




STINT

The Swedish Foundation for International
Cooperation in Research and Higher Education



The Internationalisation of Research and Higher Education

The Swedish Foundation for International Cooperation in Research and Higher Education, STINT, is part of a group of Swedish research foundations that were formed in 1994. STINT was set up by an act of Parliament as an endowed, independent foundation. The Board of Directors has nine members drawn from academia and Swedish society. Members are appointed by the Minister of Education and Research. The foundation is headed by an Executive Director who reports to the Board of Directors.

The foundation's mandate is to internationalise Swedish research and higher education.

This mandate covers all academic fields and disciplines. International contacts and genuine experience working in academia abroad should be viewed as a natural and necessary feature of research and higher education.

International collaboration and exchange must be a regular feature of Swedish academic life at all levels, including undergraduate studies, doctoral studies as well as research. Promoting and supporting internationalisation is a long-term undertaking.

The foundation is a key player in the development of international networks. This is encour-



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aged and supported in various ways. STINT's vision for the future is to:

- facilitate the expansion of international networks of cooperation and the exchange of personnel
- assist in the formation of collaborations and exchanges that add something new to research and higher education
- help develop alternative means of international collaboration
- increase Swedish university lecturers' international contacts
- assist Swedish institutions of higher education

in developing into attractive scholarly environments for foreign researchers, teaching staff and students

- support and promote international collaboration and exchange as being a natural and fundamental concern for national funding bodies.

The foundation's programmes for 2009-2010 are presented in this booklet. Some of them are highly unusual and innovative; others are straightforward.

Programmes and Special Initiatives

Institutional Grants

The overall objective of the Institutional Grants (IG) Programme is to strengthen Swedish research and higher education through international cooperation by widening the scope of exchange of personnel. The foundation encourages the development of new patterns of collaboration in all areas of research. Another important criterion for the IG Programme is that projects identified and supported will make a significant contribution to the development of Swedish academia.

The programme is characterised by its flexibility. The ideal project includes activities within both research and higher education. The foundation will however, also consider high quality projects focusing exclusively on research. Project leaders have the freedom to modify the cooperation in accordance with the different needs and developments of their projects during the period of support.

The foundation will encourage projects with broader forms of cooperation and exchange, such as institutional-level projects including several participants representing a wide range of experience (senior researchers, academic teachers, postdocs, doctoral students, etc.) Projects with a limited number of participants will not be given priority.

Funding is normally granted for four years. The grants are intended to solely cover the costs incurred by collaboration. Participating groups must therefore have secured core funding for their project.

Institutional Grants for Younger Researchers

The Institutional Grants for Younger Researchers Programme offers opportunities for especially promising young researchers to collaborate with prominent foreign research groups.

The programme is aimed at young researchers early on in their career – not more than seven years after completing their PhD – who wish to form international cooperations with foreign colleagues in a similar position. The intention is to help promote Swedish research environments as attractive academic centres and to enable younger researchers to develop lasting international networks. Each application should document the involvement of one Swedish and one or two foreign partners during three years. Where two foreign partners are involved, the application should specify which is the main partner.

Collaborations within this programme should take the form of a joint research project lasting for the duration of three years. The form of the collaboration should be exchange visits that take the form of either longer or shorter stays at the



partners' institutions. Projects must be institutionally based and include several people at different stages of their career: for example, PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers and university lecturers. The grant may also be used to fund seminars, workshops, etc within the collaboration.

Each grantee will be restricted to one grant under the terms of this programme. Applications may not be made to both the Institutional Grants for Younger Researchers Programme and the Institutional Grants Programme in the same academic year.

STINT Programme for Excellence in Teaching

STINT has a well-established cooperation with American higher education institutions dedicated to the Liberal Arts.

The cooperation provides opportunities for Swedish academic teaching staff to spend half a year, the Fall Semester at an American Liberal Arts College. These academic institutions are deeply imbedded in a tradition of excellence in teaching.

The Swedish faculty are provided with a first hand experience of how these academic institutions function; they get an understanding of what a Liberal Arts education means in practice, and how excellence in teaching is maintained.

Swedish universities and university colleges may, on invitation, nominate candidates to participate in this programme. The STINT stipend covers salary and travel costs as well as approved additional costs (eg travel costs for family members).

Scholarships for Doctoral Studies

The scholarships provide opportunities for Swedish doctoral candidates in the humanities and social sciences, including theology, religion and law, to spend one term (a minimum of four months) at a foreign academic institution.

To ensure that the students benefit from the visits it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that firm contacts are made with the foreign host institution.

The foundation encourages the involvement of the student's Swedish department therefore, STINT may include a travel grant for supervisors to visit the host department during the doctoral student's stay.

Short-term Stipends

Short-term stipends provide opportunities for faculty at Swedish institutions of higher education to spend some time at a foreign academic institution. They can also be used to invite foreign faculty as visiting researchers or academic teachers. The length of stay may vary between

“International collaboration and exchange must be a regular feature of Swedish academic life”.

two weeks and three months.

Doctoral candidates are not eligible to apply for these stipends; however, the stipend may be granted to cover a doctoral student accompanying a senior researcher on a visit abroad. The stipend is open to academics working in all areas of research and higher education.

The time spent abroad (or hosting foreign faculty in Sweden) can be used for teaching or research, or a combination of both. The foundation will not provide short-term stipends to sustain ongoing cooperation between academic institutions.

Sweden-Korea Research Cooperation Programme

The Sweden-Korea Research Cooperation Programme provides opportunities to initiate broad and long-term cooperation in all scientific areas between Swedish and Korean institutions or academic groups. The objective of the programme is to encourage new patterns of cooperation. The programme is open to all scientific areas.

The two parties will jointly support the cooperation. Funding to cover the exchange of individuals is normally given for two years. Continued support for a third year may be awarded; however, this is subject to a new application being approved.

It is the responsibility of the project leaders to select individuals for the exchange of personnel. Project leaders are also expected to make sure that the exchanges are balanced between participating groups.

It is essential that young researchers (postdocs) and graduate students are given the opportunity to participate in the cooperation and develop meaningful contacts within the network.

Applications should be made jointly by the project leaders of the Swedish and the Korean research groups. The Korean researcher is required to submit the application to NRF, the National Research Foundation of Korea. The Swedish researcher should apply to STINT. Only joint applications will be accepted.

The NRF and STINT will review the applications jointly. This will entail an assessment of the quality of the proposed collaborative project, including the competence and experience of project leaders on both sides, as well as the expected outcomes from collaborative research. Participation in the projects from postdocs, PhD-candidates and advanced graduate students is encouraged.

Network Grants

STINT offers network grants to encourage Swedish researchers in the humanities and social sci-



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ences, including theology, religion and law—to initiate and develop new forms of international cooperation and partnerships. The grants are given for two years to projects with a clear description of purpose and expected outcomes.

The grant covers meetings with colleagues from other countries where the aim is to develop joint research projects and sustainable networks with an international profile. This also includes, for example, activities such as summer schools and courses for researchers.

STINT Scholarships for Academic Excellence

The STINT Scholarships for Academic Excellence is a programme for foreign students attending two-year international master's programmes at Swedish universities. The purpose of the programme is to attract excellent students from eminent universities in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

A number of universities in the regions have been identified in collaboration with Swedish universities, and the partner universities are invited to nominate candidates for the programme. Students can not apply for scholarships on their own initiative.

The partner universities are ITESM, Campus Monterrey and Campus Querétaro in Mexico, KNUST in Ghana, KAIST and POSTECH in South Korea, Peking University, Tsinghua University

and Zhejiang University in China.

Special Initiatives

Special initiatives can be of a long term or ad hoc nature. Such initiatives are often taken in cooperation with other Swedish or foreign organisations. Some examples are

- The Pro Futura Programme provides funding to outstanding young scholars for four years of focused research. One of the four years should be spent at a foreign institution.
 - The Pro Lingua Prize covers the cost of annually translating two monographs that have been nominated and selected for translation from Swedish into one of the major languages. Monographs by senior scholars as well as doctoral dissertations are eligible for support.
- Both initiatives have been a joint effort by STINT and Riksbankens Jubileumsfond.

Applications and Review Procedures

Most programmes are open for application once a year.

Expert committees, including leading scientific experts in Sweden and abroad, are engaged in the review process. The final decisions are taken by the Board of Directors.

Detailed information on all programmes and access
to the electronic application system can be found on
STINT's web site: www.stint.se

**STINT**

The Swedish Foundation for International
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Skeppargatan 8, SE-114 52 Stockholm, Sweden

Phone +46 8 662 76 90 Fax +46 8 661 92 10

E-mail info@stint.se <http://www.stint.se>