International postdoc
Spring Call

The purpose of the grant is to give newly qualified researchers with a doctoral degree from a Swedish university the opportunity to expand their networks and their competences by working abroad under secure employment conditions.

Summary

Type of grant	Career support funding
Subject area	Humanities and Social Sciences Medicine and Health Natural and Engineering Sciences Educational Sciences Artistic Research
Applicant	Individual researcher who has completed a doctoral degree no more than two years ago.
Participating researchers	No participating researchers may be invited to join the application
Grant period	18–36 months
Grant amount	1 050 000 SEK per year
Call deadline	27 February 2018 (14.00/2 p.m.)
Publication of grant award	Beginning of June 2018
Start of grant period	July 2018

Read more about grants awarded in previous years🗗

Eligibility criteria for grant applications

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.

Applicant

The applicant for an international postdoc grant must be an individual researcher. You must hold a doctoral degree from a Swedish university or the European university institute (EUI), awarded no more than two years before the deadline 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 at the start of and throughout the grant period, unless the Swedish Research Council approves an exception. The administrating organisation will decide on the employment format, salary and employment terms and conditions. You are, however, expected to remain employed full-time throughout the grant period, which means that you are employed and pay tax in Sweden during your stay abroad. 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 in the European regulations for researchers on the EU's website. 🖼

Career age

To apply for an international postdoc grant, your doctoral degree must have been awarded no more than two years ago, that is to say awarded no later than the deadline date for the call and no earlier than 27 February 2016. 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 more than two 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. The Swedish Research Council's recognised grounds are parental leave, positions of trust in trade union organisations and student organisations, mandatory service in the total defence forces, illness (own illness or care of close family members), general medical internship (maximum 24 months) or further training/specialist medical internship for clinically active professionals (maximum 24 months). 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 information" 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?

You may only submit one application for this grant under this call. 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.

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 idea as a grant you have already been awarded by, 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

The grant is awarded in a standard amount of 1 050 000 SEK per year, of which 900 000 SEK is for your salary costs and 150 000 SEK for research expenses relating to your stay and the research you will be carrying out (such as consumables, travel including stays at research facilities, and publication costs). The grant amount includes cover of indirect costs. The standard amount relating to salary costs also includes social security contributions. Grants may not be used for scholarships.

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 18–36 months, starting 1 July 2018. The first payment will be made no earlier than July 2018.

Mobility

A condition of the grant is that at least two thirds of the grant period is spent abroad. This time may, however, be divided up into several shorter periods. The mobility condition shall be confirmed by means of a letter of invitation from the foreign host university or corresponding research institution, and a description and justification of your choice of this institution. Both of these must cover the period stated in the application.

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.

To enable you 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 used 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 plenty of 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 confirm their participation in the application before the deadline of the call.

Text

Some text fields can be formatted, which means that the font, alignment and font size can be changed, and that tables and symbols can be inserted. If you insert a text written using a word processing program (such as Microsoft Word), you may need to adjust the formatting using the tools in Prisma after insertion. 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 register your application with 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
- Appendices
- Administrating organisation
- Review panels
- 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, project period (number of months), and select SCB codes and keywords. Please also mark the subject area to which your application relates. Please also fill in any deductible time, the abstract and popular science description, and state the host country for your stay, 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: purpose and aim
- 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
- the added value of your research being carried out at the selected host institution abroad

The abstract shall provide a summary guide to the purpose and implementation of the research. Please use wording to ensure that 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).

Host country

State the foreign country and the host HEI and department where you will be spending your stay abroad.

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. Also explain why the research questions and expected outcomes justify the implementation of the research, in light of the current ethical issues. 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.

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 eight 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.
- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own experiments and pilot studies within the research area. State too if no preliminary results exist.
- **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 other researchers in the project.
- **Significance:** Describe the project's significance to the research area.
- **Results:** Describe the results you expect from the project.
- **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 have at your disposal for the project.
- **Need for infrastructure:** Specify the project's need for international and national infrastructure. Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council 🔲
- **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

Please state your activity level (per cent of a full-time equivalent) in the project. We assume that your activity level as project leader corresponds to a full-time equivalent during the grant period.

The grant is a standard amount and you therefore do not need to enter any budget applied for in the application form.

Publications

Under this tab, please attach your publications list in PDF format, outlined as below. The list shall consist of no more than five page-numbered A4 pages in 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.**

Indicate the five publications of greatest importance for the project with an asterisk (*). State "Part of PhD thesis" in bold and in parenthesis for the relevant publications. Please sort the publications, with your name in bold in the list of authors, under the respective relevant type of publication in the following order:

- **Peer-reviewed original articles**
- **Peer-reviewed conference contributions,** the results of which are not included in other publications.
- **Peer-reviewed edited volumes**
- **Research review articles**
- **Peer-reviewed books and book chapters**
- **Other publications including popular science books/presentations**

Note: Please sort the publications under each heading in reverse chronological order, so that the latest publication is at the top of the list. Please only include articles or corresponding that are published or accepted for publication at the time of applying. The author order in the publications list shall be identical to that of the published work. The application cannot be supplemented with publications after the deadline for the call.

Appendices

Here you shall attach to each field the appendices requested. The appendices must be in PDF format. Please note that each appendix may consist of a single file with a maximum file size of 4 MB. If the appendix is made up from several documents, they must therefore be merged into a single file.

Invitation from the administrating organisation

Please attach an invitation covering no more than two A4 pages from the Swedish HEI where you will be employed, showing that you are welcome to carry out your planned research there.

The invitation shall be addressed to you as applicant, cover the period shown in this call and include:

- a description of the current research and subject knowledge of the research team in question
- a description of your future role in the research team
- the start and end dates of your employment at the Swedish HEI

By signing the application in Prisma, the administrating organisation confirms this undertaking.

Invitation from host department abroad

The appendix shall include information on the host department abroad and a formal invitation from the host department showing that you are welcome to carry out your planned research there. The information and invitation shall cover no more than two A4 pages in total. You may include no more than two A4 pages per invitation in the event you will be staying at more than one host department abroad.

The information on the host department shall apply for the period shown in this call and shall include:

- the time period/periods of your stay at the host department abroad
- the contact person at the host department abroad (first name, last name, telephone number and email address).
- please also state the faculty of the host department and the postal address (in the order university/institute, department, address).

The invitation from the host department abroad shall cover the period shown in this call and shall include:

- a presentation of the host department
- a description of the current research and subject knowledge of the research team in question
- the research team's reason for receiving you
- your role in the research team

The invitation shall be addressed to you as the applicant from the head of department of equivalent of the host department abroad where the research will be carried out, and also include his/her name and contact details.

Description and justification of the host department chosen

The appendix shall cover no more than one A4 page, and shall include:

- your description of how the research at the host department abroad relates to the research at the Swedish department

- your justification of your choice of host department abroad and a description of your opportunities to develop your skills as a researcher

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, please state the administrating organisation and project site. The administrating organisation is the organisation that administers the funds 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 project site is missing.

Review panels

Under this tab, please request the review panel or panels (in priority order) that you wish to carry out the scientific evaluation of your application. The final allocation of applications is determined by the Swedish Research Council.

Review panels

Participants

Here you as grant applicant may invite other participating administrators who can help you to input and edit information in your 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 participating administrators 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:** Third cycle education (year of doctoral degree, discipline/subject area, HEI, thesis title and supervisor), first and second cycle higher education and specialist degrees.
- **Work:** Current employment (including whether permanent or not) and longer relevant employment, postdoctoral visits (also include as employment if relevant), research exchanges relevant to the research described and any longer interruptions in the research that have impacted on your opportunity to gain merits as a researcher.
- **Merits and awards:** Docentships/associate professorships, supervisees (postdoctoral and doctoral students; state the overall number of each category and list the 10 most relevant to you), up to 10 of your most relevant grants awarded in competition, up to 10 of your most relevant prizes and awards, and up to 20 other merits relevant to the application.
- **Intellectual property rights:** For example, patents and open access computer programs developed by you; state up to 10 of your most relevant.

Registering the application

The tab "Check and register" 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 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: If you have invited a participating administrator, he/she must accept the invitation 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 in 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 applicant has not been found guilty of scientific misconduct during the last two years before the deadline date of the call
- the permits and approvals required have been obtained before the research is started, such as permits from the Swedish Medical Products Agency or approval from an ethical review board or an ethical committee on animal experiments
- the applicant will comply with all other conditions applicable to the grant

The signature of the *administrating organisation* confirms that:

- the research or research-supporting activities described can be given room at the administrating organisation during the period and to the extent stated in the application
- the applicant will be employed by the administrating organisation during the period covered by the application
- the administrating organisation approves of the budget in the application
- the applicant has not been found guilty of scientific misconduct by the administrating organisation signing during the last two years before the deadline date of the call
- the administrating organisation will comply with all other conditions applicable to the grant

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 call deadline date 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 account in Prisma, under the tab "Applications and grants".

Evaluation

The scientific evaluation of the 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 panels

    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 grant 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.

ABS Regulation and due diligence declaration: On 12 October 2014, the Nagoya Protocol and the EU's ABS Regulation came into force. This entails that anyone conducting research into genetic resources and traditional knowledge relating to genetic resources shall have a permit to use such material and have entered an agreement on how the research will benefit the host country. Users who have obtained genetic resources and traditional knowledge after 12 October 2014 are obliged to make a "due diligence" declaration. This applies only to grant recipients. Due diligence entails the user being able to show that the genetic resource was obtained according to applicable legislation in the country in question and that the possible benefit of the genetic resource will be allocated in a reasonable and equitable way. Exceptions apply to research into: the human genome, plant genetic material included in Appendix 1 to the international agreement on plant genetic resources, pandemic influenza virus and genetic material obtained from international waters. If you have any questions about the regulations and due diligence, please contact Naturvårdsverket.

Contact

Questions about application content

If you have any questions about application content, please email vrpostdok@vr.se or telephone +46 (0) 8-546 44 054.

Telephone hours are weekdays excluding public holidays from 9.00/9 a.m. to 16.00/4 p.m. while the call is open.

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 of the support personnel.