



INGVAR CARLSSON AWARD 2006

**A programme for young postdocs returning to Sweden from abroad
to build up a career in research**

Background

It is highly desirable from a national viewpoint that researchers who have been abroad for postdoctoral studies return to Sweden and start their own research activities, based on their international experience. The transition from postdoctoral studies to independent research often constitutes a bottleneck in the researcher's scientific career. It is important to make it possible for some highly qualified postdocs to obtain a homecoming grant to help them get started. With this in mind, the Foundation's Board decided in December 2004 to establish a special homecoming programme. The programme was named after Ingvar Carlsson in recognition of his contribution as Chairman of the Foundation during the period 1997–2002.

Aim

The aim of the programme is to identify and support young homecoming postdocs who intend to start independent, lasting and creative research careers of their own in Sweden.

The programme is aimed at researchers who pursue strategically motivated research with a potential to strengthen Sweden's future competitiveness.

The programme intends to provide funding for well-qualified postdocs who return to Sweden and need a start-up grant to build up their own research, research group and/or their own laboratory.

The programme this year has a distinct focus on technology (*solving problems through technology, new techniques*) and is committed to applying an engineering approach (*systematic, quantitative, and integrative*) within a range of defined research disciplines (see below "Eligibility").

The target group for this programme is postdocs intending to implement new engineering approaches that are not currently being used in Sweden, thus renewing and developing Swedish research within technology.

Grants

The Foundation has set aside a maximum amount of SEK 36 million to finance eight to twelve three-year grants of SEK 2-4 million each (including overheads, VAT, etc.). In addition, each individual will also be awarded a personal scholarship of SEK 50,000.

The Foundation assumes that grant holders will have a position equivalent to that of a four-year research assistant or a tenured post. The grants should be used to assemble a

research group and/or build up an independent laboratory, but may also be used to pay the researcher's own salary for at most three years. The Foundation does not assume responsibility for continued funding of the fourth year. The Foundation expects to start awarding grants in early 2007.

Eligibility

The "Ingvar Carlsson Award" programme is being announced within a part of the Foundation's sphere of activities – engineering sciences – and covers research projects that are expected to have applications in the following areas:

- Information and Communication Technology
- Materials Science and Engineering
- Bioengineering
- Process and Production Systems Engineering

The following criteria apply for eligibility:

- The applicant must have received his or her PhD at a Swedish university no more than 3 years prior to the application deadline of 28 September 2006 (adjusted for documented parental leave).
- The applicant must have conducted continuous postdoctoral studies outside of Sweden for at least 8 months prior to the application deadline.
- The applicant must be steadily active in Sweden once again not earlier than 1 September 2005 and not later than 31 August 2007.
- Postdoctoral work must be engineering oriented.

Greater mobility in the university world is striven for. The Foundation therefore intends to give priority to applicants who conduct their research activities in another department or research group, or choose another research environment, than the one where they did their PhD. The applicant shall indicate at which Swedish institution he or she plans to conduct their research. In the event of a positive decision, the intended institution must be able to guarantee the applicant's livelihood equivalent to at least the fourth year of a research assistant position.

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- Scientific quality and potential, reflected in previous research as well as in proposed research
- Originality and innovativeness of the individual as well as of the proposal
- Vision of how the proposed research can be implemented in Sweden as well as its strategic relevance and importance for Sweden's future competitiveness
- Applicant's international experience and network.

Announcement and selection process

This announcement will be sent to Swedish universities and information will also be published in international scientific journals in order to address post-docs presently residing outside of Sweden. The Foundation appreciates any assistance in helping to disseminate this Announcement widely to prospective applicants.

The selection process will be a one-step procedure with one complete application. The entire selection process will be carried out by a selection committee consisting of about 15 members, preferably Swedish. The composition of the committee will ensure as broad and qualified competence as possible.

The Board of SSF will make the final decision, based upon the recommendations by the selection committee.

Application

A full proposal should include the following:

- Description of dissertation work
- Description of postdoctoral work
- Research plan for the initial three years in Sweden
- Vision of how the proposed research can be implemented in Sweden. Strategic relevance and importance of the planned research
- CV
- Publication list
- Three letters of recommendation (*Three letters of recommendations shall be enclosed with the application – one from the applicant's dissertation supervisor, one from the applicant's postdoctoral supervisor, and one from a senior research chosen by the applicant*).
- A certificate from the Social Insurance Office if the applicant claims parental leave.

Preliminary time schedule

May 2006	Programme announcement
28 September 2006	Deadline for applications
February 2007	Final decision by the Governing Board
Spring 2007	Award ceremony

Submission of application

This year the Foundation plans to handle all applications (including all enclosures) electronically for the first time. Please note that the electronic submission portal will be open on Tuesday 15 August and the deadline for submission will be Thursday 28 September at 16.00 hrs. Should you have any questions please contact Henryk Wos (henryk.wos@stratresearch.se or +46 8 505 816 71). More detailed information about submission will be available on the Foundation website (www.stratresearch.se) before the end of June.

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