Swedish Research Council

Grants Day 2019, Uppsala University

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This is the Swedish Research Council

The Council has a leading role in supporting research of the highest scientific quality in all areas of science, thereby contributing to the development of society.

In addition to supporting research, the Council also provides advice to the Government in matters concerning research.

An agency within the Ministry of Education and Research.
Our four missions

- **Funding research**: The Council is the largest public funding body for research at Swedish universities and higher education institutions.

- **Analysis, evaluation and surveys**: We analyse and monitor the research system and provide research policy advice to the Government.

- **Funding research infrastructure**: In order to give the best conditions for Swedish research, we fund national as well as international research infrastructure.

- **Research communication**: We coordinate communication on research and research results, as well as fund different activities and projects on this topic.

Annual budget is more than 6 billion SEK to research in all disciplines.

The Council funds more than 10% of the research at higher education institutes.
Our research funding
Our research funding

1. Open to researchers in all disciplines
Funds allocated per research area

According to SCB-code, proportion of approved funds 2016-2018

MH  N  S  HK  T  LV

2016 2017 2018
Our research funding

1. Open to researchers in all disciplines
2. Funding opportunities for multiple purposes and for all career-ages
3. Mainly open, ”non-targeted” funding
Types of research funding

- **Research project funding** – support to one or more researchers to carry out a specific research project

- **Research environment and Research collaboration funding** – support to a research objective or a research area in a long-term perspective

- **Operational grant funding** – support to activities which support research on a national or international level

- **Career support funding** – support for individual researchers to improve their academic career opportunities

- **Research infrastructure funding** – support for construction, operation and decommissioning of national or international research infrastructures
Our grants

Research project support
- Project grant
- Project grant with focus
- Proof of Concept

Career support
- International postdoc
- Starting grant
- Consolidator grant
- Grant for half-time researcher position in clinical environment

Research infrastructure support
- Research infrastructure of national importance

Research environment and Research collaboration support
- Research environment grant
- Distinguished professors
- Network grants
- Conference grants
- Exploratory workshops
- Doctoral programmes/graduate schools
- Guest researchers grant

Operational grant support
- Operational grants for research collaboration and institutes
- Journal grants
Our grants

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**Distinguished grant support**
- Research environment grant
- Distinguished professors
- Network grants
- Conference grants
- Exploratory workshops
- Doctoral programmes/graduate schools
- Guest researchers grant

Open to all.
Success rates 13-28 %.
Average grants 800 – 1 400 kSEK/y

2-7 years after PhD
Success rates 13-17 %.
Average grants 900 – 1 500 kSEK/y
Our research funding

1. Open to researchers in all disciplines
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3. Mainly open, "non-targeted" funding
4. Application in open competition where the best research ideas are rewarded
Success rates project grants
Our research funding

1. Open to researchers in all disciplines
2. Funding opportunities for multiple purposes and for all career-ages
3. Mainly open, "non-targeted" funding
4. Application in open competition where the best research ideas are rewarded
5. Open and transparent application and peer reviewing process
Our funding and reviewing process

- More than 40 different calls each year
- Multiple parallel reviewing processes (>20) every year
- More than 6,000 applications
- 90 review panels
- Approx. 900 reviewers
The peer-review process

Evaluation panels comprising active researchers

- 5 to 12 members in each panel
- Academic and geographical spread
- International panel members (40 %) contribute with an international perspective

Constant turnover of reviewers

- 1 year terms, can be extended up to 6 years

Strict guidelines on conflicts of interests, unconscious bias and gender equality to achieve an impartial process
Calls and applying in 2020
What and when to apply?

Filter by year and/or area

Upcoming calls listed (call texts found when call opens)
News (calls)

Humanities & Social sciences:
- Project grants - Digitization and accessibility of cultural heritage collection
- Research Environment Grants
- Scientific Journal Grants

Educational sciences:
- Exploratory workshops

All areas:
- Consolidator Grant
  - Biannual call; PhD 7-12 years
  - 2 Million SEK x 6 y
  - 20 grants awarded

- Guest Researcher Grant in Climate and Environment
  - In collaboration with Formas and Energimyndigheten
  - For recruiting prominent researchers from the USA

Other:
- No further Conference Grant calls from 2020
"What constitutes a successful application?"

- Find a solid idea/concept and present it well
- Read the instructions carefully (including info on how the application will be evaluated) and follow them
  - Call text
  - Guide for applicants
  - Prisma user manual
- Allow for sufficient time for preparing the application
  - Our calls close at 2.00 pm sharp
  - "Check and register" well before deadline
- Ask a colleague to read your application and give advise before submitting it
More info and contact

• Before call opens:
  - www.vr.se
  - Newsletter, Twitter: @Vetenskapsradet
  - "Old" call texts ("Closed calls" on website)
  - E-mail to utlysningar@vr.se (general questions only!)

• When applying in open call:
  - Contact persons (found in the call text)
  - Chat function
New task from the Government as of 2018, aiming to promote quality and future benefit of research

"...encourage inclusion of sex and gender perspectives in the research we fund, when applicable."

Will be implemented in most of our calls 2020 but how may differ depending on the specific area.

- Applicant to reflect on whether it is relevant to include these perspectives, and justify their position in their application
- Read call text for specific instructions
- Updated info on www.vr.se will come
Thank you!