

Strategic Grants for Internationalisation with top-up option for young researcher mobility

Applicant	The Vice-Chancellor/President of a Swedish higher education institution. Each university may participate in up to two applications per call.
Grant period	Starts August the same year as the call closes and has a planned duration of no more than three years
Grant amount	SEK 2 million per participating Swedish university and SEK 5 million in total (for joint applications)
Top up funding	Up to SEK 5 million for international mobility of younger researchers
Call open for applications	November 2025 to 2 April 2026 (15:00 CEST)
Decision by the Board	June 2026

The aim of Strategic Grants for Internationalisation is to contribute to the renewal and development of university-wide internationalisation, preferably in collaboration with other Swedish universities, or by including more Swedish universities in the long term. These grants support strategic initiatives which build on or benefit from the drive and experiences of individual internationalisation pioneers, while clearly contributing to comprehensive internationalisation at universities. Additional funds are offered to facilitate the mobility of young researchers. Such funding enables them to participate in and build strategic international projects early in their careers. Due to the pandemic, many young researchers have had limited opportunity to travel abroad thus far under their careers. Young researchers are defined as those currently registered as doctoral students, or who have obtained their doctoral degrees in 2023 or later.

Application deadline

Complete applications should be submitted by the Vice-Chancellor/President of a Swedish university no later than 2 April 2026, using STINT's application system. Applications should be made in English and include the following sections:

- Grant manager
- Applicant
- Swedish partners
- Foreign partners
- Project
 - Project title and abstract (1500 characters)



- Project description in PDF format (max. seven pages, min. font size 10 pt.), clearly describing, at a minimum:
 - How the project relates to review criteria (see below)
 - How analytical processes have been used to identify the strategic value of the project
 - Objectives in relation to research and higher education
 - Contribution to and from each project partner
 - Project plan with work packages, indicators, milestones and goals
 - Risk analysis
 - Considerations with regards to responsible internationalisation, including ethical and environmental dimensions
 - Available resources
- Support letters in PDF format from participating partners in Sweden and abroad
- Budget, amount requested from STINT, co-funding from applicant and partners and an itemised budget in PDF format (max. 2 pages, min. font size 10)
- Other funding: Funds requested or received from other funders

Formal terms

Applications must meet the following requirements in order to be considered:

1. Applications to the programme should be submitted by the Vice-Chancellor/President of a Swedish university.
2. Each university may participate in up to two applications per call. It may submit one individual application and participate in or lead one joint application (together with other Swedish universities). It may also choose to participate in or lead two joint applications.
3. The proposed project starts no later than August the same year as the call closes and has a planned duration of no more than three years.
4. Funds applied for in a project may not exceed SEK 2 million per participating Swedish university and SEK 5 million in total (for joint applications with several Swedish universities). The application should clearly state how the project will be co-funded by the university/universities (and any other partners) to an amount at least matching that being applied for. In addition, with no co-funding requirement, top-up funding up to SEK 5 million for the international mobility of younger researchers can be applied for (see below).
5. If the project has a geographic focus, it should be outside the EU/EFTA and the United Kingdom.
6. The applicants agree to cooperate in accordance with the principles of academic freedom and good research practice. Methods, data, and results will be openly accounted for. The proposed project fulfils all ethical requirements.



Younger researchers are defined as those currently registered as doctoral students, or who have obtained their doctorates in 2023 or later. The top-up funding is for younger researcher mobility to and from Sweden and countries outside EU/EFTA and the United Kingdom. The duration of each individual's stay abroad must be 5 to 18 months.

Assessment process and criteria

The applications will be assessed by an international expert panel. The following criteria will apply in the assessment:

A. Contribution to strategic internationalisation: • Anticipated short, medium, and long-term impact on the university's internationalisation activities • Comprehensiveness of the proposal – how the proposal addresses research, education, and/or services and how large part of the university that is affected • How the proposal links to the university's internationalisation strategy • To what extent the proposal includes and creates added value for other Swedish universities • Description of how analytical processes have been used to identify the strategic value of the project.
B. Renewal and potential: • Creativity and innovativeness of the proposal • Is the proposed concept new to the university, Sweden, and/or the world? • Balance between potential and risk of the project • Potential for bi-national impact and science diplomacy
C. Project management: • Appropriate project management organisation, including the university leadership's commitment and involvement in the project implementation • Clarity and quality of the project plan (goals, indicators, work packages, milestones, budget) • Cost-efficiency, minimised negative impact on the environment, and value of STINT's contribution
D. Younger researcher mobility (optional criterion): • Motivation, planning and integration of the proposed younger researcher mobilities to strengthen the university's strategic internationalisation

Please note that STINT may ask for clarifications during the review.

Project implementation and reports

Assessment results are scheduled to be published in June 2026. Funds are normally paid out once per year. Annual situation reports will be requested as well as a final report, which should be submitted to STINT no later than three months after the end of the project.



Requests for extensions will be viewed restrictively. However, parental leave or long-term sick leave on the part of key persons will constitute grounds for extending the period for which a STINT grant can be used.