



Announcement

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) announces a call for proposals for the 2008

INGVAR CARLSSON AWARD

A programme for postdocs returning to Sweden from abroad to start their research career

Background

It is highly desirable from a national viewpoint to create opportunities for researchers who have been abroad for postdoctoral studies to start their own research activities on returning to Sweden. The transition from postdoctoral studies to independent research often constitutes a bottleneck in a scientific career. With this in mind, the Board of the Foundation decided in December 2004 to establish a special programme to encourage young postdocs to come back to work in Sweden. 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, well-qualified postdocs who intend to start independent, lasting and creative research careers on their return to Sweden.

The research to be conducted should have a potential to strengthen Sweden's future competitiveness.

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 to the grant, each individual will be awarded a personal scholarship of SEK 50,000. A leadership training programme will be arranged for the grantees.

The Foundation anticipates that recipients will hold 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 to build up an independent laboratory. Up to one-third of the grant may be used to cover the recipient's own salary. The Foundation does not assume any responsibility for funding of the fourth year.

Eligibility

This announcement covers research in all areas relevant to the objective of the Foundation according to its statutes. Thus, the Foundation supports research in the natural sciences, engineering and medicine, its aim being to promote the development of strong research environments of the highest international standards and enhance Sweden's future competitiveness. Important research fields currently funded by the Foundation include electronics, information technology, life sciences and bioengineering, materials science, production and process technologies, as well as interdisciplinary research integrating these areas.

The following criteria apply for eligibility:

- The applicant must have received his or her PhD at a Swedish university not earlier than 1 January, 2006 (adjusted for documented parental leave and, in the case of MDs, any clinical internship/residency period(AT).
- The applicant must have conducted continuous postdoctoral studies outside Sweden for at least 12 months prior to the application deadline.
- The applicant must become permanently active at a university in Sweden. His or her work should have started not earlier than 1 January, 2008 and should start not later than 31 March, 2010.

As greater mobility in the university world is an important objective of the Foundation, it will give priority to applicants who plan to conduct their research activities in a different department or research group, or choose another research environment, than the one(s) where their PhD studies took place. The applicant shall indicate at which Swedish university/university college he or she plans to conduct research. In the event of an affirmative decision, the intended institution must be able to guarantee the applicant's salary equivalent to at least the fourth year of a "forskarassistent" (research assistant) or "biträdande lektor/lektor" (Assistant Lecturer/Lecturer) post.

Selection criteria

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

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

Selection process

This announcement will be distributed to Swedish universities. Information will also be published in international scientific journals in order to address postdocs presently residing outside Sweden. The Foundation appreciates any assistance in the dissemination of this announcement to prospective applicants.

The application process takes place in one step; full proposals only are accepted.

Applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee consisting of 10 to 15 members, primarily Swedish scientific experts in academia. The Selection Committee will perform a first selection in which applications will be assessed with respect to the extent to which they conform to the announcement as well as to the scientific quality and strategic relevance of their proposals. The remaining applications will each be reviewed by at least three external scientific evaluators. Based on these assessments and the Committee's own deliberations, the latter 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 include the following:

- Description of dissertation work
- Description of postdoctoral work
- Research plan for the initial three years back in Sweden
- Description of how the proposed research will be implemented in Sweden.
- Strategic relevance and importance of the planned research
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of publications
- Three letters of recommendation (*Three letters of recommendations should be enclosed with the application – one from the applicant's dissertation supervisor, one from the applicant's postdoctoral supervisor, and one from a senior researcher chosen by the applicant*).

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>.

The submission period for full proposals opens on 10 November 2008. All applications must be submitted by **2 February 2009 at 14:00 (2 pm CET) at the latest**. Detailed instructions will be found at the electronic portal.

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

November 2008	Programme announcement
2 February 2009	Deadline for submission of full proposal
October 2009	Final decision by the Governing Board
End of 2009	Award ceremony

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