



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

SSF Sabbaticals;

Expanding Horizons by Strategic Research Expeditions

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research (SSF) announces SEK 58 million in this call for proposals for a strategic sabbatical leave, during 2024-2027. The grant provides funding for research expeditions of one to two years outside of Sweden. The maximum grant per person is MSEK 3.

Background

This Call complements other mobility programs at SSF, including Strategic Mobility, Industrial PhD, Research Institute PhD, Industrial postdoc, and Adjunct Professor. According to its statutes SSF incentivizes interdisciplinarity, mobility of researchers, and internationalization with the aim of having a positive impact on the future competitiveness of Sweden.

In 2024, the Foundation completes 30 years of operation, and presents this Call as part of its Jubilee.

Aim and Scope

The purpose of the program is to contribute to excellent research through internationalization, multidisciplinary, and mobility. The program is aimed at promoting truly strategic initiatives from individuals who makes bold moves in a new setting from their present. Research expeditions of 12-24 months should be made to an organization abroad, with preference given to university, industry, hospital clinic, major research infrastructure or research institute.

The aim is to widen the applicant's competence with the renewal of research direction for leverage upon repatriation. The program is open to scholars employed full-time (tenured) as lecturer or professor at a Swedish higher education institute.

The grant may be used to cover the scholar's own salary, travel, accommodation, insurance, and running (operational) expenses, but not cover other salaries or investments in equipment. The grants include a personal stipend of SEK 50 000 to each awardee, in support of their expedition. This stipend can only be requested after the applicant has been settled in the destination country.

Eligibility

- SSF research areas are Natural sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.
- Sabbatical initiatives should constitute a significant shift in discipline or sector for the applicant. Added value will be prioritized.
- Applicants must hold full-time (at least 80%) tenured employment with a Swedish university or university college as full lecturer (not junior or assistant) or professor (including associate but excluding emeritus). The sabbatical should be completed before the applicant reaches the government-decided LAS-retirement age.
- Applicants will not be allowed to hold grants from other Swedish funding agencies for the same purpose. Additional support from the foreign host is welcome.
- The research expedition should be continuous, and full time, over the applied period (12-24 months).
- The sabbatical must begin during 2024.
- Previous grant holders of the SSF Sabbatical Call 2019 cannot apply again.

Evaluation procedure

The proposals will be reviewed and selected by an evaluation committee, consisting of experts from academia and industry with experience in mobility, multidisciplinary, and cross-sectorial work. Selected proposals must meet the eligibility criteria, represent excellent scientific quality, meet a greater research challenge, and be of strategic relevance for Sweden.

The evaluation committee will present a granting recommendation to the SSF Board which will make the final decision.

Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will be applied in the selection process:

- Degree of change in research field and/or sector in the proposed relocation.
- Scientific quality and renewal of the research plan, including originality and feasibility, as well as added academic value upon repatriation.
- Qualification and potential of the applicant.
- Strategic relevance and potential impact for industry and/or society.

The foundation strives for an equal gender distribution of the awarded grants. Underrepresented gender will be applied as a boundary condition when applications are of otherwise equivalent quality.

Submission of proposals

The proposal shall be written in English and submitted via the Foundation's electronic application portal: <http://apply.strategiska.se>, by no later than **2 pm on March 5, 2024**. The proposal shall, among other information specified in the portal, include:

- Research plan
- Strategic relevance
- Curriculum vitae
- List of selected publications
- Budget, maximum 3 MSEK, including all extra costs for foreign employment (utlandstjänstgöring) and overheads (maximum 25% on the direct costs)
- Invitation letter from the receiving organisation
- Letter of Intent from the head of the department confirming tenured employment and that the university will manage the grant during the foreign placement.

No additional material will be accepted after application deadline. Note that this also includes letters of recommendation – and the fact that these shall not be provided separately from the recommender but make up part of the application as such.

Time schedule

- 4 October 2023 Call opens
- 5 March 2024 Application deadline
- March-April Evaluation panel review
- June Decision
- 1 July 2024 Earliest project start
- 31 December 2024 Latest project start

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Please note that the Foundation is subject to the Principle of Public Access to Official Records (Offentlighetsprincipen). Thus, applicants should avoid submitting material that they do not wish to be made public, e.g. information that could prevent patenting.