

PhD studies for social services professionals 2018

The deadline for application submission is 14:00 on the 15th of May 2018.

Focus

The PhD studies grant aims to provide third-cycle study courses and programmes for social services professionals and to increase the number of social workers with third-cycle qualifications in social services. The study courses and programmes should contribute to the long-term expansion of expertise and knowledge in the social services, improve know-how in the field of applied social services and strengthen client and practice-oriented research in the area. A further aim is the strengthening of quality and development initiatives in the social services.

The study courses and programmes shall...

- Include various academic perspectives and methods as well as various types of research problems/issues
- Include courses in statistical, quantitative and qualitative methods

Research within the PhD studies shall...

- Be client and practice-oriented research in the field of applied social services (intervention research included therein).
- Satisfy stringent quality and methodology requirements while also promoting interdisciplinarity and know-how development.
- Respond to research needs identified by users and social services professionals
- Aim to be applied in the social services and to develop the field of applied social services.
- Actively involve social services professionals and users in the research process.
- Address issues related to mental ill health

Framework of the PhD studies

To receive a grant from Forte, the PhD studies must satisfy the requirements set out below.

The PhD studies shall...

- Be run by two Swedish universities/university colleges in collaboration. These shall have shared overall and coordination responsibility.
- Collaborate with higher education institutions throughout the country.
- Have organised collaborations with social services in municipalities spread throughout the country.
- Offer a stimulating research environment (or environments) with international links.

- Have a structured offering of study courses and programmes in which shared courses and seminars of a high academic and pedagogic quality shall be nationally available.
- Offer supervisor support that has wide expertise, as well as competence development for supervisors.
- Have clear organisation and management. This shall include a steering group with ultimate responsibility for ensuring the quality of those of the PhD study activities that are carried out in collaborations with other higher education institutions and municipalities.
- Provide third-cycle education corresponding to at least 50, and no more than 60, per cent of full-time study for social services professionals. The aim is that, within a total time not exceeding four years, professionals will be able to gain a licentiate degree.
- Provide 25% full-time equivalent finance of third-cycle student salary costs.
- Facilitate (e.g. through the use of digital technology) distance learning by third-cycle students.
- Create meeting points and networks for research, praxis and stakeholders.

Starting in 2019, the PhD studies shall have one admission cycle per year for three years. Around 10 third-cycle students are to be admitted annually, i.e. a total of 30 third-cycle students. Admission shall seek to achieve a national and regional spread as well as a spread between various types of projects and research problems/issues. Admission to third-cycle education is conditional on candidates having permanent employment as social services professionals. In the application to Forte, the PhD studies shall include a plan presenting the third-cycle student recruitment process and, in connection with recruitment, collaborations with employers. Before admission to the PhD studies, an agreement regulating financial and attendance details shall be entered into by the municipality in question and the higher education institutions responsible for the PhD studies.

Starting in 2020, an annual status report shall be submitted to Forte no later than the 31st of March. It shall include the results of the annual admission of third-cycle students to the PhD studies.

Application entry requirements

The PhD studies are to be run by two universities/university colleges in collaboration. These higher education institutions shall be Forte approved grant administrating organisations (thereby satisfying the requirements appertaining to this). Said higher education institutions shall coordinate the national PhD studies and also be responsible for reports in respect of activities, academic aspects, and final accounts for granted funds.

One condition for an application to be processed by Forte is that final accounts for Forte grants previously received by the coordinators are submitted no later than 21 Feb 2018 (provided that the date for final accounts has passed). Any previously granted extensions of project duration (and, thereby, final report deadlines) will be taken into account.

Applications

Both higher education institutions are to submit individual applications. The title and the research

programme are to be identical. Individual budgets setting out coordinator and other costs (third-cycle student salaries included therein) should be presented in the applications. As agreed between the higher education institutions, the division of responsibilities are to be accounted for. The budget and division of responsibilities should be specified in delimited parts (courses, admission, etc) that enable follow-up. Each higher education institution can submit only one application.

The application shall include a named researcher at each higher education institution. This person shall be the PhD studies coordinator and be responsible for coordination and the monitoring of studies. Unless Forte, an administrating organisation and any other employer agree otherwise, the coordinator shall be in the employment of the administrating organisation when the grant period begins. The coordinator does not need to be so employed at the time of application. The application shall also include the coordinator from the collaborating higher education institution as participating researcher.

Processing

The applications are to be assessed by a specially appointed review panel comprising international experts. The application will be reviewed by international experts and should therefore be written in English.

Assessment criteria

- The academic focus of the PhD studies in relation to the call for proposals and Forte's national research programme.
- The organisation, structure and content of the PhD studies.
- The hosting organisations', coordinators' and participating researchers' research experience in organising third-cycle education and their research expertise in relation to the focus of the PhD studies.
- The specialisations, quality, availability and relevance of the course and programme offerings as regards the focus of the PhD studies.
- Collaborations and network building with other universities/university colleges and the social services.
- Reasonability of budget and staffing.

Assessment and decision

Applications are to be assessed by a review panel comprising international researchers and Swedish representatives of general interests. Based on Forte's assessment criteria, the reviewers are to assess the applications in competition with each other. In a first step of the selection process, the review panel will choose some of the applicant higher education institutions to be interviewed by representatives of the review panel. In a next step, the review panel is to give Forte's board a suggestion regarding which two collaborating higher education institutions should be given a grant for the PhD studies. Shortly after Forte's board has reached a decision, notification of grant finance is to be published on Forte's website. Decision and statement are then to be published in the project manager's/coordinator's personal account in Prisma (under the "Applications and grants" tab).

Grant limits

In this call for proposals, you can apply for a total of SEK 88 million over no more than 7 years. The annual budget shall reflect the gradual increases and decreases in the number of admitted third-cycle students. Planning and third-cycle student admission costs are to be included in the first year of the budget. The budget is to be split between two collaborating higher education institutions as described above.

Decisions on finance are taken for four-year periods. A decision on the final years is to be taken after a halfway follow-up.

Open access

In accordance with Forte's guidelines, Forte requires open access publication of research results. [Read more about Open Access.](#)

Transfer of project information to SweCRIS

Forte transfers information of issued grants to SweCRIS, a national database on grant-funded research set up at the request of the government. [Read more about SweCRIS.](#)

Apply via Prisma

All applications are to be submitted via [the Prisma application and review system.](#)

Conditions for you to be able to submit your application:

- The applicant higher education institution must have an organisation account in Prisma.
- The coordinator appointed by the higher education institution must create a personal account in Prisma.
- Participating higher education institutions and coordinators must also create accounts in Prisma.
- All CVs and details of publications by applicants and participating researchers are to be saved in each applicant's/researcher's personal account.

Please ensure that all these conditions are satisfied in good time before the application deadline.

Time plan

15 May 2018, 14:00	Deadline for the submission of applications.
1 October 2018	Forte's board decides which applications are to receive a grant.