Research Environment Grant – clinical therapy research

The aim of the grant is to lend support to large clinical studies that are justified by the needs of the healthcare sector, and thereby offer important benefits to patients and society within a relatively short time frame. The grant creates an added value through collaborative research in a larger research collaboration group, working towards a common long-term research objective. The Swedish Research Council supports basic research of the highest quality in national competition.

Summary

Type of grant	Research Environment and Research Collaboration funding
Area	Clinical Therapy Research
Applicant	Individual researcher
Participating researchers	Maximum 10 researchers may be invited to join the application.
Grant period	3 years
Grant amount	The maximum awarded amount is 20 million SEK per grant. Minimum amount is 400 000 SEK per year
Budgetary framework	In total, 235 million SEK have been set aside for this call over a three-year period
Call deadline	5 September 2017 (at 2 PM)
Publication of grant award decisions	No later than the beginning of December 2017
Grant period start date	January 2018

Read more about previously awarded grants

Full application

The application procedure for environmental research grants in clinical therapy treatment contains two steps. The following instructions apply to applicants, who have submitted an accepted project outline and who have subsequently received an invitation to provide a full application.

The full application (compared to the project outline) must contain the following information:

- A more comprehensive project plan, which includes the specific intermediate goals to be reported and evaluated on a regular basis
- More detailed descriptions under the call specific sections.
- A complete specification of the budget.
- A complete publications list.
- Names of any participating researchers, together with their CVs and publications.

The full application also differs from the project outline in that it must be signed by the official representative of the administrating organisation. See further instructions below. There may not be any major discrepancies between the preliminary and the full application in regard to the research plan or the

budget unless such has been raised by the review panel and communicated in the written statement to the applicant.

Here you can find the call text for project outline.

Here you can find instructions for reviewers for assessment of your application.

Please read the guiding questions used by the reviewers for assessment of your application on page 9-11 in the "Instructions for reviewers".

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 research must be clinical and require access to health care facilities and resources. It must also be justified in view of the healthcare needs, and offer patient and societal benefits. The research may include areas such as prevention, diagnostics, treatment, follow-up, implementation, care and rehabilitation. National cooperation is a requirement when applying for this grant. Projects relevant to this call are patient-oriented clinical studies with the delivery of reliable and implementable results that can offer large benefits to patients and society in a relatively short time period of approximately five years after the project ends. Of the funds set aside for this year's call, a proportion shall be allocated to projects that fulfil identified and prioritised knowledge needs.

Applicant

The Research Environment Grant in Clinical Therapy Research 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 be employed as a clinical practitioner in Sweden when you submit the application, e.g. as a physician, nurse, dentist or physiotherapist, and the employment must at least equal 20 percent of a full-time employment. Your employment should be described under the heading Clinical employment (cf. instructions below).

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

You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree awarded no later than at 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 defense of the doctoral thesis and the approved doctoral thesis).

If you are awarded funding, you must be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period begins and then during the grant period unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation or another employer (where applicable) agree otherwise. The employment must at least equal 20 per cent of a full-time employment. You do not have to be employed by the administrating organisation when the application is submitted.

The major part of the research in the application must be conducted in Sweden.

Participating researchers

You may include up to ten participating researchers in your application, i.e. researchers with a doctoral degree or equivalent competence whose scientific 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, however corresponding to your dedicated time in the project as a maximum), rental and property costs, operating costs (e.g., 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. Only additional costs in connection with clinical studies are covered by the grant, not other health care costs.

The maximum amount you may apply for is 20 million SEK in total, including indirect costs. The minimum amount you may apply for is 400 000 SEK per year.

The Swedish Research Council expects the administrating organisation to cover any cost exceeding the awarded amount.

Grant period

The grant is awarded for a period of three years, starting from January 2018.

First payment is made in December 2017, at the earliest.

National collaboration

National cooperation is a requirement when applying for this grant. National cooperation involves cooperation between e.g. several county councils/regions and universities and the innovative companies in the medical sector which operates in Sweden with regard to making the studies and its results effective. The collaboration should proceed from a specific need of interaction. The need could be to ensure a sufficient patient material. Other needs for collaboration may relate to access of high quality data material, equipment or specific skills in several subjects.

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 this call, 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.

Any 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. We recommend that you use the fonts Arial, Calibri or Verdana.

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

Attached documents and appendices

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 a 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 limits.

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 project outline 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
- Call specific information
- 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 the Prisma system.

Descriptive data

Under this tab, you are requested to list the project title in Swedish and English, and to select SCB classification codes and keywords. 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 specific objectives of the research project in an overall project design, including patient selection, variable selection, data collection and analysis, and time table. Please use the PICO format (population/intervention/control/outcome) for controlled studies.
- The direct patient benefits of the planned research.

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 one third A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

Popular scientific description

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

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.

Please note: Unlike the rest of the application, the popular scientific description must be written in Swedish.

The description may contain a maximum of 4,500 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

Research description

Under this tab, please enclose you research plan, describe ethical considerations and give an account of any 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. Ethical considerations for the handling of personal data is mandatory and should be addressed in this call.

Research plan

Please 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 research plan should be given a forward-looking focus and may comprise a maximum of ten paginated A4 pages in Arial,

font size 11, single spacing, including references and any images**. You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages.**

We ask you to write the research plan in **English**.

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

- **Purpose and aims**
  The research project should comprise a large multicenter clinical patient-centered study. Present the research problem and the main purpose as well as a short scientific background that justifies the project. Describe the main research question(s) and the primary endpoints.

- **Survey of the field**
  Outline briefly (maximum half an A4 page) the background for the research field of evidence-based knowledge and current clinical practice. Mention briefly systematic reviews, national and international guidelines and/or identify knowledge gaps which justifies the need of more research. Please exclude overview of preclinical and technical data and the burden of disease.

- **Research questions**
  Structure the purpose in terms of research questions. What is to be studied, and on whom? Please specify the primary variable (primary outcome) of each research question and of any secondary variables as well. The primary variable should be patient-oriented. In treatment effect studies, the effect variable (e.g. difference or percentage change in the primary variable) should also be specified. Justify any use of surrogate variable (surrogate endpoint).

- **Variables and measures**
  Describe how each variable will be measured/recorded, in particular, how the measured values will be used in the description and analysis for example, continuous data, binary, categorical, differences, percentage change. What is the role of the variable: is it a primary, secondary, background or explanatory variable? Variables such as quality of life, pain, etc. are commonly assessed on questionnaires/rating scales of various kinds. Specify the dimensions/sub-variables of multi-dimensional questionnaires, as well as the type of scale-categories (e.g. numeric, verbal, VAS), and also how the data will be used in the study. Please include appropriate reference to the questionnaires/rating scales.

- **Study design**
  - Summarize the specific objectives of the research project in a well specified project design and justify why the proposed design is the most appropriate for the research question. Plans for any interim analyses shall be stated.
  - For intervention studies, all treatments should be described in detail regarding for example type (s) of treatment, dose, monitoring periods, evaluation etc.
  - For controlled trials (RCTs), PICO (Population / Intervention / Control / Outcome) can be used.
  - In controlled cross-sectional studies describe the treatment for the control group. It is not enough to only indicate the standard treatment. Any differences between the routine treatments of the participating clinics should be clearly described.
  - For cohort/observational studies, possible confounders should be identified. Describe how these confounders should be managed.
  - For crossover studies, where the patient is his/her own control, describe the planning of the different treatment periods and how the risk of "carryover" effect etc. should be taking into account.
  - For longitudinal studies, motivate the choice of repeated follow-up sessions. It should be clear which follow-up session that is related to the main outcome of the study.

    - Describe in detail the data collection for register-based studies where patient data is retrieved from the register. All variables shall be stated. For subjectively-based variables, such as PROMs (Patient-Reported Outcome Measures), it is not sufficient to list the names of the questionnaires. It is important to take into account that the registry data of the same variable could have been registered using different types of measuring instruments/assessment forms, which results in non-comparable data.
    - You should also outline the project organisation and the roles of the participating researchers/hospital and clarify your own and any other researchers' roles in the project. Please limit the references to maximum half an A4 page.

- **Estimated sample size and power**
  Explain and justify the smallest difference in treatment effect/primary outcome variable between control and treatment (or equivalent) that is clinically relevant to detect and estimate the sample size of the study/sub-studies. Specify the estimated drop-outs based on references from previous studies or registries if possible. Calculate the power of the study for the planned sample size taking account of the estimated drop-out and where appropriate planned interim analysis. The distribution of patients at the participating clinics should also be considered in the estimation of sample size. Also describe, where applicable, how patient compliance to treatment can be monitored.

- **Material: Patient selection – population, sample**
  Briefly describe the inclusion and exclusion criteria for the patient selection. Also describe how the participating clinics contribute to the patient selection. How are the differences in routine treatments handled that could affect the study results? In the selection of patients from the register, indicate the chosen register and consider the risk of systematic under or over registration of patient groups for the inclusion and exclusion criteria.
  Randomization: Describe the randomization method and specify who is responsible for the randomization. Also indicate for whom (patients, physicians, assessors) the randomization is blinded and justify any exceptions.

- **Statistical analysis plan**
  Each research question should be linked to a statistical analysis design that is based on the specified variable selection, the methods for data collection and planned management of data for statistical description. The choice of statistical analysis (hypothesis testing) and/or modelling, quality assurance or similar shall be clearly stated. The criteria for any interim analyses shall be stated. It is not enough to set general concepts such as parametric, non-parametric method, descriptive statistics or standard methods for analysis. Note that the normal distribution can be a possible probability distribution for symmetric quantitative data but never for data from assessments of the questionnaire.

  How will dependent data be handled, for example within the group and/or between groups? Which statistical methods are planned for complex data from questionnaires and other subjective assessments, which generates superior category data? How will longitudinal data and drop-out be handled?

  Specify who is responsible for the statistical analysis plan!

- **Specific intermediate objectives**
  Present the specific intermediate objectives to be reported and evaluated 18 months after the start of the project. The purpose of the intermediate evaluation is to make sure the project is on schedule, e.g. that the timetable is respected, the patient recruitment corresponds to the expected level and that the quality of the data set is sufficiently high. Examples of intermediate objectives are: the date of approval of the ethical permit, the number of patients included and/or the share of patients with full baseline data (that is to say the actual sample size).

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.
- **Other applications or grants.** If you are applying or intend to apply for several research grants, 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. You should also justify why you are submitting one or several further 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.

Justification of changes in the application

Describe the changes that have been made in the full application based on the feedback the project outline received from the review panel. If the change/changes could not be made, explain why!

The outline may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

Call specific information

Clinical significance and health economic aspects

Describe how the project findings - in terms of patient benefits - are expected to be of practical clinical use in the relatively near future (approximately five years after the end of the project). Specify and explain in what ways the expected findings are being requested by patients and other stakeholders. Factors such as prevalence, the severity of the disease and the social costs should be weighed in the description of clinical relevance.

Describe how the project findings may contribute to a better use of the resources in the healthcare sector and to general societal benefits. Give a clear outline of the expected financial implications of the project results.

The outline may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

User involvement

Describe in what ways users have been consulted in the planning of the study and the choice of endpoints. Users are the patient groups, patient organizations, family members and others who may benefit from the research findings. If you (or somebody else) have made a prioritization list of the existing knowledge gaps in the field, together with the users, you should provide an account thereof. For more information on prioritization processes involving users, we refer to the James Lind Alliance. Also in the case of the scientific question being prioritized by, for example, James Lind Alliance, national user involvement is crucial in order to ensure that the patient perspective, as well as needs are taken into account when choosing outcome variables of the study.

The outline may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

Implementation

Describe how the expected results of the envisaged research could be put to use and be implemented in the healthcare sector. Include a clear level structure and a timetable for the implementation. Propose clinical endpoints that could be used to measure the implementation.

The outline may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

National collaboration

Present the Swedish counties/regions, other researchers and companies that will take part in the project. Collaboration with any potential foreign counterparts should also be described. Present the positive impact of the collaboration e.g. to ensure a sufficient patient material, access of high quality data set, equipment or special skills in several subjects.

The outline may contain a maximum of 4,000 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

State the number and names of the Swedish counties/regions that will contribute to the recruitment of patients in the appropriate fields. Please make sure the number of counties/regions corresponds to the number of names selected for the participating counties/regions.

Clinical employment

In order to be eligible to apply for the research environmental grant in clinical therapy research, you must be employed as a clinical practitioner in Sweden, for example as a physician, nurse, dentist or physiotherapist. The employment must at least equal 20 percent of a full-time employment. Describe how you fulfil these requirements.

The outline may contain a maximum of 750 characters, including blank spaces in Arial, size 11, single spacing.

Budget and research resources

Under this tab, you are requested to include staffing costs, other costs and other project funding sources (where applicable).

Project staffing

Specify the dedicated time in the project (as a percentage of full-time employment) for all project staff members, i.e., for 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). 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. Only additional costs in connection with clinical studies are covered by the grant, not other health care costs.

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 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.

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 (approximately one A4 page in Arial, size 11, single spacing).

Other funding

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

Publications

Under this tab, we ask you to attach your and any participating researchers' (where applicable) 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.

Each list shall include publications made in the last eight years and the five publications on each list that are the most relevant to the project shall be marked with an asterisk (*) In each list, the researcher’s name shall be indicated in bold and also be shown in the page header of the list. Sort the publications in each list under the following numbered headings in the given order:

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

Please note: 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.

Participants

In this section, you may invite participating researchers and administrators to join the application. By participating researcher we refer to a person involved in the project and whose scientific competence 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.

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

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 (should also be included as a position/employment if applicable), 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

The Registering the application tab presents a list of any fields you will have to edit in order to register your application (for example, mandatory fields not yet filled in, text fields containing too many characters, deviations from the allowed project period or budget applied for, etc). 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!

Please note: 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 CV 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.

Please note: 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. 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 panels

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.

ABS declaration: : 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 one of the contact persons listed below.

Tanja Nilsson, e-mail: Tanja.Nilsson@vr.se, telephone: +46 (0)8-546 44 018

Anne-Sophie Fröjmark, e-mail: Anne-Sophie.Frojmark@vr.se, telephone: (0)8-546 44 275

Elisabeth Tehler, e-mail: Elisabeth.Tehler@vr.se, telephone: (0)8-546 44 229

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.