



STIFTELSEN för
STRATEGISK FORSKNING

2016-04-11
ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF)
calls for proposals for the 2016**

INGVAR CARLSSON AWARD, ICA-7

**A programme for postdocs returning to Sweden from abroad
to establish an independent research career**

Background

From a Swedish viewpoint it is highly desirable to offer opportunities to repatriate researchers after a successful postdoctoral period abroad and to enable them to set up their research activities more on their own conditions. The transition from postdoctoral studies to independent research often constitutes a bottleneck in a scientific career. With this in mind, the Foundation decided in 2004 to establish a programme to encourage young postdocs to return to Sweden, preferably at a different university compared to where the PhD studies were performed. 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 an independent, lasting, and creative research career upon 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 MSEK 48 to fund twelve three-year grants, each of MSEK 4 (including overhead). The grants include a personal scholarship of SEK 60 000 that will be awarded to each recipient, in appreciation of their relocation.

The grants should be used to assemble a research group. Up to one-third of the grant may be used to cover the recipient's own salary.

A leadership training programme will be arranged for the grantees. Participation in this leadership programme is compulsory.

Eligibility

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:

- Computational Sciences and Applied Mathematics
- Information, Communication, and Systems Technology
- Life Sciences
- Life Science Technology
- Materials Science and Technology

as well as multidisciplinary research integrating these areas.

The following criteria apply for eligibility:

For all applicants

- The applicant must have received his or her PhD at a Swedish or foreign university not earlier than 1 January, 2012 [adjusted for documented parental leave and, in the case of MD-PhDs, clinical internship (AT- allmäntjänstgöring)].
- The applicant must have conducted continuous postdoctoral studies outside Sweden, at a university different from the one where he or she graduated, during least 12 months prior to the application deadline.
- The (successful) applicant must become permanently active at a university in Sweden. His or her work in Sweden should have started not earlier than 1 September, 2015 and not later than 31 August, 2017.

In addition, for applicants with a PhD from a university outside Sweden:

- The applicant must have completed a basic academic degree within the Swedish higher education system, achieving a qualification equivalent to both of a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degree.

Increased personal mobility in the academic world is an important objective of the Foundation. Thus, for applicants with a Swedish PhD, priority will be given to those who plan to conduct their research activities in a new research environment, i.e. different from the one where their PhD studies took place. It is expected that the successful applicant will move to another university or department.

All applicants shall indicate at which Swedish university (or university college) they plan to conduct their research. In the event of an affirmative funding decision, the intended host university must guarantee a research position for the grant holder during the three-year SSF support period, as well as continued financial support (salary) for at least one more year.

The research project is to be implemented during the period from 1 September 2017 until 31 August 2021.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will apply in the evaluation process:

- Qualification of the applicant, including previous scientific accomplishments, international experience, and networks.
- 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 utilisation of the results of the proposed research.
- Mobility of the applicant to a different Swedish university with respect to where the PhD (earlier) degree was obtained.

Evaluation process

Applications will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee consisting of 10 - 15 members, primarily Swedish scientific experts in academia. The Evaluation Committee will perform a first selection in which the applications will be assessed with respect to how well they conform to the announcement 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 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

The proposal must be written in English and submitted via the web portal of the Foundation at <http://apply.stratresearch.se>. To get a complete view of all data required for submission it is necessary to consult the electronic portal. Please log on to the portal in good time before the deadline.

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

- Description of dissertation work
- Description of postdoctoral work
- Research plan
- Strategic relevance and importance of the proposed research
- Other grants
- Curriculum Vitae
- List of 15 selected publications
- Formal Diploma(s) (corresp.) for degree(s) obtained before the Doctorate
- Doctorate Diploma

All applications must be submitted by **22 September 2016 at 14:00 hours** (2:00 pm CET) at the latest. 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

May 2016

22 September 2016

March/April 2017

June 2017

Programme announcement

Deadline for submission of full proposal

Final decision by SSF

Award ceremony

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