

FRAMTIDENS FORSKNINGSLEDARE

Individual Grants for Future Research Leaders

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) has allocated twenty grants of a total of SEK 8.5 million each (incl. overheads and VAT), covering a period of five years.

Vision

The aim of the Foundation in launching this programme is to support and promote young scientists who have the potential to and are prepared to become future leaders of academic and industrial research in Sweden.

The vision of the Foundation of a future research leader is a scientist of the highest standing who also possesses leadership and management potential, an understanding of the process of implementing research results, *and* who is prepared at a later stage to assume responsibility for other constellations than his or her own research group.

Scope

According to its statutes the Foundation shall promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international standards with a view to enhancing Sweden's future competitiveness by supporting basic as well as applied research in natural science, engineering and medicine. Currently, the Foundation prioritises such research that can be applied in the following areas:

- Biotechnology, drug discovery and development, bioengineering
- Systems, information and communication technologies
- Materials development
- Manufacturing technologies

This programme is open to young scientists from Sweden as well as from other countries. The grant is intended for innovative research at a Swedish research institution – university or public or private non-profit research institute – of the choice of the grantee, primarily for building a research group, although the grant may be used to cover up to maximum 50 % of the recipient's own salary. To promote academic mobility, Swedish applicants are encouraged to locate their research at a Swedish department or group other than the one where their PhD was earned.

A leadership training programme will be arranged for the grantees.

In the previous announcement the proportion of female grantees was 35%. The Foundation aims to achieve a higher proportion of female grantees in this announcement.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be born in 1967 or later. (This is valid even though adjustment for parental leave after PhD may be made as stated below).
- Applicants must have a PhD degree. The PhD degree must have been earned within the period 1 January 2001 – 31 December 2003. The only exception is for applicants with a degree date before 1 January 2001 who submit documentation for parental leave after PhD that effectively corresponds to the difference in dates.
- For applicants currently working in other countries, the applicant must be prepared to work full-time at a Swedish research institution and evidence must be presented that the applicant is welcome to establish a laboratory at the proposed host department in Sweden.

Selection procedure

The applications will be reviewed in a two-step procedure:

- 1) Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Committee (see below) and its national expert panels. The plan is to select at least 60 applicants to submit full proposals.
- 2) The selected applicants invited to submit full proposals will be reviewed by international scientific experts with broad experience and recognition. Based upon the reviews, the Selection Committee will arrange interviews with the highest-ranked applicants. The Board of SSF will make the final granting decision based upon recommendations by the Selection Committee.
Reasons for rejection of proposals will be provided for applicants invited to submit full proposals.

Members of the Selection Committee

Gunnar Svedberg, STFI-Packforsk, Stockholm, Chairperson

Anders Ahlén, Dept of Engineering Sciences, UU

Inger Andersson, Dept of Molecular Biology, SLU

Eleanor Campbell, Dept of Physics, GU

Maria Fällman, Dept of Molecular Biology, UmU

Stina Gestrelus, Medicon Valley Academy, Copenhagen and Lund

Julie Gold, Dept of Chemical Physics, Chalmers

Sven Lidin, Dept of Inorganic Chemistry, SU

Sven Mattisson, Ericsson AB, Lund

Kerstin Severinson Eklundh, School of Computer Science and Communication, KTH

Nahid Shahmeri, Dept of Computer Sciences, LiU

Johan Stenflo, Dept of Clinical Chemistry, LU

Peter Thorén, AstraZeneca, Mölndal

Britta Wahren, Dept of Microbiology, Tumor Biology and Cell Biology, KI

All members of the expert panels will later be announced on the website of the Foundation www.stratresearch.se

To avoid conflict of interest situations, the members of the Selection Committee and the panels are not allowed to have positions as rector, dean, head of department or other similar positions in any university management. The members should neither have been thesis supervisors for, be group leaders for nor write letters of recommendation for any applicant.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- Scientific quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research
- Scientific track record and potential of the applicant
- Leadership potential and management skills of the applicant
- Strategic relevance of the proposed research to Swedish industry and/or society and potential for utilisation of the results of the proposed research
- Innovation potential, experiences and skills of the applicant

International research experience is a merit.

Preliminary time schedule

Late November 2006	Deadline for pre-proposals to SSF
December–February 2007	Review of pre-proposals by the Selection Committee
March–May 2007	Review of pre-proposals by the expert panels
June 2007	Invitation to selected applicants to submit full proposals
August 2007	Deadline for full proposals to SSF
Autumn 2007	International review of full proposals Interviews with the highest- ranked applicants
December 2007	Decision by the Board of SSF

The next announcement is planned to take place in 2009.

Instructions for Pre-proposals

The pre-proposal shall be written in English and include

Application form (1 page): (font 12)

Download the form from the website of the Foundation www.stratresearch.se where further information on the Foundation will also be found.

Appendix 1: Research plan (maximum 2 pages, font 12)

Short description of research plan in the following format: Main goal, project description, milestones (what and when), composition of research group, proposed use of the funding .

Appendix 2: Scientific track record (maximum 1 page, font 12)

Short record of research accomplishments.

Appendix 3: Strategic relevance (maximum 1 page, font 12)

According to its statutes, the objective of the Foundation is to “promote the development of important research environments of the highest international standards with a view to enhancing Sweden's long-term competitiveness”. This Appendix shall put the research proposed in a broader context, thereby providing a basis for assessment of its strategic relevance.

What, and how, can the proposed research project contribute to societal development, industry and science in a wider and more long-term perspective?

1. Describe the strategic relevance of the proposal in as concrete terms as possible, identifying or clarifying the following:
 - a) Results, potential applications
 - b) Expected users of results or methods, e.g., scientific colleagues, academic workers in other fields, industry or the public sector, etc
 - c) Time frames – potential contributions of the research work in a short, medium and long term perspective to the development of relevant sectors of Swedish industry or the public sector and society at large
 - d) Effects on graduate training
2. Dissemination: Indicate what methods will be used to disseminate information about results and possible applications to scientific colleagues, stakeholders, a wider audience, etc.
3. Indicate what means and practical steps to implement the research results that will (need to) be taken in order to achieve the objectives and contribution described in the proposal.

Appendix 4: Leadership philosophy (maximum 1 page, font 12)

How do you practice your leadership? What are your experiences from leadership, your own strengths and weaknesses? What is your vision for your future leadership? What are your experiences of and interest for communication of your research, eg to the general public? Expand on your thoughts and visions related to leadership.

Appendix 5: Curriculum vitae in the following format (maximum 2 pages, font 12)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| A. Professional preparation | Undergraduate university, Area(s), Degree and year
Graduate university(ies)/department(s), Area(s), Degree and year
Postdoc university(ies)/department(s), Area(s), Time period |
| B. Appointments | A list, in reverse chronological order, of the individual's academic/
professional appointments, beginning with the current appointment |

- C. Tutoring experience** Number of PhD's graduated, Licentiate graduates and PhD students in progress
- D. Networks in academia and industry** Most important international and national cooperation partners (with names and contact details)
- E. Entrepreneurial achievements** Innovations, etc. (NB: List patents, demos, etc, under Appendix 6E!)
- F. Other merits of relevance** Prizes, awards, invited lectures, etc
- G. Personal references** Two, with name and full contact details

Appendix 6: List of publications in the following format (font 12)

List your publications according to the scheme below. Give the names of all authors in the same sequence as in the publication and full details as to titles, journals, volume, issue, date of publication. In case of unpublished manuscripts, only those accepted or submitted for publication may be listed, in both cases with name of journal and any further details. Also give website address if the publication is electronically available.

- A. Original articles in refereed scientific journals
- B. Original contributions to refereed scientific conferences and workshops
- C. Review articles, book chapters, etc
- D. Other scientific contributions
- E. Patents, demos, copyrights, etc
- F. Software
- G. "Popular science"

Indicate (e.g. with an asterisk) *up to ten contributions* that best illustrate your accomplishments in view of the *Vision of the programme* as stated above.

Appendix 7: Other grants (maximum 1 page, font 12)

List grants to the applicant (as main grant holder or other recipient) from research councils, other government sources, research foundations, European Commission, and other external sources (granting agency, main grant holder, project, allocation; clarify actual currency of grants in question: SEK, EUR, GBP, USD, etc).

Appendix 8: Letters of Recommendation

Two letters, maximum one page each, in support of the application, preferably describing the personal experiences and merits of leadership of the applicant. The relation between the applicant and the author of the letter shall be clarified. One letter shall be written by a scientist established outside Sweden and one letter by a scientist established in Sweden but who was not the former thesis supervisor of the applicant.

Appendix 9: Certificates

9A The diploma for the PhD degree

9B For applicants currently working in other countries, evidence must be presented that the applicant is welcome to establish a laboratory at the proposed host department in Sweden.

9C Any parental leave after PhD claimed by the applicant shall be verified by a certificate from Försäkringskassan ("Intyg – ersättningsperioder"). See also the special box on the Application form, where the effective duration is to be entered.

Submission of Pre-proposals

The pre-proposal consisting of the *Application form and all appendices* shall be electronically submitted by **16.00 hrs on Tuesday, 28 November, 2006** to applications.FFL@stratresearch.se, as *one file* in PDF format (= Portable Document Format only, *no other formats will be accepted*) (maximum size 2 Mb). The subject line as well as the heading of the attachment shall read "FFL, applicant's family name, given name". The PDF-file must permit electronic copying. The electronically submitted

application form does not need to be scanned to include the signatures. If you (before the deadline) need to make any changes in an already electronically submitted pre-proposal please contact the Foundation for further instructions.

Further, by the same date at 16.00 hrs, the pre-proposal shall reach the Foundation on paper in **one original set and 35 complete copies**. The latter are to be printed on plain punched (“hålrat”) paper, and stapled (“häftade”) *without* any special covers or binders, preferably printed double-sided, with each Appendix starting on a right-hand page. *The applicant is responsible for checking that all material submitted is ready to be used by the Foundation directly upon arrival.*

- No additional material will be accepted after 28 November. *Note that this also includes letters of recommendation!*
- Pre-proposals submitted by telefax will not be accepted.
- Please further note that the Foundation is subject to the principle of public access to official documents (*Offentlighetsprincipen*). Thus, avoid submitting material that you do not wish to be made public, e.g. information that could prevent patenting.

Postal address:

Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF)
Box 70483
SE-107 26 STOCKHOLM, Sweden

Delivery address:

Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, Kungsbron 1 (World Trade Center), entrance G, floor 7, 111 21 Stockholm (Note that if a delivery firm is used, this special postal code is necessary for the package to reach the Foundation without delay)

Contact persons at SSF

Joakim Amorin (Electronics, Materials), joakim.amorim@stratresearch.se
Inger Florin (Life Sciences), inger.florin@stratresearch.se
Olof Lindgren (Information Technology), olof.lindgren@stratresearch.se
Lena-Kajsa Sidén (Bioengineering), LKS@stratresearch.se
Anders Sjölund (Electronics), anders.sjolund@stratresearch.se

Please note that the above e-mail address for submission of applications cannot be used for questions or other correspondence.