



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

SSF SwedNESS postdoc & repatriation, 2021

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, SSF, has allocated SEK 20 million to finance about seven grants for SwedNESS postdocs.

This Call is directed exclusively to SwedNESS enlisted PhD:s, that graduate(d) in 2021 - 2023. The grant cover a postdoc period abroad for up to two years and subsequent repatriation in Sweden for up to one year. The postdoc stay shall be located at an international neutron scattering facility or at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) closely tied to such a facility.

Introduction

SSF decided on 10 June 2015 to announce a graduate school in neutron scattering-based science, contributing to competence building in relation to the European Spallation Source, ESS. SEK 220 million was reserved for the purpose, which entailed recruitment of 40 doctoral students, course development and internationalisation. The graduate school started 2016-08-01 and the first PhD:s graduated autumn 2021. SSF is now adding MSEK 20 to this investment, which is projected to be followed up by an additional MSEK 20 towards the second cohort of PhD:s upon their graduation.

Purpose

The Foundation has a strategic mission to fund research of the highest quality that contributes to Sweden's future competitiveness. Furthermore, the Foundation shall promote mobility of researchers. ESS' location to Sweden provides competitive opportunities to Sweden in a broad field of Natural Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. The purpose of this call is to increase international mobility and knowledge transfer in general and to capitalize on the competence pool created by SwedNESS in particular.

How the program works

The program is aimed at promoting SwedNESS PhD:s who wish to pursue an academic or entrepreneurial career of relevance for ESS. During the postdoc, the researcher must conduct strategic research within one of the Foundation's areas; natural sciences, engineering or medicine. The postdoc stay shall be located abroad at an international neutron scattering facility or at a Higher Education Institution (HEI) closely tied to such a facility. The postdoc grantee must spend at least 80% of full time on site at this host institution of choice.

The grant will be paid to a Swedish HEI home organisation that will provide appropriate employment and administer the grant. In order to promote mobility even further, this home

institution must be separate from the one where the PhD was obtained, and located at any other HEI of choice in Sweden.

The projects will be monitored by annual reports and at the end of the international postdoc period a midterm report must be submitted, which will be reviewed externally. If this report is positive SSF will provide continued support for re-patriation at the Swedish home organisation.

The duration of the project should, typically, be three years in total, of which one to two years abroad plus one to two years repatriation, if approved at mid term. A letter of Intent (LoI) must be submitted by the host institution, as well as by the home organisation.

SSF will fund approved postdocs with maximum MSEK 3 divided on the postdoc period and repatriation, in total. SEK 50 000 of the grant will be issued as a personal stipend in order to facilitate relocations. 35 percent overhead cost on the direct costs (excluding the stipend) is allowed.

The funds shall primarily be used for salary for the postdoc candidate, but any excess funds may be used for travels, conferences, and consumables. No other persons salary can be covered.

The application must include a research plan including, research challenge, description of state of the art, who the postdoc will cooperate with, description of the strategic relevance of the proposed project and description of the relevance to ESS.

The potential postdoc is the applicant (submits the application and reports the approved project to SSF) and the home organisation is the administrative organisation (receives and administers the grant).

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated by an evaluation committee consisting of external experts. The following criteria will be applied:

- The qualifications of the postdoc candidate and the quality of the proposed project
- The host institutions' potential for meeting the needs and ambitions of the postdoc candidate
- Mutuality/engagement in the declarations of intent from home and host organisation
- The strategic relevance of the proposed postdoc exchange for Sweden
- The relevance for future Swedish utilisation of ESS.

Instructions

The entire application, including appendices, is filed electronically at <http://apply.strategiska.se> and must include a complete application form consisting of (in addition to what is stated in the portal):

- Research plan, research challenge, composition of present and of planned collaborators, description of state of the art, and relevance for ESS
- Strategic relevance for Sweden
- Letter of intent from home and host organisation

- Applicant's CV and selected publications
- Budget.

The deadline for applications is 14:00 pm on February 17, 2022. Decision by SSF: no later than June 2022. Please write the application in English.

The projects must start no later than 2023.

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.

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