet av ytterligare finansiering beaktas utifrån ansökans budgetmotivering.

3) Jämställdhet.

Som underlag får panelens medlemmar ta del av betyg, granskarnas motivering av betygsättning (skriftliga omdömen) och ansökningarnas faktablad med abstract.

Underlagen ska läsas igenom av panelen innan mötet den 30 juni.

Panelmöte

Prioriteringspanelens möte hålls digitalt via Zoom den 30 juni kl 9-14.30. Inbjudan och länk till mötet skickas ut separat.

Jan-Ingvar Jönsson (huvudsekreterare MH) är ordförande för mötet. Lars Kloo (huvudsekreterare NT) är vice ordförande. Ledamöter i panelen är Stefan Svallfors (huvudsekreterare HS), Folke Tersman (ledamot ÄR-HS), Elias Arnér (ledamot ÄR-MH), Anna-Karin Tornberg (ledamot ÄR-NT) och Clas Ahlm (ledamot KKBF).