



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

2015-06-17

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 12 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
- Information, Communication and Systems Technologies
- Materials Science and Technologies
- 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 25 % of the grant may be used to cover the recipient's own salary. To promote academic mobility, applicants with a Swedish PhD are encouraged to locate their research at a department or group other than the one where their PhD was earned.

Applicants currently working outside Sweden must be prepared to work full-time at a Swedish research organization.

The grantees will participate in a mandatory leadership training programme.

Out of each grant, SEK 360 000 (3%) will be withheld at SSF to be requested by the grantee for commercialization of results from the project.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be born in 1976 or later (with adjustment for documented parental leave and/or for clinical internship (AT)).
- Applicants must have obtained their PhD degree within the period 1 January 2009 – 31 December 2011, (with adjustment for documented post-doctoral parental leave and/or for post-doctoral clinical internship (AT)).

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 selected applicants will be interviewed with regard to leadership and potential impact of the proposed research.

The evaluation committee and the hearing group will present a suggestion to a final granting decision to the SSF Board who will make the final granting decision.

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

The Foundation applies equal opportunity among applicants in the proposal evaluation process.

For this call, each of the Foundation's prioritized research areas is considered strategically important. The aim is thus to allocate a relatively equal number of grants for the prioritized areas, whilst maintaining the level of scientific quality and strategic relevance.

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
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- Strategic relevance of the proposed research to Swedish industry and/or society and potential for utilisation of the results of the proposed research
- Innovation experience and potential of the applicant
- Leadership potential, communication and management skills of the applicant

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 17, 2015**. 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.

No additional material will be accepted after November 17, 2015. 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, 2015 | Application portal opens |
| • November 17, 14.00 hours, 2015 | Application deadline |
| • December - March, 2016 | Expert panels review |
| • April - May, 2016 | International review |
| • May - June, 2016 | Evaluation committee review |
| • Week 34 (22 Aug - 26 Aug), 2016 | Interviews with the highest-ranked applicants |
| • November 2016 | Decision by the SSF Board |
| • January 2017 | Earliest project start |

The next announcement is planned to take place in 2018.

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.