



STIFTELSEN för
STRATEGISK FORSKNING

Research Institute PhD 2016

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) is allocating SEK 20 million for a programme for research institute doctoral students. Each grant in the programme provides funding for research and postgraduate studies for a doctoral student who is employed at a Swedish research institute, in collaboration between industry and academia. The grant runs for four to five years and shall result in a doctorate (Ph.D.). SSF expects to fund eight projects at SEK 2.5 million each (including indirect costs) in this call for proposals.

Introduction

Research institutes play an important role in creating and disseminating knowledge and technology in society and in driving innovation. According to its statutes, SSF shall foster the development of strong research environments with high strategic relevance, support postdoctoral studies and collaboration between academia and industry, and promote the international mobility of researchers between universities, institutes and companies. SSF has two existing programmes that contribute to these goals: Strategic Mobility (SM) and Industry Doctoral Student (ID). A valuable complement is a new programme called Research Institute Doctoral Student (FID) aimed at supporting doctoral students active at research institutes.

The purpose of the programme is to contribute to excellent research within SSF's areas of activity and to foster cross-fertilization between academia and industry. This can also lead to greater knowledge of the different conditions under which people work in academia and industry.

How the programme works

The programme is aimed at persons who have not yet been admitted to a doctoral studies programme. The doctoral student must have at least 80% employment at the research institute for the entire period of the grant. Two qualified persons shall serve as supervisors for the doctoral student during the period of the grant – one at the higher education institution (HEI) and one at the research institute. The supervisor at the research institute is the applicant (who submits the application and ensures that it meets the requirements) and assumes the role of project leader (responsible for reporting to SSF) if the project is granted funding. The institute where the project leader is employed is the administering organization (receives and administers the grant). There shall be a steering group consisting at least of the two supervisors for the project, who shall be firmly embedded in their respective bodies' line organizations. A co-supervisor from a collaborating company or clinic may also be appointed.

The application shall include a project description defining what work will be done. The project description must be formulated jointly by the research institute and the HEI. The project description shall also describe planned ways to facilitate an exchange of knowledge between the institute and the HEI and dissemination of this knowledge to industry and society, ranging from the fact that the doctoral student works in both environments to joint seminars, etc. On submission of the application, declarations of intent shall be provided by both the HEI (department head or equivalent) and the

institute (research director, unit head or equivalent). Both of these parties shall confirm the need for knowledge exchange and new knowledge acquisition, and ensure that the necessary practical arrangements are made for the execution of the project. The parties shall furthermore attest to the fact that the supervisors are competent and have a mandate and time allocated for this purpose.

The institute doctoral student who is the intended recipient of the grant shall meet the requirements for admission to the doctoral programme and be employed at the institute before the project begins. The doctoral student shall devote the equivalent of four years of full-time work to the project. Beyond that, up to 20% of the doctoral student's working hours can be devoted to other activities such as departmental duties, if this work is funded by the HEI or a company. During the period of the grant, the institute doctoral student shall pursue research and his/her own postgraduate studies in science, engineering or medicine.

The HEI must be Swedish. The institute shall be well-established and must have sufficient competence to be able to both contribute to and benefit from the research findings. The institute shall be registered in Sweden.

Project collaboration with industry and/or the health care sector is a merit.

The parties are jointly responsible for framing agreements on how IPR matters and the like are to be handled between them.

The Foundation's grant is SEK 2.5 million, which is expected to cover about half of what a doctoral project normally costs, in particular the doctoral student's salary and operating costs. The institute and the HEI are expected to provide whatever additional funds are required for a smoothly functioning project.

The grant may not be used for supervisors' salaries, but solely for costs directly related to the institute doctoral student's project. Representatives of the parties shall attest at the time of application that they are agreed on the total cost of the project and how the costs are to be shared between them. Indirect costs (overheads) may only be paid from the grant up to the equivalent of a surcharge of 35% on the direct costs. The grant may not be used to cover costs for unspecified or unjustified "bench fees" for the doctoral student.

The grant shall result in a Ph.D. 25% of the grant will be withheld until a final report has been submitted, including a copy of the Ph.D. certificate, and approved by SSF. If a doctorate has not been obtained in conjunction with a final report to SSF, 25% of the grant must be returned to SSF (with reservation for extensions on account of parental leave or illness).

Judgement criteria

The applications will be assessed by a specially composed evaluation committee consisting of external experts. The following criteria will be taken into account in the selection process:

- The scientific quality of the research project.
- Relevance and expected societal impact
- Mutuality (regarding needs and engagement) in the declarations of intent from the two parties, including a plan for integration of the institute doctoral student in the institute's organization (based on current form of employment and position) and a professional development plan for the doctoral student.
- Qualifications and competence of steering group/supervisors.
- Relationships: for example, there may be no financial or personal dependencies between the institute, the doctoral student, the HEI and the supervisors or with beneficiaries of the results, e.g. companies.

Instructions

The applicant is a project leader and a supervisor at the research institute. The entire application, including appendices, is filled out electronically at <http://apply.strateresearch.se> and shall include a complete application form consisting mainly of (in addition to what is stated in the portal):

- Research plan
- CV and list of publications for both supervisors
- Declarations of intent from the academic party and the institute describing the need for the applied-for project (signed by a department head or equivalent at the university and the research director, unit head or equivalent at the institute)
- Brief description and required qualifications of a prospective doctoral student (education and experience)
- Relevance and expected societal impact, including description of how intellectual property rights (IPRs) are to be handled contractually between the parties.
- Budget
- Description of the institute with specifics such as corporate ID number, number of employees, net turnover and activities
- Description of any and all dependency relationships (past or present) between the institute, the doctoral student, the HEI and the supervisors or with other actors and stakeholders in the project.
- Form of employment and position of the individual at the institute who will be a doctoral student.

The application must be written in English.

The deadline for applications is 14:00 hrs on 31 March 2017. The estimated earliest possible project start is 1 September 2017, but not later than 31 March 2018.

Note that all Foundation records are open to the public (offentlighetsprincipen). For this reason, do not send material that may not be made public at the present time, for example because it might jeopardize patenting.

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