



STIFTELSEN för
STRATEGISK FORSKNING

23 April 2013
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) calls for proposals

Career development programme promoting gender equality in science and technology

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research will award 10 grants of SEK 6 million each (incl. overhead costs), covering a period of five years with the scope described below.

Purpose

The Foundation aims to contribute to a broader recruitment base for researchers belonging to the underrepresented gender who want to reach the highest positions at Swedish universities or public or private non-profit research institutes.

Promising junior researchers who obtained their PhDs in 2007 or later are offered grants to build up an independent and innovative research programme in Sweden within the areas prioritised by SSF. The grant is intended to give applicants an opportunity to improve their scientific qualifications and (further) strengthen their own research group as well as networks (universities, institutes, companies, international contacts, etc.). No more than 25% of the grant may be used to pay the project leader's own salary.

In order to promote both leadership and career development, a leadership training programme will be arranged for the project leaders to meet the challenges entailed by a future career as a research leader. Participation in this leadership programme is mandatory.

Scope

According to its statutes, the Foundation supports research in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine and promotes the development of strong research environments of the highest international standard and of significance for the development of Sweden's future competitiveness.

The Foundation prioritises research within the following areas:

- Life Sciences
- Biotechnology, Medical Technology and other Life Science Technologies
- Materials Sciences & Technologies
- Information, Communication & Systems Technologies
- Computational Sciences and Applied Mathematics

Priority is also given to interdisciplinary research that integrates these areas.

Eligibility

- This programme is aimed at researchers of the underrepresented gender who will, during the period of the grant, be active at a Swedish university or research institute. Applicants must provide a certificate from the dean of faculty or department head that he/she belongs to the underrepresented gender at the department where the research will be conducted. Furthermore, the situation in the subject area as a whole with regard to gender aspects and imbalances should be described. The certificate must clarify that great disparities exist in the gender distribution within the area in question, and specify the reasons why it is important to correct this great imbalance between the genders. The imbalance will be one of the factors that decide how the applicants will be ranked.
- The Foundation anticipates that recipients hold positions equivalent to assistant university lecturer, senior lecturer or associate professor or that the grant is used to establish such a position, or a higher position.
- Applicants must have obtained their PhDs in 2007 or later [adjusted for documented parental leave and, in the case of MD-PhDs, clinical internship (AT)].

The announced programme is not open to researchers who have previously received grants from either of the programmes *Ingvar Carlsson Award* or *Individual grants for the advancement of research leaders*. If an applicant should simultaneously apply to one of these programmes during the application and evaluation period for the present call for proposals and be a candidate for several grants, negotiations will be held during the final phase so that only one grant from SSF will be allocated.

Grantees will participate in a mandatory programme for leadership development. Three percent of each grant will be retained by SSF to be used by the project leader for commercial exploitation of the results of the project.

Evaluation criteria

Given that a candidate has passed the eligibility criteria given above, the following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- The qualifications of the applicant, including previous scientific accomplishments, international experience, and networks
- The scientific quality of the research plan, including originality and feasibility
- The strategic relevance of the proposed research to Swedish industry and/or society and the potential for utilisation of the results of the proposed research
- The leadership potential and management skills of the applicant

Evaluation process

Applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee consisting of 8 – 12 members, primarily Swedish scientific experts in academia and industry. The Evaluation Committee will perform a first selection in which the applications will be assessed with respect to how well they conform to the requirements of the call for proposals as outlined above.

The remaining applications will each be reviewed by at least three external scientific reviewers. Based on these assessments and the Committee's own deliberations, the Committee will present a final recommendation to the Governing Board of the Foundation, which will make the final decision with regard to the grants.

Application

A full proposal should, among other information specified in the web portal, include the following:

- Research plan including a description of how the research group and network will be built up
- Strategic relevance and importance of the proposed research
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- Tentative budget
- Certificate from the dean of faculty or department head

To get a complete overview of all particulars to be submitted with an application, it is necessary to consult the electronic portal. Please log on to the portal well in advance of the deadline.

Submission of application

The proposals must be written in English and submitted via the electronic application system (portal) of the Foundation at <http://apply.stratresearch.se>.

All applications must be submitted by **12 September 2013 at 14:00 hrs (2 pm CET)**.

No additional material will be considered after this deadline.

Please note that the Foundation is subject to the principle of public access to official records (*Offentlighetsprincipen*). Avoid submitting information on details that could prevent patenting.

Preliminary time schedule

June 2013	Programme announcement
12 September 2013	Deadline for submission of full proposal
March/April 2014	Final decision by the Governing Board

Contact person at SSF

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