Starting Grant – Medicine and Health

The aim of this grant is to offer junior researchers the opportunity to become established as independent researchers. The Swedish Research Council supports basic research of high quality in national competition.

Summary

Type of grant	Career Support funding
Area	Medicine and Health
Applicant	Individual researcher with a doctoral degree awarded more than 2 and up to 7 years ago
Participating researchers	Participating researchers may not be invited to join the application
Grant period	4 years
Grant amount	1 500 000 SEK per year
Call deadline	21 March 2017 (14.00/2 p.m.)
Publication of grant award decisions	No later than beginning of November 2017
Grant period start date	January 2018

Read more about previously awarded grants

Eligibility criteria for grant applications

You must fulfil the requirements set out below to be eligible to apply for the grant. We will carry out checks in order to ensure that ineligible applications are rejected from further processing.

Applicant

The Starting Grant is open to individual researchers. You will be the project leader and scientific supervisor of the project and your active participation in the project must equal at least 50 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You must hold a Swedish doctoral degree or an equivalent foreign degree awarded more than two years and no more than seven years ago at the deadline of this call.

The grant will be administered by a Swedish HEI, or another public organisation in Sweden that fulfils the Swedish Research Council's requirements for administrating organisations . Please note that you will not be able to apply unless your organisation is an approved administrating organisation

If you are awarded funding, you must be employed by the administrating organisation when the grant period begins unless the Swedish Research Council, the administrating organisation or another employer (where applicable) agree otherwise. The employment must equal at least 50 per cent of a full-time equivalent. You do not have to be employed by the administrating organisation when the application is submitted.

Read more about the researcher recruitment guidelines in the European Charter for Researchers on the EU website

Career age

You may apply for a Starting Grant if your doctoral degree was awarded more than two years and up to seven years ago at the application deadline of this call, that is, awarded no later than 21 March 2015 and 21 March 2010 at the earliest. The date of issue will be considered to be the point in time when all the requirements were fulfilled, for example mandatory courses, the oral defence of the doctoral thesis and the approved doctoral thesis. You will not be able to finalise your application if your doctoral degree was awarded less than two years or more than seven years before the deadline.

You may however be eligible to apply on the basis of an older doctoral degree if you can present a reason for a time deduction that is recognised by the Swedish Research Council. The circumstances recognised as valid reasons by the Swedish Research Council include: parental leave, positions of trust in trade union organisations and student organisations, mandatory service in the total defence service, illness (own illness or care of close family members), medical internships or medical fellowship (applies to clinically active professionals). The last two categories may involve periods of up to 24 months each. Please note that other employment, periods of unemployment or annual leave do not constitute valid reasons in this regard.

Should you wish to claim such deductible periods of time, you must specify the reason and extent thereof in the application (see instructions under Descriptive data below).

We carry out random sampling checks and may request that you provide us with certificates that enable us to verify the reasons for time deduction included in your application.

Number of applications and previous grants

What grants may I apply for simultaneously from the Swedish Research Council?

You may only submit one application for this grant under this call for applications. You may not apply for an undirected research project grant in parallel. Please note that should you be awarded a starting grant, you will not be eligible as applicant for an undirected research project grant from the Swedish Research Council during the grant period.

Other restrictions in regard to you may apply for during the same year are shown in the table below.

Table: Grants that can be applied for in parallel

What eligibility criteria apply to ongoing research grants from the Swedish Research Council?

There are certain restrictions if you are the project leader of an grant already awarded and ongoing, with a grant period (disbursement period from the Swedish Research Council) overlapping the grant period of the current grant application. Please note that the period of availability, i.e. the period during which you may draw on the grant awarded, is generally longer than the grant period. You will find information on the rules that apply to your ongoing grant in the "Approval of terms" that you received from the Swedish Research Council. You may not apply for the starting grant if you have an ongoing research project grant for junior researchers (or if you have previously been the project leader of such a grant, which has now ended).

See the table below for further information on grants that are eligible for holders of ongoing grants.

Table: Grants eligible for applicants with ongoing grants

Note: If you have been the project leader for grants from the Swedish Research Council before, you will only be able to apply for a new grant if the final financial report for all previous grants were submitted within the stipulated time period. Please contact your administrating organisation if you are unsure whether all your final financial reports have been submitted.

What eligiblity criteria apply to applications to or grants from other funding bodies?

If your application to the Swedish Research Council is for the same project concept as a grant awarded from or applied for to another funding body, please state so.

Participating researchers

You may not include any participating researchers in this application. Any collaboration partners and their roles shall be presented in the research plan (see instructions under Research plan below).

Costs and grant funding

The grant consists of a flat rate amount of 1 500 000 SEK per year, including indirect costs.

The grant may be used to cover all kinds of project-related costs, such as salaries (including your own salary, which must correspond to no more than your dedicated time in the project), premises costs, operating costs (such as consumables, travel costs including visits to research centres, publishing costs and minor equipment) and depreciation. The grant may not be used for scholarships. If a doctoral student takes part in the project, the grant may not be used to pay for his/her teaching hours.

The Swedish Research Council expects the administrating organisation, in its capacity of responsible employer, to cover any cost exceeding the awarded flat rate amount.

Grant period

The grant is awarded for a period of four years, starting from January 2018. The first payment is made in January 2018.

How do I apply?

You apply electronically through Prisma 🖵, which is the application system used by the Swedish Research Council. You create an application in the Prisma system by filling out the text fields, retrieving information from your personal account, and attaching the required appendices.

In order for you to be able to apply, your organisation must have become an approved administrating organisation 🖵 and created an organisation account in Prisma.

Most of the required steps in Prisma are described in the User Manual 🖵 and the FAQ answers 🖵. Please refer to these documents when you write your application.

Please avoid stating your or anybody else's full personal identity number in the application except where specifically requested.

Creating a personal account in Prisma

Before applying, you must create a personal account in Prisma 🖵, where you will store your personal data and your CV. The information only has to be entered once, and may subsequently be supplemented or amended whenever necessary. The account will also enable you to register your publications for future use. Please note that publications stored in your account cannot be transferred to the application form. The reason for this is that the publications function is still under development and has not yet been implemented in the Swedish Research Council's calls. The publications list must therefore be presented in the form of an attached PDF file (see instructions under Publications below).

Please remember to create your personal account well in advance. The applications that you register in Prisma will be linked to your personal account.

Any participating administrators, who will be involved in the preparation of the application must also create an individual Prisma account, and agree to their participation.

Text

Some text fields are formattable, which means that in those fields you can change the font and size and insert certain tables, formulas and symbols. If you have written the text in advance using Microsoft Word, you will also be able to copy-paste the text and keep the initial formatting. Pictures can however not be inserted into the text fields.

All text fields have limitations as to the number of characters and this will be illustrated by means of a character counter. If you use too many characters you will not be able to register the application.

Attached documents and appendices

An appendix designed according to the instructions provided shall be attached to some fields. The appendix may only consist of one file, and you can only attach documents in PDF format. All appendices are limited in terms of file size and number of pages. You will not be able to attach a file that exceeds the stated maximum file size.

Signing

Both you, as applicant, and the official representative of the administrating organisation, must sign the application electronically in Prisma. More information can be found under Registering the application below.

What must the application contain?

Please familiarise yourself with the application form in Prisma at the same time as you read through the instructions below.

Language

The scientific assessment of the applications is partly done by foreign peer reviewers. To guarantee a well-functioning procedure and a level playing field in the review process, we therefore ask you to submit your application in English.

Application subsections

The application form contains the following tabs:

- Descriptive data
- Research description
- Budget and research resources
- Publications
- Letter of support
- Administrating organisation
- Review panels
- Participants (only administrators in this call)
- CV

Below you will find an outline of the information required under each tab. Mandatory information is marked with an asterisk (*) in Prisma.

Descriptive data

Under this tab, please list the project title in Swedish and English, and select SCB classification codes and keywords. Please also fill in any deductible time period that you wish to claim, and provide an abstract and a popular science description (see instructions below).

Deductible time periods

Enter any longer interruptions during your time as an active researcher after awarded doctoral degree that are due to a reason recognised by the Swedish Research Council. The research interruption period should

be calculated and presented on a full-time basis and be rounded to full calendar months. For information on what qualifies as a valid reason, please see the heading Career age above.

Abstract

The research plan abstract should contain a brief description of:

- The research activities to be undertaken.
- The project implementation: the project organisation, the time table and the scientific methods to be used.
- The significance of the planned research.

The abstract should include a brief outline of the aim and the implementation of the research activities. Please use wording that can also be understood by somebody with a different scientific background.

The outline may contain a maximum of 1 500 characters, including blank spaces (approximately half an A4 page in Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing).

Popular scientific description

Describe the project in a way that makes it possible to understand for a person not familiar with the subject. Describe why and how the research will be conducted, and explain in what way the new knowledge might be important.

The popular scientific description is an important tool for us when we provide information about research financed by the Swedish Research Council. If your application is approved, we therefore reserve the right to use the description for information purposes.

Note: Unlike the rest of the application, the popular scientific description must be written in Swedish.

The description may contain a maximum of 4 500 characters, including blank spaces (approximately one A4 page in Times New Roman, size 12, single spacing).

Research description

Under this tab, please enclose your research plan and describe ethical considerations.

Ethical considerations

Present the ethical issues raised by the research, and explain how they will be addressed in the research activities. We also ask you to indicate whether the research includes animal experiments, experiments involving human subjects, or the handling of personal data. If the research does not raise any ethical issues, this should also be stated.

Research plan

In this section please attach your research plan in a PDF format. Please note that the appendix may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 10 MB.

The research plan should consist of a short but complete description of the research task. The research plan should be given a forward-looking focus and comprise a maximum of ten page-numbered A4 pages in Times New Roman, font size 12, single spacing, including references and any images. **Please note that that any content in excess of the stated maximum number of pages will not be taken into account when assessing your application.** The following information must be included under separate headings in the research plan, listed in the given order:

- **Purpose and aims:** Present the overall purpose and specific objectives of the research project.

- **Survey of the field:** Outline previous research, either conducted by yourself or by others, as well as earlier research results in the field. Provide key references.
- **Project description:** Summarise the project by describing the theories, methods, time table and implementation. You should also outline the project organisation, and clarify your own and any other researchers' roles in the project.
- **Significance:** Describe the project's significance to the research area.
- **Preliminary results:** Describe your own experiments and pilot studies in the research area. If there are no preliminary results, this should also be stated.
- **Independent line of research:** If you are currently - or will be - working in a large group, please show how your project relates to the other projects of the group. If you are continuing work on a project that was fully or partly initiated during your doctoral or postdoctoral studies, you must also describe how your project relates to the research conducted by your former research advisor.

Provide information on the following points under a separate heading if relevant to your application:

- **Equipment:** Describe the basic equipment that you and the team will have at your disposal for the project.
- **Need for infrastructure:** Specify the need for international and national infrastructure within the project. Also specify the need for local infrastructure if such equipment depreciation costs are included in the application. Read more about research infrastructure supported by the Swedish Research Council.
- **International and national collaboration:** Describe your and your team's collaboration with Swedish/foreign researchers and research groups. Indicate whether you participate in, or refer to, international collaboration in your research. You may use project grant funds from the Swedish Research Council to co-finance EU projects with a similar focus. Indicate in the research plan whether such coordination is being envisaged.
- **Other applications or grants:** If you are applying or intend to apply for several research grants from the Swedish Research Council, you need to clarify how the projects relate to each other. This also applies if you have an ongoing grant awarded by the Swedish Research council with a grant period that wholly or partly overlaps the one you are now applying for. You should also justify why you are submitting several applications. Please account for the relationship with any other applications to or grants from other funding bodies (from you or another researcher) for the same project concept.
- **Clinical significance:** Describe in what ways the project findings may come into practical and clinical use in the medicine and health area.
- **Data analysis and statistics:** Modern methods often generate complex data. Please describe how you plan to analyse data collected in the project and the statistical methods used. If the project covers clinical studies, please include a power analysis.

Budget and research resources

Since the grant is awarded as a flat-rate amount, you do not have to provide a budget proposal in the application.

Explanation of the proposed budget

Briefly describe the main costs you intend to cover under the framework of the grant. The statement may contain a maximum of 2 000 characters including blank spaces (equivalent to approximately half an A4 page in Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing).

Other funding

List any other funding (whole or part) of the project received/applied for by you or any other researcher besides the funding requested in this application. Quote the rounded amounts in SEK.

Publications

Under this tab, please attach your publication list in PDF format. Please note that the appendix may only contain one file, with a maximum size of 10 MB.

Include publications made in the last eight years and mark the five publications that are the most relevant to the project with an asterisk (*). Please indicate your name in bold. Sort the publications under the following numbered headings in the given order:

1. **Peer-reviewed original articles**
2. **Peer-reviewed conference contributions** (the findings presented may not have been reported in other publications).
3. **Monographs**
4. **Research review articles**
5. **Books and book chapters**
6. **Popular science publications including books/presentations**

Note: Only include articles (or equivalent) that have been published or accepted for publication at the time of applying. The application cannot be supplemented with publications after the call has closed.

Letter of support

Here you should attach a formal letter of support from the HEI where the research will be conducted. The document must be in PDF format and not exceed two A4 pages in Times new Roman, font size 12, single spacing. Please note that the appendix must be presented as a single file of maximum 4 MB.

The letter of support must be written in English and be signed by an authorised representative of the HEI where the research will be conducted, for example the head of the department or equivalent. The applicant's name and the name and function/position of the authorised representative shall be clearly stated.

The letter of support shall contain the following information under the headings below:

Research profile

- A description of how the applicant's research fits into activities and future strategy of the HEI and the department
- A description of how the applicant fits into the activities with focus on the research and teaching merits
- A description of the applicant's scientific independence

Employment

- Information about the applicant's type of employment as well as funding of the employment during and after the grant period
- A description of the HEI's career plan (if applicable) for the applicant during the grant period

The administrating organisation will acknowledge its commitment by signing the application in Prisma.

Administrating organisation

Under this tab, please state the administrating organisation and the project site. The administrating organisation is the organisation that administers and accounts for the funds of the project awarded under the terms and conditions laid down. The project site is the organisational unit where the project will be based. The administrating organisation and the project site generally correspond to the HEI and the department where the project leader will be employed.

An application can only be linked to an administrating organisation with an approved Prisma account. Unless your administrating organisation already has such an account, please ask it to apply for an organisation account⧉ with the Swedish Research Council.

Please contact your administrating organisation if your project site does not appear on the list. You have to provide the project site information to be able to finalise the registration of the application.

Review panels

Under this tab, you are requested to enter the review panel, or review panels (in order of priority), that you wish to assess your application scientifically. The final decision on the allocation of applications between the review panels will be made by the Swedish Research Council.

Review panels ⧉

Participants

In this section, you may invite participating administrators to join the application. A participating administrator is a person who does not take part in the project itself but can help you register and edit information in the application. **Please note that you cannot include participating researchers in this application.**

You may invite participating administrators who do not yet hold a Prisma account. Each one of them must however open a personal Prisma account to be able to contribute to your application.

Any participating administrators must accept the invitation before you can finalise the application registration. Please make sure that you use the right email addresses when you send invitations to participants, and that each address is linked to invited person's Prisma account.

CV

Under this tab, please retrieve and enter relevant CV data stored in your personal Prisma account.

The following information (where available) must be included in your CV and limited to the number specified:

- **Education**: Graduate studies, specialist degree, as well as basic and advanced education.
- **Professional history**: Current employment (including whether it is a permanent position or not) and longer relevant positions you have held, postdoctoral visits (should also be included as a position/employment if applicable), research exchanges that are relevant for the research described and any longer interruption in the research that has affected your ability to qualify as a researcher.
- **Merits and awards**: Fellowship, supervised persons (postdocs and postgraduate students; indicate the total number for each category and indicate up to 10 persons that are most relevant), up to 10 of your most relevant awarded competitive grants, up to 10 of your most relevant awards and distinctions, as well as up to 20 potential other merits of relevance to the application.
- **Intellectual property:** For example patents and freely available computer programs that you have developed; please indicate up to 10 of your most relevant.

Registering the application

When you open the Registering the application tab, the system will perform a check to verify if any mandatory information is missing and inform you of any need for supplements. The application will not be registered unless you click the Register button.

Please remember to use the preview function in order to double-check your application before submitting it!

Note: Please note that all invited participants must accept your invitation before you can proceed to register the application. Invitations that have not been accepted have to be removed.

The registered application can then be viewed in your personal Prisma account, under Applications in the Applications and grants tab. If necessary, a registered application may be de-registered, edited and re-registered up to the call deadline.

You are responsible for ensuring that the application is complete, that is to say that the application form is filled out correctly, the required appendices are attached, and the requested information is provided in accordance with the instructions. Please only submit specifically requested information. After the closing date, additions to the application will only be accepted in cases where we have asked for them.

Signing the application

When you register the application, it will automatically be signed by you in your capacity of project leader. The application must also be signed by the official representative of the administrating organisation in order for it to be considered complete and be processed further in the review process. This representative is normally the head of the department where the research will be conducted, but that will depend on the organisational structure of your administrating organisation.

The signature *of the applicant* confirms that:

- The information contained in the application is correct and in line with the instructions from the Swedish Research Council.
- Any side-line occupation and/or commercial ties have been reported to the administrating organisation, and that no conflict with the principles of good research practice has been established.
- The necessary permits and approvals are in place at the start of the project, e.g. concerning the ethical review.

The signature *of the administrating organisation* confirms that:

- The organisation will accommodate the research and the equipment, and employ the applicant during the time period and to the extent presented in the application.
- The organisation approves the cost estimate presented in the application.
- The project will be conducted in accordance with Swedish law.

The parties must have discussed the above-mentioned points before the representative of the administrating organisation approves and signs the application.

Note: The official representative of the administrating organisation must have signed the application in Prisma no later than one week (seven calendar days) after the application deadline for it to be considered further in the review process.

What happens next?

When the call closes (14.00/2 p.m. on the final day for submission of applications), the registered application will automatically become final and given a registration number.

Your registered application will automatically be forwarded to the official representative of the administrating organisation, who shall sign the application no later than one week (seven calendar days) after the application deadline. You will receive an auto-generated email when the application has been signed.

You will find information about the status of the application, the registration number and the application signature under the tab Applications and grants in your account.

Scientific evaluation

The scientific assessment of the application will be made by active researchers. These peer reviewers evaluate each application (in competition with the other applications) on the basis of the assessment criteria established by the Swedish Research Council.

If an application does not comply with the instructions, this will be taken into account in the application review.

Review panels 🗗

How your application is evaluated 🗗

The Swedish Research Council's conflict of interest policy 🗗

The Swedish Research Council's gender equality strategy 🗗

Decisions

Shortly after the grant funding decisions have been taken, information on the grants awarded will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website. After that, a notification of decision and a final statement on your application can be found in your personal account in Prisma under the tab Applications and grants. The final statement contains the application grading and, in some cases, written comments.

Note: As from 12 October 2015, users of genetic resources (genetic material of actual or potential value) and traditional knowledge relating to genetic resourcesobtained after 12 October 2014, shall comply with the EU's ABS Regulation and make a "due diligence" declaration. This only applies to recipients of grant awards. "Due diligence" entails the user using that the genetic resource and the knowledge used have been obtained according to the applicable legislation of the country in question and that any benefit from the genetic resource is allocated in a fair and reasonable way.

Exceptions apply to research into: the human genome, material covered by the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, material included in the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework and genetic material obtained from international waters.

For questions about the EU's ABS Regulation and the due diligence declaration, please contact the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency 🗗 (information in Swedish).

Contact

Questions relating to the application content

For questions relating to the application content, please email: ansokmh@vr.se or telephone : +46 (0)8-546 44 050. The phone number is staffed weekdays from 9:00/9 a.m. to 16.00/4 p.m. during the opening period of the call.

Technical questions

In the first instance, please consult the help menu in the Prisma system, where you will find instructions and FAQs 🗗 as well as a detailed user manual 🗗, which describe most of the required steps in Prisma.

If you cannot find the answer to your technical question in the above-mentioned information material, please contact our technical support team 🗗. Please note that depending on the workload, it may take 1-2 working days before you get a reply.