



SWEDISH FOUNDATION *for*
STRATEGIC RESEARCH

SSF Individual Grants 2025 Ingvar Carlsson Award – *Across the Atlantic*

The Swedish Foundation for Strategic Research, SSF, has allocated SEK 45 million to finance research grants for US-based scientists seeking professional repatriation to Sweden.

This Call is directed exclusively to researchers having a present position in the US academia and that have a previous or present connection to Sweden. The grant covers a research period in Sweden for five years, at a Swedish Higher Education Institution (HEI, e.g. a university).

Introduction

SSF is an independent research foundation whose statutes include promoting mobility of researchers internationally.

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to give an opportunity for US-based researchers with a Swedish connection to repatriate to Sweden, where they can continue and develop their line of research at a Swedish university.

How the program works

The applicant must have an ongoing tenure track or tenured research position at an American academic institution at the time of the deadline for this call. The applying researcher must also have a connection to Sweden in the form of an active or previous Swedish citizenship or a Master or PhD degree from a higher educational institute (HEI) in Sweden. This Swedish connection must be supported by providing a copy of one of these three mentioned documents or diplomas to SSF at the time of the application.

The receiving Swedish HEI where the applicant will set up his or her research must provide a letter of intent confirming that a tenured position in the form of a professorship or associate professorship (in Swedish: *professor*, *biträdande professor* or *lektor*) will be offered. The ICA-awardee must be employed at a minimum 80 percent at the Swedish HEI during the project period.

The academic age of the applicant must be 7 – 12 years counting from the date of the PhD diploma to the date of the deadline to this call. Adjustment for documented post-doctoral parental leave, sick leave and/or for post-doctoral clinical internship (AT) can be applied on the time window, if the PhD is further back in time than the period stated above. Parental leave can only be accounted for up to maximum one year per child.

The researcher must conduct strategic research within one of the Foundation's statute areas; Natural Sciences, Engineering, or Medicine. The grant will be paid to the Swedish HEI that provides the tenured employment and administers the grant.

The duration of the project is five years and the grant is MSEK 15 in total. The funds are intended for the salary of the repatriated scholar, and for cost related to the research group of the repatriated scholar, such as PhD-salaries, postdoc salaries, staff salaries and other costs such as materials, travels and consumables. No more than 25 per cent of the salary of the applicant can be covered by the grant, steadfastly the engagement of the hosting HEI in this strategic recruitment. 25 percent overhead cost on the direct costs is allowed. No other academic senior faculty salary can be covered by the grant.

The application must include a detailed research plan including, research challenge, milestones, description of state of the art, who the scholar will cooperate with, research setting and available resources and description of the strategic relevance of the proposed project for Sweden.

Eligibility and evaluation criteria

Applications will be assessed by external experts. The applications will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- Conformity to the scope of the Call and eligibility as outlined above
- Scientific quality; originality, strengths, weaknesses, and feasibility of the research plan
- Strategic relevance, and potential impact to Swedish industry and/or society
- Qualifications of the applicant, international experience and networks, and leadership/management of research teams.

SSF practices equal opportunity for all applicants.

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 application portal):

- Research plan, research challenge, composition of present and of planned collaborators, description of state of the art
- Strategic relevance description
- Letter of intent confirming tenured position from a Swedish HEI
- Document/diploma confirming a Swedish connection
- Diploma confirming academic age (PhD-year)
- Applicant's CV (also presenting present US position) and selected publications
- Budget.

Please write the application in English.

Time schedule

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| • May, 2025 | Call for proposals opens |
| • September 23, 2025, 14.00 CEST | Application deadline |
| • December, 2025 | Decision by the SSF board |
| • January 1 - June 30, 2026 | Project start |

Contact at SSF

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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.