



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

2018-12-19

Call for proposals

FRAMTIDENS FORSKNINGSLEDARE

Individual Grants for Future Research Leaders

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) announces up to 20 grants, SEK 12 million each (incl. overhead), covering a period of five years. The present Call concerns the 7th generation of Future Research Leaders since the program started in the year 2000.

Aim and Vision

The program should be an outstanding vehicle for supporting and promoting young scholars who have the aptitude to become future leaders of academic and/or industrial research in Sweden.

The Foundation's vision of a future research leader is a young researcher of the highest scientific and pedagogical standing who in addition displays a potential for leadership and management, an ambition to implement research results, and who is prepared at a later stage of the career to take responsibility for complete academic environment and 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.

This programme is open to young scientists from Sweden as well as from other countries. Grantees must intend to work full-time at a Swedish research organization – university or public or private non-profit research institute. The grant is primarily intended for building a research group at a scientific organisation chosen by the grantee. The accepting organisation must offer a tenured faculty position for the grantee, such as junior lecturer/professor or corresponding post. Up to 25 % of the grant may be used to cover the scholar's own salary, but not more than 25 % of the salary. To promote academic mobility, applicants with a Swedish PhD are encouraged to locate their research to a department or group other than the one where their PhD was earned.

The grantees commit to participate in a (mandatory) leadership training programme, which will claim 20 full meeting days plus a two weeks study travel abroad, as well as time for preparation, follow up and tasks in between meetings.

Out of each grant, SEK 360 000 (3%) will be reserved by SSF to be claimed by the grantee for exploitation activities of results from the project.

Eligibility

- Applicants must be born in 1979 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 2012 – 31 December 2014, according to the date on the Diploma (with adjustment for documented post-doctoral parental leave and/or for post-doctoral clinical internship (AT)).
- Parental leave can only be accounted for up to maximum one year per child, in both cases above.

Evaluation procedure

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

1. The proposals will be reviewed by national expert panels. The intention is to select about 60 proposals which continue to the second step.
2. The selected proposals will be reviewed by international experts with broad experience. Based on the reviews, an evaluation committee will select a reduced number of applicants to be invited to interviews.
3. The selected applicants will be interviewed by a hearing group with regard to leadership potential and aptitude for teaching and curriculum management. Leadership potential is an actual criterion in the selection process.

The evaluation committee and the hearing group will present a suggestion to the SSF Board of applicants to be granted. The SSF Board then makes the final granting decision.

Evaluation reports for the rejection of proposals will be provided only for applicants reaching the second step in the process.

The aim is to allocate a balanced number of grants for each research area of SSF, whilst maintaining the level of scientific quality and strategic relevance.

The foundation will grant 10 female and 10 male applicants in order to reflect the gender equality of future academia.

The overall approval rate in recent calls has been about 10%.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- Qualification and potential of the applicant, including pedagogical skills, engagement in curriculum or other scholarly development, experience of international collaboration and innovation
- 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 exploitation and impact of the results of the proposed research
- 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.strategiska.se>, by no later than **2 pm on April 24, 2019**.

The proposal shall, among other information specified in the portal, include:

- Scientific track record
- Research plan
- Strategic relevance
- Leadership philosophy, including pedagogical merits
- 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 the application deadline. Note that this also includes letters of recommendation, which can be submitted together with the application by the applicant. Reference submitted separately will not be considered.

For the selected projects, the corresponding host organisations must confirm in the contract that a tenured position will be offered to the grantee in order for the grant to be issued by SSF.

Preliminary time schedule

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| • December, 2018 | Application portal opens |
| • April 24, 14.00 hours, 2019 | Application deadline |
| • May - August, 2019 | Expert panels review |
| • August - October, 2019 | International review |
| • October - November, 2019 | Evaluation committee review |
| • Week 46 (11 Nov - 15 Nov), 2019 | Interviews with the highest-ranked applicants |
| • February, 2020 | Decision by the SSF Board |
| • March, 2020 | Earliest project start |

The next Call is planned to take place in 2021.

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.