Research Project Grant - Research on Civil Society

The aim of the project research grant is to 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. The focus of this grant aims to support research on Civil Society. The Swedish Research Council supports basic research of the highest quality in all national competition.

Summary

Type of grant	Research Project funding
Area	Humanities and Social sciences
Focus	Civil Society
Applicant	Individual researcher
Participating researchers	A maximum of six researchers may be invited to join the application.
Grant period	1-4 years
Grant amount	Minimum 400 000 SEK per year.
Budgetary framework	9 million SEK per year for four years
Call deadline	21 March 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.)
Publication of grant award decisions	No later than beginning of November 2017
Grant period start date	January 2018

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

The civil society is going through changes that are affecting its role in democracy as well as in society as a whole. These changes raise questions about the composition, scope, focus and development of civil society. The focus of this project research grant is to highlight civil society from different perspectives. Historical development, importance for social development, organisation and control and the motivations for individuals and groups to organise are examples of different relevant perspectives. Other important questions are how civil society, state and market relate to each other. Studies may also concern organisations, associations, civil movements as well as transnational organisations and new forms of social networks. The studies may also relate to activities aimed at affecting policy-making, markets and activities that offer alternatives to government initiatives and commercial markets. We welcome studies related to civil society both on a local and global level.

This project research grant aims to strengthen research environments in Sweden that focus on civil society. We welcome involvement from younger researchers that contribute to strengthening these environments.

Funded projects will be a part of a larger research programme concerning civil society, which is centrally coordinated.

The initiative on civil society is based on a government assignment to the Swedish Research Council to support multi-disciplinary basic research on civil society. The assignment as a whole covers a total of 14 million SEK per year.

Applicant

The Research project grant is open to individual researchers. You will be the project leader and scientific supervisor of the project and your active participation in the project must equal at least 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree awarded no later than 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.

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 equivalent. 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 the applicant and project leader, not for participating researchers.

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

You may only submit one application for this grant under this call for applications. However, you may apply for undirected research project grants or research project grants with other focus areas (for example Research on Democracy, Artistic Research, Development Research) provided that the project concept is different. Other restrictions in regard to 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 eligibility criteria apply to ongoing research grants 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 from the Swedish Research Council) overlapping the grant period of the current grant application. Please note that the period of availability, i.e. the period during which you may draw on the grant awarded, 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.

You may not apply for the project grant for research on civil society if you are currently the project leader for an ongoing research project grant with the same focus. If the ongoing grant concerns a different project concept you are eligible to apply in this call.

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 before, you will only be able to apply for a new grant if the final financial report for all previous grants were submitted within the

stipulated time period. Please contact your administrating organisation if you are unsure whether all your final financial reports have been submitted.

What eligibility criteria apply to applications to or grants from other funding bodies?

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

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. Any other collaboration partners and their roles shall be presented in the research plan (see instructions under Research plan below).

Costs and grant funding

The grant applied for may be used to cover all kinds of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, which must correspond to no more than your dedicated time in the project), premises 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 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 a minimum of 400,000 SEK per year, including indirect costs. The average awarded amount for undirected project grants within humanities and social sciences in 2016 was 1,2 million SEK.

Grant period

You may apply for a grant period of a minimum of one year and a maximum of four years, starting from January 2018. First payment will be made in January 2018, 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 attaching 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 Prisma are described in the User Manual🖾 and the FAQ answers🖾. Please refer to these documents when you write your application.

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

Creating a personal account in Prisma

Before applying, 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. The reason for this is 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.

Any other participants, 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.

Attached documents and appendices

An appendix designed according to the instructions provided shall be attached to some fields. 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 a file that exceeds the stated maximum file size.

Signing

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

What must the application contain?

Please familiarise yourself with the application form in Prisma at the same time as you read through the instructions below.

Language

You are welcome to submit the application in English, or in Swedish.

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 an outline 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, the project period (number of years), and 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 brief 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.

The abstract should include a brief outline of the aim and the implementation of the research activities. Please use a 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 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.

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 Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing).

Research description

Under this tab, please attach you research plan, describe ethical considerations and give an account of previous projects funded by the Swedish Research Council.

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

In this section you are requested to attach your research plan in a PDF format. Please note that the appendix may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 10 MB.

The research plan should consist of a brief but complete description of the research task. The research plan should be given a forward-looking focus and comprise a maximum of ten page-numbered A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single spacing, including references and any images. **Please note that any content in excess of the stated maximum number of pages will not be taken into account when assessing your application.** The following information must be included under separate headings in the research plan, listed in the given order:

- **Purpose and aims:** Present the overall purpose and specific objectives of the research project.
- **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:** Summarise the project by describing the theories, methods, time table and implementation. Please 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:** Describe the project's significance to the research area.
- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own experiments and pilot 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 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 collaboration with Swedish/foreign researchers and research groups. Indicate whether you participate in, or refer to, international collaboration in your research. You may use project grant funds from the Swedish Research Council to co-finance EU projects with a similar focus. Indicate whether such coordination is being envisaged in the research plan.
- **Other applications or grants:** If you are applying or intend to apply for several research grants from the Swedish Research Council, you need to clarify how the projects relate to each other. This also applies if you have an ongoing grant from the Swedish Research Council with a grant period that wholly or partly overlaps the one you are applying for now. You should also justify why you are submitting several applications. Please account for the relationship with any other applications to or grants from other funding bodies (from you or another researcher) for the same project concept.
- **Independent line of research:** If you are currently - or will be - working in a large group, please show how your project relates to the other projects in the group. If you are continuing work on a project that 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.

Scientific report for previously awarded research grant

If you are the project leader of an ongoing project grant with the focus Civil Society for which the Swedish Research Council is paying funds granted up to and including 2017, you must submit a preliminary scientific report. This scientific report must contain an account of how the project has progressed so far. Please note that this preliminary report does not replace the mandatory final report to be submitted to the Swedish Research Council.

You must state the project title, registration number (diarienummer), the amounts and the grant period concerned (that is to say the payment period applied by the Swedish Research Council, but not the extended period of availability) of the previous project.

Please describe:

- The scientific results obtained so far within the framework of the project that have not yet been reported to the Swedish Research Council.
- The relationship between the ongoing project and the envisaged project.
- The accumulated research resources made available for the implementation of the project during the grant period in question. Please state the grant type, the funding body, the grant holder(s) and the amounts concerned (including the project already approved by the Swedish Research Council).

The description may contain a maximum of 8 000 characters including blank spaces (equivalent to approximately two A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing).

Budget and research resources

Under this tab, please include personnel costs, other costs and any other project funding sources.

Project personnel

Specify the dedicated time in the project (as a percentage of full-time equivalents) for all project personnel, including yourself, any other researchers and other personnel. Your dedicated time as project leader must equal at least 20 per cent of a full-time equivalent.

You must also include salaries for which you request funding, for yourself and/or other project personnel. Please state the amounts both in proportion to the full-time monthly salary and as actual annual earnings (including social security contributions). Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Other costs

Describe other project-related costs (e.g. premises costs, operating costs and depreciation). Please state rounded annual amounts.

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

- The equipment has an economic life of at least three years
- The acquisition value of the equipment exceeds a certain threshold (please contact 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 include 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 include 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 how to calculate depreciation, 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 to the table. In this section, please add other additional project costs (for which you are not applying for funding in this application).

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 statement may contain a maximum of 4 000 characters including blank spaces (equivalent to approximately one A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing).

Other funding

List any other funding (whole or part) of the project received/applied for by you or any other researcher besides the funding requested in this application. Quote the rounded amounts in SEK.

Publications

Under this tab, please attach your and any participating researchers' publications lists in a PDF format. Please note 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 (*) .In each list, the researcher's name shall be indicated in bold and also be shown in the page heading of the list. 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**

Note: Only include articles (or equivalent) that have been published or accepted for publication at the time of applying. 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 project awarded 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, please 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 finalise the registration of the application.

Participants

In this section, you may invite participating researchers and administrators to join the application. A participating researcher is a person involved in the project whose scientific merits and 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 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 in the application before you can finalise the application registration. Please make sure that you use the correct email addresses when you send invitations to participants, and that each address is linked to invited person's Prisma account.

CV

Under this tab, please retrieve and enter the relevant CV data stored in your personal Prisma account. Any participating researchers have to enter their respective CV data into the application. The following information (where available) must always be included 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 whether it is a permanent position or not) and longer relevant positions you have held, postdoctoral visits (should also be included as a position/employment if applicable), research exchanges that are relevant for the research described and any longer interruption in the research that has affected your ability to qualify as a researcher.
- **Merits and awards**: Fellowship, supervised persons (postdocs and postgraduate students; indicate the total number for each category and indicate up to 10 persons that are most relevant), up to 10 of your most relevant awarded competitive grants, up to 10 of your most relevant awards and distinctions, as well as up to 20 potential other merits of relevance to the application.
- **Intellectual property:** For example patents and freely available computer programs that you have developed; please indicate up to 10 of your most relevant.

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.

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

Note: 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 registration, any participating researchers must also supplement the application with data from their personal accounts in Prisma.

The registered application can then be viewed in your personal Prisma account, under Applications in the Applications and grants tab. 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 attached, and the requested information is provided in accordance with the instructions. Please only submit specifically requested information. After the closing date, additions to applications will only be accepted in cases where we have asked for them.

Signing the application

When you register the application, it will automatically be signed by you in your capacity as 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.

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

What happens next?

When the call closes (14.00/2 p.m. 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 no later than one week (seven calendar days) after 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. 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.

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

Review panel 🖳

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 grants awarded will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website. After that, a notification of decision and a final statement on your application can be found in your personal account in Prisma under the tab Applications and grants. The final statement contains the application grading and, in some cases, written comments.

Note: 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 EU's ABS regulation and make a "due diligence" declaration. This only applies to recipients of grant awards. "Due diligence" entails the user declaring that the genetic resource and the knowledge used have been obtained according to the applicable legislation of the country in question and that any benefit from the genetic resource is allocated in a fair and reasonable way.

Exceptions apply to research into: the human genome, material covered by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, material included in the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and genetic material obtained from international waters.

For questions about the EU's ABS Regulation or the due diligence declaration, please contact the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 🖳 (information in Swedish).

Contact

Questions relating to the application content

For questions relating to the application content, please email: ansokhs@vr.se or telephone: +46 (0)8-546 44 051. The phone number is staffed weekdays from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM during the opening period of the call.

Technical questions

In the first instance, please consult the help menu in Prisma, 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.