

Starting grant for research in new nuclear technology

Note! This call text was updated on 5 September under the heading *What grants may I apply for simultaneously from the Swedish Research Council?* The change makes it clearer what applies if you apply or have applied for other grants at the same time as this.

The aim of the grant is to provide junior researchers with the opportunity to establish themselves as independent researchers within the area new nuclear technology. The main focus of the call is to promote advanced competence within the area of new nuclear technology for the fourth generation nuclear power, to maintain safety competence at the highest level and make it possible for Swedish researchers to become engaged in the major international research programmes within the area.

The Swedish Research Council rewards research of the highest scientific quality in national competition.

Summary

Type of grant	Career support
Subject field	Natural and Engineering Sciences
Focus	New nuclear technology
Applicant	Individual researcher who has completed a doctoral degree more than two years ago and up to seven years ago
Participating researchers	No participating researchers may be invited to join the application.
Grant period	Four years
Grant amount	Minimum 400 000 SEK per year, maximum 1 500 000 SEK per year
Call deadline	3 October 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.)
Publication of grant award decisions	No later than the middle of December 2017
Grant period start date	January 2018

Eligibility criteria for applicants

The following criteria must be fulfilled in order for you to be eligible to apply for the grant. We carry out checks to ensure that unqualified applications are rejected from further processing.

Focus:

The Swedish Research Council is issuing a call for funds to support research in the area new nuclear technology for fourth generation nuclear power. The main focus of the call is to promote advanced competence within this area, to maintain safety competence at the highest level and to make it possible for Swedish researchers to become engaged in the major international research programmes within the area. The budgetary framework for the programme is 15 million SEK per year, and the call this time covers starting grants, project grants and international postdoc grants. The programme will be coordinated by a person appointed by the Swedish Research Council from among the recipients awarded project grants or starting grants within the call.

Relevance to the area of new nuclear technology is an absolute requirement for this grant, and must be clearly stated in the research plan and abstract.

Applicant

The applicant for a starting grant must be an individual researcher. You will be the project leader and have scientific responsibility for the project, and your level of activity in the project must be no less than 50 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or a corresponding foreign degree, awarded more than two years and no more than seven years before the deadline date for this call.

Grants from the Swedish Research Council shall be administered by a Swedish university or HEI or another Swedish public organisation that fulfils our [criteria for administrating organisations](#) . To apply, your organisation must therefore be approved as an administrating organisation.

If you are awarded a grant, you must be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period starts, unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation or any other employer agree otherwise. The employment must equal at least 50 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You do not have to be employed by the administrating organisation at the time of applying.

[Read more about the EU's policy and recommendations for recruitment of researchers on the EU's website](#) 

Career age

To apply for a starting grant, your doctoral degree must have been awarded more than two years ago and no more than seven years ago at the deadline for the call, that is to say awarded no later than 3 October 2015 and no earlier than 3 October 2010. The degree award date we use is the date you fulfilled all the criteria for a doctoral degree, such as mandatory courses, oral defence and an approved doctoral thesis. For applicants with Swedish doctoral degrees, the award date listed in Ladok applies. You will not be able to complete your application if your doctoral degree was awarded less than two years ago or more than seven years ago.

If your doctoral degree was awarded earlier, it is however still possible to apply if there are grounds for deductible time that are recognised by the Swedish Research Council. Recognised grounds are parental leave, positions of trust in trade union organisations and student organisations, mandatory service in the total defence services, illness (own illness or care of close family members), medical internships or medical fellowship (applies to clinically active professionals). The last two categories may involve periods of up to 24 months each. Please note that we do not accept other employment, unemployment or holidays as deductible time.

If you wish to claim deductible time, you must specify the recognised grounds and time involved in your application (please see instructions under "Descriptive data" below).

We carry out random checks and may request confirmation that supports the grounds for deductible time stated by you.

Number of applications and previous grants

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

Note! This call text was updated on 5 September. See additions in italics.

You may only submit one application for this grant under this call, *and you may not apply for the research project grant within new nuclear technology simultaneously. You may apply if you have applied for the starting grant within natural and engineering sciences or the Swedish Research Council's undirected project grants in 2017, but only one grant may be awarded to you.* Please note that if you are awarded a starting

grant, you will not be able to apply for the Swedish Research Council's undirected project grants during the grant period.

Other restrictions on the grants you may apply for during the same year are shown in the table below.

[Table: Grants you may apply for simultaneously](#)

What eligibility criteria apply if I already have a grant from the Swedish Research Council?

There are certain restrictions if you are the project leader of a previously awarded grant that is ongoing, that is to say where the grant period (disbursement period from the Swedish Research Council) overlaps the grant period of the grant the application covers. Please note that the period of availability, that is to say the time during which you can draw down the grant awarded, is normally longer than the grant period. Information about the criteria for your previous grant can be found in the "Approval of Conditions" you received from the Swedish Research Council. For example, you cannot apply for a starting grant if you have an ongoing project grant for junior researchers (or if you have at any time previously been the project leader for such a grant that has now ended).

Please see the table below for further information on what you may apply for if you have an ongoing grant.

[Table: Grants you may apply for if you have an ongoing grant](#)

Note: If you have been the project leader for previous grants from the Swedish Research Council that have ended, a final financial statement for all of these must have been submitted within the permitted time frame in order for you to apply for a new grant. Please contact your administrating organisation if you are unsure whether all your final reports have been submitted.

What applies for applications to or grants from other funding bodies?

If your application to the Swedish Research Council relates to the same project concept as a grant you have already been awarded, or are applying for to another funding body, please account for this.

Participating researchers

No participating researchers may be included in this application. Any participating partners and their roles shall be described in the research plan (please see instructions under "Research plan" below).

Costs and grant amounts

Grants may be applied for to finance all types of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, however no more than corresponding to your level of activity in the project), premises, operating costs (such as consumables, travel including stays at research facilities, publication costs and minor equipment), plus depreciation. Grants may not be used for scholarships. If a doctoral student participates in the project, project funds may not be paid out as salary for the period when the doctoral student is teaching.

The minimum amount you may apply for is 400 000 SEK per year, including indirect costs. The maximum amount you may apply for is 1 500 000 SEK per year, including indirect costs.

The Swedish Research Council assumes that the administrating organisation, as the employer responsible, will cover any costs in excess of the standard amount received.

Grant period

The grant period is four years, starting in January 2018. The first payment will be made in December 2017.

How do I apply?

You apply electronically in [Prisma](#), which is the application system used by the Swedish Research Council. You create your application in Prisma by filling in the text fields, uploading information from your personal account, and attaching the appendices requested.

In order for you to be able to apply, your organisation must have been [approved as an administrating organisation](#) and have created an organisation account in Prisma.

For most items in Prisma, there is a [user manual](#) describing all the steps, as well as answers to [FAQ](#). Please refer to these when filling in your application.

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

Creating a personal account in Prisma

Before you apply, you must create a personal account in [Prisma](#), where you can save your personal and CV data. The information only needs to be entered once, and can thereafter be supplemented or changed as required. As most of the Swedish Research Council's calls employ foreign reviewers, please use English when entering any descriptive text in you CV data. You can also input your publications for future use. Please note that no publications can currently be uploaded from your account to the application form. This is because the publications function is under development and not yet implemented in the Swedish Research Council's calls. You should therefore submit your publications list as an attached PDF file instead (please see instructions under "Publications" below).

Please allow sufficient time to create your personal account. The applications you register in Prisma will be linked to your personal account.

Any participating administrators must also create their own personal accounts in Prisma, and actively confirm their participation in the application before the deadline of the call.

Text

Some text fields can be formatted, which means that you can change the font and size, and also include some tables, formulae and symbols. If you have written the text in Microsoft Word in advance, you can also copy-paste it and keep the original formatting. Images cannot be included in the text fields, however. We recommend that you use the fonts Arial, Calibri or Verdana.

All text fields have a limit on the number of characters, and this is illustrated by a character counter. If you use too many characters, the application cannot be registered.

Attached documents and appendices

You will need to attach an appendix to some fields as instructed. The appendix must consist of one file only, and you can only attach documents in PDF format. All appendices are limited as to file size and number of pages. You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum size.

Signing

Both you as applicant and an authorised representative of the administrating organisation shall sign the application electronically in Prisma. Please see further information under "Register your application" below.

What must the application contain?

Please refer to the application form in Prisma in parallel with reading the instructions below.

Language

Foreign experts are involved in the scientific evaluation of the applications. To ensure fair and equitable assessment and efficient processing, please therefore complete your application in English.

Sections of the application

The application form includes the following tabs:

- Descriptive data
- Research description
- Budget and research resources
- Publications
- Letter of support
- Administrating organisation
- Participants (only administrators in this call)
- CV

Descriptions of the information requested under each tab follow below. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk (*) in Prisma.

Descriptive data

Under this tab, please fill in the Swedish and English project title, and select SCB codes and key words. Please also fill in any deductible time, the abstract and popular science description as instructed below.

Deductible time

Please state any interruptions in your active research time after your doctoral degree caused by any of the grounds recognised by the Swedish Research Council. The interruption shall be calculated as a full-time equivalent and be rounded up into full calendar months. Please see the recognised grounds for deductible time under the heading "Career age" above.

Abstract

The abstract shall include a brief description of:

- what is to be done
- how the research is to be carried out: project organisation, time plan and the scientific methods to be used
- what is important about the planned research
- relevance to the subject area fourth generation nuclear power

The abstract shall provide a summary guide to the purpose and implementation of the research. Please use wording to ensure persons with another subject specialisation can understand the information.

The description may cover a maximum of 1 500 characters including blank spaces (approximately one third of an A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing).

Popular science description

Describe the project in such a way that a person who is not familiar with the subject can understand it. Describe what is to be done and why, and explain in what way the new knowledge may be important.

The popular science description is an important tool when we inform about the research financed by the Swedish Research Council. If we grant your application, we reserve the right to use the description for information purposes.

Note: The popular science description must be written in Swedish, unlike the rest of the application.

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

Research description

Under this tab, please attach your research plan and describe any ethical considerations.

Ethical considerations

Describe the ethical issues raised by the research and how they are managed in the research work. Please also state whether the research involves any handling of personal data, or experiments on animals or human subjects. If no ethical issues are raised, please state this also.

Research plan

Please attach your research plan in PDF format. The research plan shall consist of a brief but complete description of the research task. The focus of the research plan shall be forward-looking, and it shall cover a maximum of ten page-numbered A4 pages in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing, including references and any images. **You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages or is larger than 10 MB.**

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

- **Purpose and aims:** State the overall purpose and specific goals of the research project or similar.
- **Survey of the field:** Provide a summary of the research carried out by you and others, and any previous results within the research area. State key references.
- **Project description:** Make a summary of the project where you describe the theory, method, time plan and implementation. Describe the project organisation, and clarify the roles of yourself and any additional researchers in the project.
- **Relevance:** Describe how your project is relevant for the focus new nuclear technology for fourth generation nuclear power (see the definition in the introduction of the call text) and how the project promotes the development of this area.
- **Significance:** Describe the project's significance to the research area.
- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own experiments and pilot studies within the research area. Also state if no preliminary results exist.
- **Independent line of research:** If you are working or will be working in a larger group, please clarify how your project relates to the other projects in the group. If you are continuing a project that was wholly or partly started during your doctoral or postdoc studies, you must also describe the relationship between your project and the research of your former supervisor.

Report the following under separate headings if relevant to your application:

- **Equipment:** Describe the basic equipment you and your team have at your disposal for the project.
- **Need for infrastructure:** Specify the project's need for international and national research infrastructure. Also specify the need for local research infrastructure, if depreciation costs for this are included in the application. [Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council](#) .
- **International and national collaboration:** Describe your collaboration with foreign and Swedish researchers and research teams. State whether you contribute to or refer to international collaboration in your research. You may use research project grants from the Swedish Research Council to co-finance EU projects with a corresponding focus. State in the research plan whether you are planning such coordination.
- **Other applications or grants:** If you are applying for or intend to apply for other grants from the Swedish Research Council, the relationship between the projects shall be clarified. This applies also if you are receiving ongoing grants from the Swedish Research Council with grant periods that wholly or partly overlap with the one you are now applying for. You should also justify why you are submitting one or several further applications. Describe also the relationship with other applications to or grants from other funding bodies for the same project concept (from you or another researcher).

Budget and research resources

Under this tab, please list personnel costs, other costs and any other funding of the project.

Project staf

State the dedicated time/activity level (per cent of a full-time equivalent) of all personnel active within the project, that is to say yourself, any other researchers and other personnel. Your activity level as project leader must correspond to no less than 50 per cent of a full-time equivalent.

Please also state the salary you are applying for, for yourself and/or other personnel active within the project, both as a percentage of a full-time salary and as actual annual amounts (including social security contributions). Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Other costs

Describe any other costs of the project (premises costs, operating costs and depreciation). Please state rounded annual amounts.

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

- the equipment has an economic lifetime of at least three years
- the equipment has an acquisition value exceeding a certain amount (please contact your administrating organisation for information about the amount that applies to your HEI)
- the equipment needs for your proposed project cannot be satisfied through use of national or international research infrastructure open to all

[Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council.](#) 

You may only include the proportion of depreciation costs that corresponds to the use of the equipment in the proposed project. You may not include depreciation costs for equipment that is wholly financed via other grants. Please contact your HEI for information about what is included in local research infrastructure, acquisition values or how to calculate depreciation costs.

Total project cost

Prisma will automatically add up your budget items listed in the table. The total amount you are applying for shall also include indirect costs. You will have to add these to the table yourself. Here you can also add any additional costs covered by the project (for which you are not seeking funding under this call).

Please contact your HEI for information on what constitutes indirect and direct costs.

Explanation of the proposed budget

Justify briefly each cost in the applied budget. The description may cover a maximum of 4 000 characters including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing).

Other funding

Please state any funding for the project (whole or part) received by you or another researche, in excess of the amount requested in this application. Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Publications

Under this tab, please attach your publications list in PDF format. Please note that the attachment may consist of one file only, with a maximum size of 10 MB. The list shall include publications from the most recent eight years, with the five publications of greatest importance for the project marked with an asterisk (*). Please sort the publications under numbered headings in the following order:

1. **Peer-reviewed original articles**
2. **Peer-reviewed conference contributions**, the results of which are not included in other publications
3. **Monographs**
4. **Research review articles**
5. **Books and book chapters**
6. **Popular science publications including books/presentations**

Note: Please only include articles or corresponding that are published or accepted for publication at the time of applying. The application cannot be supplemented with publications after the deadline for the call.

Letter of support

Please attach a formal letter of support from the HEI in question where the research will be carried out. The document shall be in PDF format and may cover a maximum of two A4 pages in Arial, font size 11, single line spacing. **You will not be able to attach an appendix that exceeds the stated maximum number of pages or is larger than 4 MB.**

The letter of support shall be written in English and be from an authorised representative of the HEI in question where the research will be carried out, such as the head of department or similar. The applicant's (your) name shall be stated clearly, as well as the name and position of the person writing the letter of support.

The letter of support shall include the following information under the headings below:

Research profile

- Description of how the applicant's research fits into the HEI's and the department's activities and future strategy
- Description of how the applicant fits into the operation, with focus on research and educational merits
- Description of the applicant's scientific independence

Employment

- Information on the applicant's type of employment and financing of the application throughout the grant period
- Report on the HEI's possible career plan for the applicant during and after the grant period

By signing the application in Prisma, the administrating organisation confirms these undertakings.

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, please state the administrating organisation and project site of the project. The administrating organisation is the organisation that administers the funds for a project awarded and is responsible for it according to the conditions set. The project site is the organisational unit where the project is carried out. Normally, the administrating organisation and project site correspond to the HEI and the department where the project leader is employed.

To allow you to link your application to an administrating organisation, the organisation must have an approved account in Prisma. Please contact your administrating organisation and ask it to [apply for an organisation account](#) with the Swedish Research Council if it does not already have one.

If you cannot find your project site, please contact the person responsible for the organisation account at your administrating organisation. You will not be able to finalise the registration of your application if the location is missing.

Participants

Here you may invite other participating administrators to your application. A participating administrator is a person who is not involved in the project, but who can help you to input and edit information in the application. Please make sure you use the correct email address linked to the person's Prisma account. You may invite participating administrators who do not already have an account in Prisma, but in order to participate in your application they must register their own personal accounts in Prisma. All participants must accept the invitation before you can finalise the registration of your application.

Please note that you may not invite any participating researchers in this application.

CV

Under this tab, please upload your relevant CV information from your personal account in Prisma.

The following information, where available, must always be included in your CV, taking into account the stated limitation in numbers:

- **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

The tab "Register application" shows a summary of the fields in your application that may require action in order to register it (such as mandatory fields not filled in, text fields with too many characters, discrepancies from limits on the possible project period or budget applied for). The registration of your application is not finalised until you click on the "Register" button.

Please make sure you use the preview function before registering your application.

Note: Everybody you have invited in your application must accept the invitation in Prisma before you can register the application. If an invitation is not accepted, it must be deleted.

The registered application can thereafter be found in your personal Prisma account under the tab "Applications and grants", under the menu choice "Applications". Until the deadline for the call, a registered application may be de-registered, amended and re-registered again as necessary.

It is your responsibility to ensure the application is complete, that is to say the application form is correctly filled in, the correct appendices are attached and the information requested has been provided according to the instructions. Please only submit material specifically requested. We do not accept any additional information after the deadline date, except when specifically requested.

Signing

When you register the application, it is signed by you as project leader. To ensure the application is deemed complete and included in the review process, an authorised representative of the administrating organisation also has to sign the application. The representative is normally the head of the department

where the research will be carried out, but this is dependent on your administrating organisation's structure.

The applicant's signature confirms that:

- the information in the application is correct and complies with the Swedish Research Council's instructions
- secondary occupations and commercial ties have been reported to the administrating organisation and that nothing has emerged that breaches good research practice
- the necessary permits and approvals have been obtained for the project start, such as an ethical review

The signature of the administrating organisation confirms that:

- the research, employment and equipment described can be given room during the period and to the extent stated in the application
- the administrating organisation approves of the budget in the application
- the research carried out within the project complies with Swedish legislation

The above points shall have been discussed by the parties before the representative of the administrating organisation approves and signs the application.

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

What happens next?

When you have registered your application and the call closes (at 14.00/2 p.m. on the deadline date of the call), the registration of your application is automatically finalised and you are given a registration number.

Your registered application is automatically forwarded to the representative of the administrating organisation for signature in Prisma. The application must be signed by the administrating organisation no later than one week (seven calendar days) after the deadline date. You will receive an email when the application has been signed.

Thereafter you will find information about the status of the application, registration number and signature of the application in your personal account in Prisma, under the tab "Applications and grants".

Evaluation

The scientific evaluation of your application is carried out by active researchers. These peer reviewers evaluate the application in competition with the other applications on the basis of the evaluation criteria set by the Swedish Research Council.

If an application is not completed according to the instructions, this will be weighed into the evaluation.

[Review panel](#) 

[How your application is evaluated](#) 

[The Swedish Research Council's conflict of interest policy](#) 

[The Swedish Research Council's gender equality strategy](#) 

Decision

Shortly after the award decision has been made, a notice of the grant awards will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website. You will thereafter find a notice of the decision and a final statement on your application in your personal account in Prisma, under the tab "Applications and grants". The statement consists of a grading and, in some cases, written comments.

Contact

Questions about application content

If you have any questions about application content, please contact one of the following persons:

Tung Le, email: tung.le@vr.se, telephone: 08 546 12 301

Dan Holtstam, email: dan.holtstam@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 44 152

Emma Olsson, email: emma.olsson@vr.se, telephone: 08-546 44 204

Technical questions

In the first instance, please consult the help menu in Prisma for instructions or [FAQ](#), including a detailed [User Guide](#) that describes most items in Prisma.

If you cannot find the answer to your technical question, you may contact our [Technical Support](#). Please note that it may take 1 to 2 working days to get an answer, depending on the work load.