



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

2012-06-14

Announcement

FRAMTIDENS FORSKNINGSLEDARE

Individual Grants for Future Research Leaders

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) has allocated up to 20 grants of a total of SEK 10 million each (incl. overhead), 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 and the ambition to become future leaders of academic and/or industrial research in Sweden.

The vision of the Foundation of a future research leader is a scientist of the highest standing who in addition displays a potential for leadership and management, an understanding of the process of implementing research results and who is prepared at a later stage of the research career to assume responsibility for constellations larger than her/his own research group.

Scope

According to its statutes, the Foundation supports research in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine, promoting the development of strong research environments of the highest international standards and enhancing Sweden's future competitiveness.

The Foundation prioritises research within the following areas:

- Life Sciences
- Life Science Technologies and Bioengineering
- ICST including Electronics and Photonics
- Materials Sciences
- Computational Sciences and Applied Mathematics

as well as interdisciplinary research integrating these areas.

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 organization – university or public or private non-profit research institute – of the choice of the grantee. The grant is primarily intended for building a research group and maximum 20 % of the grant may be used to cover 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.

The grantees will participate in a leadership training programme. Participation in this leadership programme is mandatory.

Out of each grant, SEK 300 000 will be withheld at SSF to be used by the grantee for commercialization of results from the project.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be born in 1973 or later (with adjustment for documented parental leave and/or for clinical internship/residency period (AT)).
- Applicants must have obtained their PhD degree within the period 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2008, (with adjustment for documented post-doctoral parental leave and/or for post-doctoral clinical internship/residency period (AT)).
- Applicants currently working outside Sweden must be prepared to work full-time at a Swedish research organization.
- Applicants who are eligible to both the programs “Ingvar Carlsson Award” and “Future Research Leaders” may only apply to one of these programs. Please observe that the requirements for the two respective programmes differ from one another.

Evaluation procedure

The proposals will be reviewed in a three-step procedure:

1. The proposals will be reviewed by national expert panels. The plan is to select about 60 proposals to continue to the second step.
2. The selected proposals will be reviewed by international experts with broad experience and recognition. Based on the reviews, an evaluation committee will select a number of applicants to be invited to interviews.
3. The highest-ranked applicants will be interviewed with regard to leadership and potential impact of the proposed research. The Board of SSF will make the final granting decision based on recommendations by the evaluation committee.

Justifications (evaluation reports) for the rejection of proposals will be provided only for applicants participating in the second step.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- Qualification of the applicant, including international experience, and networks
- Scientific quality of the research plan, including originality and feasibility
- 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, experience and communication skills of the applicant
- Leadership potential and management skills of the applicant

The Foundation strives to achieve similar success rates for female and male applicants.

Submission of proposals

The proposal shall be written in English and submitted via the Foundation's electronic application portal: <http://apply.stratresearch.se>, by no later than **2 pm on November 20, 2012**. The proposal shall, among other information specified in the portal, include:

- Scientific track record
- Research plan
- Strategic relevance
- Leadership philosophy
- Curriculum vitae
- List of selected publications
- Present and pending grants
- Indicative budget
- Letters of Recommendation; One letter shall be written by a scientist established outside Sweden and one letter by a scientist established in Sweden. Neither of them should be a former thesis supervisor of the applicant.
- PhD diploma

No additional material will be accepted after November 20, 2012. Note that this also includes letters of recommendation – and the fact that these shall not be provided separately from the recommender but make up part of the application as such.

Preliminary time schedule

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| • June, 2012 | Application portal opens |
| • November 20, 14.00 hours, 2012 | Application deadline |
| • December - March, 2013 | Expert panels review |
| • April - May, 2013 | International review |
| • May - June, 2013 | Evaluation committee review |
| • Week 34 (19 Aug - 23 Aug), 2013 | Interviews with the highest-ranked applicants |
| • September 2013 | Decision by the SSF Board |
| • October 2013 | Earliest project start |

The next announcement is planned to take place in 2015.

Contact at SSF

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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.

