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SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

SSF Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor (Lecturer) from Industry “A-Pro”, 2023

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research has allocated SEK 15 million for about 10 grants in an Adjunct Professorship program.

This Call is directed to highly-qualified individuals employed by Swedish industry, government agency or health care provider who seeks appointment as either Adjunct Professor (“*adjungerad professor*”) or Adjunct Associate Professor (“*adjungerad lektor*”) at a Swedish Higher Education Institution (HEI) for a period of two to six years to an extent of at least 20 percent. During the exchange period the adjunct persons shall conduct strategic research that meets the Foundations’ purpose.

Introduction

Mobility between different sectors in society is an important factor for generating and disseminating knowledge and technology. Swedish researchers (both academic and industrial) generally have good international contacts and also usually have first-hand experience from working abroad. However, mobility between industry and academia is more limited. Inhibiting factors behind this may be misaligned aims of research, employment conditions, and differing views on qualifications in academia and industry, respectively.

Purpose

The Foundation has a strategic mission to fund research of the highest quality that contributes to Sweden’s future competitiveness. Furthermore, the Foundation shall promote mobility of researchers. According to national statistics, about two thirds of the Swedish researchers are active outside of academia. The purpose of this call is to make use of this competence pool and to increase professional staff mobility, knowledge transfer, and cross-fertilization between sectors. The target group of this call is well-established individuals in industry, hospitals or government agencies who fulfill the merits for being employed as Adjunct (Associate) Professors at a Swedish HEI.

How the program works

The program is aimed at promoting individuals who wish to both acquire and contribute relevant knowledge from/to the Swedish academic sector. Industrial, hospital or government based researchers are eligible for this program. If the potential Adjunct (Associate) Professor is not based in Sweden, but in a close by country (close enough to be able to collaborate physically) it should be justified how this contributes to the development of Swedish competitiveness. Applicants from research institutes are not eligible in this call, since these already practice strong professional exchange with academia, and that the barrier between industry and academia is judged to be higher.

During the adjunct (associate) professorship the researcher must conduct strategic research within one of the Foundation's areas; natural sciences, engineering, or medicine. The Adjunct (Associate) Professor must spend at least one day per week at the university (on average). The projects will be monitored by annual reports and a mid-term report after two and a half years. The duration of the project should be typically six years, and minimum two years (depending on the period(s) by which the HEI appoints the Adjunct (Associate) Professor) part-time. SSF will fund the adjunct (associate) professorship with maximum MSEK 1,5 covering part-time salary at the HEI of 10 percent of full time, including overheads. Any excess funds may be used for travels, conferences, and consumables, but if the project period is shorter than six years the budget will be adjusted accordingly. SSF requires that the remaining, at least, 10 percent salary coverage is contributed by the home organisation of the Adjunct (Associate) Professor. This means that the Adjunct (Associate) Professor will have salary funding for at least one day per week at the HEI.

The application must include a plan for the appointment, presenting who the grant holder will collaborate with and what other funding that is available. The application must also include declarations of intent from both exchange sector parties (i.e. the HEI and the home organisation). Both of these parties must confirm the need for the exchange and ensure that the necessary practical arrangements are in place for the execution of the project. Furthermore, the home organisation must guarantee remaining co-funding for, at least, 10 percent part time salary for the Adjunct (Associate) Professor. A copy of the Adjunct (Associate) Professor appointment should be presented to the Foundation at the onset of the project. This shall be aligned with the standard protocol for Adjunct (Associate) Professors at the applying university, and thus fulfill the local quality control for such appointments.

The potential Adjunct (Associate) Professor is the applicant (submits the application and reports the approved project to SSF) and the HEI is the administrative organisation (receives and administer the grant). The HEI, the home organisation and the Adjunct (Associate) Professor are together responsible for making agreements on how IPR matters *etc.* are to be handled among them. SSF will not fund adjunct (Associate) professorships that are already ongoing, but those who are in the process of being approved as an Adjunct (Associate) Professor can apply. If the applicant is not approved for adjunct (associate) professorship at the university the grant will be cancelled.

Indirect HEI costs (overheads) are included in the MSEK 1,5 grant, but maximum 25 percent on the direct HEI costs (i.e. maximum kSEK 300), including cost for premises. Non-HEI, e.g. industrial, overhead costs are not eligible for SSF funding. Funds may not be used for purchasing equipment or the like.

SSF strives for an equal gender distribution in the awarded grants for this call. Underrepresented gender will be used as a boundary condition by the evaluation committee in the prioritization process, which means that in cases where two applications are considered to be of equivalent quality, the applicant of underrepresented gender will be prioritized.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a specially composed evaluation committee consisting of external experts. The following criteria will be taken into account:

- The Adjunct Professor's ("*adjungerad professor*") or Adjunct Associate Professor's ("*adjungerad lektor*") qualifications and potential for generating, disseminating, and exploiting knowledge between different sectors
- The HEI environments' potential for meeting the needs of the visiting researcher
- Mutuality/engagement in the declarations of intent from both sector parties

- The strategic relevance of the proposed exchange service for Sweden
- The quality and catalysing potential of the proposed project
- That there are no inappropriate financial or personal dependencies between the parties and the visiting researcher.

Instructions

The entire application, including appendices, is filed electronically at <http://apply.strategiska.se> and must include a complete application form consisting of (in addition to what is stated in the portal):

- Description of the home environment and how it will be strengthened by the exchange
- Description of the host environment (HEI) and how it will be strengthened by the exchange
- Personal motivation for making the exchange
- Declaration of intent from the two sector parties, including statement of co-funding
- Applicant's CV
- Budget
- Project plan. General overview of what the adjunct professorship will do, who are the research collaborators, and what are the available resources. Please relate your plan to state of the art within the area.

The deadline for applications is 14:00 pm on January 16, 2024. The project shall start between May 1 and December 1, 2024. Please write the application in English.

Please note that the Foundation is subject to the Principle of Public Access to Official Records (Offentlighetsprincipen). Thus, applicants should avoid submitting material that they do not wish to be made public, e.g., information that could prevent patenting.

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