

Annual open call for proposals 2021

Information about the call

Step 1

This call for proposals shall contribute to increasing the knowledge in Forte's areas of responsibility: health, working life and welfare. In total, around SEK 300 million is reserved for the period 2022–2025.

The deadline for applications is February 4 at 14:00.

News for this year

Limitations on the number of applications

In this call there is a limitation of one application per main applicant and grant type. However, the same person may not be the main applicant for both a project grant and a junior researcher grant. You are also allowed to be a co-applicant in one additional application (project or junior).

If you are not the main applicant of any project grant or junior researcher grant, you are allowed to be co-applicant in up to two applications (project or junior).

It is always allowed to apply for a postdoc grant in addition to the above. Postdoc grants are limited to one application per person.

Each application must be unique and cannot refer to the same project.

Forte aims to grant the projects' budgets as indicated in the application

Budget cuts are made only if there are special reasons, which will be justified in such cases. This means that the budget applied for will most likely be granted. Therefore, it is important that the applicant makes a reasonable estimate of the budget for the proposed project.

Review panels

The review panel "Epidemiology and population-based studies" changes its name to "Public health".

Focus area

The annual open call is open to applications within Forte's overall areas of responsibility: [health, working life and welfare](#). The purpose of the call is to allow for analysis of advanced knowledge and to contribute to such knowledge in designated research areas or issues. The research that receives funding shall be of high academic quality and have good

potential to benefit society in the short or long term. For more detailed descriptions of the research areas that we support, see our page [Review panels for the annual open call](#).

Grant types

Three types of grants are available within this call. The terms and conditions, amount limits, and eligibility requirements for each type of grant can be found under the respective headings below.

See the heading “News for this year” for information about limitations regarding the number of applications per applicant.

! Note that the maximum amounts below include indirect costs (OH). Applications exceeding the specified maximum amount will not be considered.

Project grant

Project grants are grants for individual research projects. The grants are approved for two or three years.

- **Grant limit for project grants:** Maximum SEK 5 million for three-year projects and SEK 3 million for two-year projects.
- **Eligibility requirements for project grants:** To apply for a project grant you must have completed a doctoral degree no later than the date of the call closing.

Junior researcher grant

Junior researcher grants are special grants for junior researchers and can be applied for up to six years after completing your doctoral degree. The grant is essentially the same as a three-year project grant plus a fixed amount of SEK 1 million for a fourth year. The grant shall cover at least 40 % of the junior researcher’s salary.

- **Grant limit for junior researcher grants:** Maximum of SEK 5 million for the first three years. The fourth year has a fixed amount of SEK 1 million. In total, you may apply for a maximum of SEK 6 million.
- **Eligibility requirements for junior researcher grants:** To apply for a junior researcher grant, you must have obtained a doctoral degree between February 4, 2015 and February 4, 2021. If you completed your doctoral degree before February 4, 2015 you can deduct time for e.g. parental leave or illness. Instructions regarding this can be found below in this document.

If you are applying for a junior researcher grant but do not move forward in the application process as a junior researcher, your application will be considered a three-year project grant application, without you needing to specifically state this.

Postdoc grant

The purpose of the postdoc grant is to give newly graduated researchers an opportunity to continue their research career soon after completing their doctoral degree. You apply for postdoc grants alone, without other participating researchers. The grant form covers two years and is intended to cover a full-time salary.

Forte wishes to promote mobility and we are therefore keen to see the postdoctoral period being based somewhere other than where the doctoral degree was obtained.

- **Grant limit for postdoc grants:** SEK 2 million (SEK 1 million/year).
- **Eligibility requirements for postdoc grants:** To apply for a postdoc grant, you must have obtained a doctoral degree between February 4, 2019 and February 4, 2021. Your planned research project must fall within Forte's areas of responsibility. If you completed your doctoral degree before February 4, 2019, you can deduct time for e.g. parental leave or illness. Instructions regarding this can be found below in this document.

The application process

All applications are to be submitted via the [Prisma application and review system](#). Before writing your application, make sure the following conditions are met:

- You have created a personal account in Prisma
- All participating researchers have created personal accounts in Prisma
- Each participating researcher has stored personal data, CV and publications on their accounts
- Your administrating organisation has an organisational account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte

In order for your application to be considered, the final reporting for any previously approved projects must have been submitted. This only applies to grants where the deadline for final reporting has passed. Any previously granted extensions of project duration, and consequently of reporting deadlines, will be taken into account.

For more information on how to fill in the applications form, see instructions for each grant form on the call's website.

Application process for projects and junior researchers

The application process for project and junior researcher grants is divided into two steps. In step 1, the applicant submits a project outline to Forte. After an assessment process, a selection of outlines will be accepted, and these applications are welcomed to submit a full application in step 2.

Difference between project outline and full application

In the outlines, emphasis should be on the research questions, and the knowledge that already exists in the field. The study design, methods for data collection and analysis should be described clearly to allow for an assessment of the feasibility of the project.

The project's relevance as well as gender perspectives are described both in the outline and full application but should be kept brief in the outline. In the full application, you should also describe the project's utilisation, dissemination and cooperative activities, as well as interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches.

The full application should also include a more detailed description of the study design, its methods for data collection and analysis. The project's work plan and theoretical foundation shall also be described, along with a relevant literature review.

There may be no major deviations between outline and full application with regards to the design of the study and the amount applied for.

Application process for postdocs

Postdoc grants are applied for in a one-step process. After a review process a decision is made by Forte's board.

The review process

The applications are assessed by Forte's review panels, which are composed of Nordic researchers and Swedish society representatives. Funding decisions are made by Forte's board.

In the application process, you will be asked to choose appropriate panels for your application. However, we reserve the right to allocate the application to another panel. Our panels are:

Health:

- Public health
- Health promotion and behaviour
- Health care and health care organisation

Working life:

- Labour market
- Work organisation
- Work and work-related health

Welfare:

- Social policy and social change
- Social relations
- Social care and social work

Postdoc applications are assessed in three separate review panels.

Forte's assessment criteria for project outlines

Scientific quality:

- Purpose, research questions, added value in relation to previous research in the area and the originality of the project
- Study design, methods for data collection and analysis
- Sex and gender perspectives in the content of the research

Relevance:

- Relevance in relation to societal needs and Forte's areas of responsibility

Feasibility:

- Research competence of project leader and research group
- Staffing and budget, assessed based on reasonableness

Forte's assessment criteria for postdoc applications

Scientific quality:

- Purpose, research questions, theoretical framework, background and originality
- Study design, methods for data collection and analysis
- Sex and gender perspectives in the content of the research

Relevance:

- Relevance in relation to societal needs and Forte's areas of responsibility
- Engagement with end users
- Utilisation and communication of research results

Feasibility:

- Work plan quality
- Research competence of project leader
- Account of any previous own research in the area

Guidelines on how Forte handles applications where part of the research is to be carried out abroad

- Forte is positive towards international research collaborations. Forte's area of responsibility covers complex societal challenges in which international research collaborations can provide important contributions.
- Forte's grants can be used to finance research where certain parts are carried out in other countries. However, the research shall be initiated and led from Sweden or be a clear part of the collaborative research.
- Applications involving international collaborations are assessed against the same criteria as other research applications and by the same review panels.
- In assessing research applications, the reviewers in Forte's review panels shall assess if any foreign section of a project brings added value to a project or is a prerequisite for a project with, for example, a global or comparative approach.
- It is the main applicant's responsibility to: find out how his or her administrating organisation stands on financing research where certain parts are carried out in other countries; and, find suitable collaboration procedures in each specific case.
- It is the grant's administrating organisation, i.e. the main applicant's home institution in Sweden, that determines and is responsible for, if necessary, appointing foreign personnel or paying for activities or services carried out in other countries.

Deductible time

If you are applying for a type of grant with special career length requirements, you may apply for an exemption due to deductible time. The deductible time should have occurred after the doctoral degree was completed.

Acceptable reasons for deductible time are parental leave, work as labour union or student union representative, military service or illness (personal illness or care for an ill relative). Note that we do not accept other employment, unemployment, or vacation as deductible time.

Confirm your deductible time by sending a certificate to forte@forte.se no later than 11 February 2021. Your e-mail should specify the reference number of your application (available in Prisma after the application deadline, meaning that your application should have a reference number on the morning of 5 February 2021). For parental leave, a certificate from Försäkringskassan must be submitted. In special cases where this is not possible, a certificate from the employer can be submitted instead. It is important that you check the box for deductible time in the application form, indicating that you are submitting certificates separately.

Open access

Results from research funded by Forte shall be published with open access. [Read more about Open Access.](#)

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.](#)

Time plan

Final date for applications in step 1	4 February 2021 at 14:00
Based on the recommendations of Forte's review panels, Forte's Director General decides on which applications are to be accepted to Stage 2. Stage 2 of the call for proposals opens	20 April 2021
Forte's board decides on funding for postdocs	May 2021
Final date for full applications for project grants and junior research grants	1 June 2021 at 14:00
Forte's board decides on funding for projects and junior researchers	September/October 2021
Project start	1 January 2022