

SSF Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor (Lecturer) from Industry “A-Pro”, 2026

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) has allocated SEK 15 million to fund approximately ten grants under its Adjunct Professorship programme.

This call is aimed at highly qualified individuals employed by Swedish industry, government agencies, or healthcare providers who seek appointment as an Adjunct Professor (*adjungerad professor*) or Adjunct Associate Professor/Lecturer (*adjungerad lektor*) at a Swedish higher education institution (HEI). Appointments may run for two to six years and must correspond to at least 20 percent of full-time employment. During the exchange period, the grantee must conduct strategic research that aligns with the purpose of SSF.

Introduction

Researcher mobility between sectors is essential for generating, disseminating, and applying knowledge and technology. Swedish researchers, both in academia and industry, generally have strong international networks and often have first-hand experience of working abroad. By contrast, mobility between industry and academia remains more limited. Contributing factors may include differing research objectives, employment conditions, and views on qualifications in academia and industry.

Purpose

SSF's strategic mission is to fund research of the highest quality that contributes to Sweden's future competitiveness. The Foundation also works to promote researcher mobility. National statistics show that almost 75 percent of Swedish researchers are active outside academia. The purpose of this call is therefore to increase professional mobility, knowledge transfer, and cross-sectoral exchange between societal sectors. The target group is well-established individuals in industry, hospitals, or government agencies who meet the requirements for appointment as Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor at a Swedish HEI.

How the program works

The programme is intended for individuals who wish both to contribute relevant knowledge to, and acquire knowledge from, the Swedish academic sector. Individuals employed at least 80 percent in Swedish industry, hospitals, or government agencies are eligible to apply. If the prospective Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor is based outside Sweden, but in a nearby country that allows regular physical collaboration, the application must explain how the project will contribute to Swedish competitiveness. Applicants from research institutes are not eligible under this call.

During the adjunct professorship or adjunct associate professorship, the researcher must conduct strategic research within one of SSF areas: natural sciences, engineering, or medicine. The Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor must spend, on average, at least one day per

week at the university, irrespective of the total project duration. Projects should normally run for six years, with a minimum duration of two years, depending on the period for which the HEI appoints the Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor.

SSF will provide up to MSEK 1.5 to cover 10 percent of a full-time salary at the HEI, including overheads. Any remaining funds may be used for travel, conferences, and consumables; however, if the project period is shorter than six years, the budget will be adjusted accordingly. Funding for other personnel is not permitted. SSF requires the home organisation of the Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor to contribute matching salary funding corresponding to an additional 10 percent of full-time employment.

The application must include a research plan, a list of intended collaborations and a specification of other available funding. It must also include declarations of intent from both of the exchange-sector parties, i.e. the HEI and the home organisation. Both parties must confirm the value of the exchange and ensure that the practical arrangements required to carry out the project are in place. The home organisation must also guarantee matching co-funding, 10 percent of a full-time salary.

A copy of the adjunct appointment decision must be submitted to the Foundation at the start of the project. The appointment must follow the standard procedure for Adjunct Professors or Adjunct Associate Professors at the applying university and thereby satisfy the university's local quality-assurance requirements for such appointments.

The prospective Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor is the applicant and is responsible for submitting the application and reporting the approved project to SSF. The HEI is the administrative organisation and will receive and administer the grant. The HEI, the home organisation, and the Adjunct Professor or Adjunct Associate Professor are jointly responsible for agreeing how intellectual property rights and related matters will be handled.

SSF will not fund adjunct professorships or adjunct associate professorships that have already started. However, candidates whose appointment process is underway may apply. If the applicant is not approved for appointment at the university, the grant will be cancelled.

Indirect HEI costs, including premises, are included in the MSEK 1.5 grant and may amount to no more than 25 percent on the direct HEI costs, i.e. a maximum of kSEK 300. Overhead costs outside the HEI, such as industrial overheads, are not eligible for SSF funding. Funds may not be used to purchase equipment or similar items.

SSF strives for an equal gender distribution among the grants awarded under this call. Gender balance will be used as a boundary condition in the evaluation committee's prioritisation. This means that, where two applications are assessed as being of equivalent quality, priority will be given to the applicant of the underrepresented gender.

Grantees from the SSF A-Pro calls in 2020 or 2023 are not eligible to apply.

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed by a specially appointed evaluation committee consisting of external experts. The committee will consider the following criteria:

- The applicant's qualifications and potential to generate, disseminate, and apply knowledge across sectors
- The host HEI environment's capacity to meet the needs of the visiting researcher
- The level of mutual commitment and engagement demonstrated in the declarations of intent from both sector parties

- The strategic relevance of the proposed research exchange for Sweden
- The scientific quality and catalytic potential of the proposed project
- The absence of inappropriate financial or personal dependencies between the parties and the adjunct researcher

Instructions

The complete application, including appendices, must be submitted electronically at <https://strategiska.se/apply>. In addition to the information requested in the portal, the application form must include:

- A description of the home environment and how it will be strengthened by the exchange
- A description of the host environment at the HEI and how it will be strengthened by the exchange
- A personal motivation statement explaining the purpose and value of the exchange
- Declarations of intent from both sector parties, including a statement confirming co-funding
- The applicant's CV
- A budget
- A project plan outlining the purpose and activities of the adjunct appointment, the research collaborators involved, and the available resources. The plan should also describe how the proposed work relates to the state of the art in the research field.

The deadline for applications is 14:00 on December 1, 2026. SSF expects to make its funding decision in February 2027, and projects must start between April 1 and October 1, 2027. Applications must be written in English.

Please note that the Foundation is subject to the Principle of Public Access to Official Records (*offentlighetsprincipen*). Applicants should therefore avoid submitting material that they do not wish to be made public, such as information that could affect future patenting.

For further information, please contact:

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