Starting grants 2024

Information about the call for proposals

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About the call for proposals

Background and purpose

The annual call for starting grants aims to support skills and career development for junior researchers and to promote researcher mobility. The starting grant is intended to promote establishment and independence in research by providing junior researchers with the opportunity to conduct their own research project. Researchers formulate their research questions freely within Forte's areas.

Areas of focus

The call for proposals welcomes all applications within Forte's overarching areas of health, working life and welfare. The research that receives funding shall be of high scientific quality and have good potential to benefit society in the short or long term. For a more detailed description of the research areas that we support and do not support, please see the page Fields of research.

Budget framework

Around SEK 90 Msek is reserved for the call for proposals.

Number of applications

No more than one application per main applicant is permitted under this call for proposals.

Schedule

Call opens: 23 January 2024, 10.00 CET

Call closes: 21 March 2024, 14.00 CET

Decisions taken on funding: 22 October 2024

Decisions published: 23 October 2024

Project start: 1 January 2025

About the grant

One type of grant is available under this call for proposals: starting grants. Junior researchers can apply for a starting grant to conduct their own research project, lasting up to three years.

The project can be carried out at a Swedish organisation or university, or at an organisation in another country. Please note, however, that you must be employed by a Swedish organisation that will manage the funds (the administrating organisation).

The intended project leader is expected to have an activity level in the project of at least 50 percent of full-time. The project leader should also be paid in the same proportion as the activity level. Applications where the activity level is below 50 percent will be rejected.

Project duration

Funding can be sought for either two or three years.

Funding amounts

You can apply for a maximum of SEK 3.75 million for three-year projects and SEK 2.5 million for two-year projects. Please note that the maximum amount includes indirect costs (OH).

Applications that exceed the specified limit will be rejected.

Eligibility requirements

Doctoral degree and career age

You may apply for a starting grant up to three years after receiving your doctoral degree. To apply for a starting grant in this call for proposals you must have obtained your doctoral degree at some point during the period 2021-03-21 to 2024-03-21.

If you have been prevented from conducting research for extended periods it is possible to apply for an exemption from the career age requirement. You do this by invoking so-called deductible time. See grounds for deductible time that Forte accepts on Forte.se.
Grounds for deductible time »

Previously obtained grants

You cannot be the main applicant for an application under this call for proposals if you have previously received a postdoc grant or starting grant, regardless of the research funding body. Exceptions apply if you have obtained an additional doctoral degree after your previous starting grant was granted.

Reporting for previous grants

The main applicant must have submitted the final report for any previously approved grants from Forte within the reporting deadline. 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.

Before you apply

Checklist

Before starting your application, please ensure you fulfil the following conditions:

- You meet the eligibility requirements and conditions to apply as described in this document and on the page Who can apply for a grant? on Forte.se.
- You have created a personal account in the application system Prisma.
- You have stored your CV and details of your publications in your personal account in Prisma.

- Your administrating organisation has an organisational account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte. [Forte's criteria for administrating organisations »](#)

International research

Applications with an international element must follow Forte's Guidelines for international research. Forte views international research collaborations positively. Forte's areas of research cover complex societal challenges in which international research collaborations can provide important contributions.

Projects in this call for proposals can be carried out fully or partially abroad. Please note, however, that you must be employed by a Swedish organisation that will manage the funds. The research must also be relevant to Sweden and Swedish conditions, and which must be explained in the application.

[Guidelines for international research »](#)

Funding of additional expense allowance when staying abroad

In this call for proposals, you can get funding for increased living costs when staying abroad, known as an additional expense allowance. The allowance is paid out for you, accompanying cohabiting partner and children under the age of 19 who you are obliged to support. See the document "Instructions for the application form" on the call's web page for information on how to apply for an additional expense allowance. Forte does not provide accompanying spouse allowance, meaning compensation for the loss of income for accompanying spouse.

If your application is granted funding, any additional expense allowance will be calculated based on the need and information provided by you in the application. Decisions regarding additional expense allowances will be made in autumn 2024.

More information about the additional expense allowance and its conditions can be found at the Swedish Agency for Government Employers' website, arbetsgivarverket.se. [Guidelines for the additional expense allowance (In Swedish) »](#)

Funding for increased accommodation costs when staying abroad

Forte covers potential increased accommodation costs during a stay abroad. In your application, you state your potential need for this as well as an estimate of and justification for your increased accommodation costs. Calculations must be based on actual increased accommodation costs in connection with your stay abroad.

If your application is approved, funding for potential increased accommodation costs will be calculated based on the information you provided in the application. Decisions on funding for increased accommodation costs will be made in autumn 2024. Forte may request additional documents and calculations if necessary.

Principle of transparency

According to Swedish law, your application is considered as general public documents once they have been submitted to us. This means that anyone can request and read your application. Information can only be kept secret if it is covered by the secrecy provisions in the Public Access and Secrecy Act (2009:400). Applications should not therefore contain personal data belonging to anyone who is not participating in the application.

If your application is approved, the summaries of your application in Swedish and English will be published in open project databases without a confidentiality assessment. The contents of these fields should therefore not contain sensitive information.

Translations of information in the call for proposals

Call texts, application forms and instruction texts are translated into English, but in the case of ambiguity in the translation, the Swedish versions take precedence.

Applications

All applications are to be submitted via the Prisma application and review system. Please bear in mind that it takes time to fill out the application and make sure you start the application in good time. You can start filling in your data, then save it and continue at another time. Please bear in mind that the application cannot be submitted if any of the required data is missing.

What has to be included in the application?

For information about the contents of your application, please see the document "Instructions for the application form" on the website for the call for proposals.

Language

Applications under this call for proposals can be written in Swedish or English.

Different participants in the project

The person who creates the application in Prisma is the main applicant and is intended to be the project leader for the research. The main applicant must have a doctoral degree and a personal account in Prisma.

In this call for proposals, it is not possible to include participating researchers in the application. However, to some extent you may include support staff, so-called "other participants" in the project. These persons do not need to be researchers.

Requirements for different types of participants »

Participating administrators

The main applicant can invite a participating administrator to help them complete the application form. The administrator is not part of the project, but has access to the draft application. A participating administrator cannot register the final version of an

application and does not have access to the application once the final version has been registered in Prisma.

Assessment process

Verification of your application

Forte checks if your application fulfills the formal requirements laid down in the call for proposals. If the application does not fulfill the requirements, it will be refused or rejected. The following formal requirements will be checked in this call for applications:

- The main applicant has been awarded a doctoral degree and meets the career age requirement. If you have invoked deductible time, Forte may request certificates or documentation to confirm the grounds for the specified absence.
- The main applicant has submitted the final report for any previously approved grants from Forte within the reporting deadline.
- The content of the application does not obviously fall outside Forte's areas, which are health, working life and welfare (this is verified in consultation with the chair of the review panel).
- The budget in the application is within the maximum grant amount specified in the call for proposals.
- The application has been signed by the administrating organisation within 7 calendar days of the closing date of the call for proposals.

Review

All applications that fulfill the formal requirements in the call for proposals are given to Forte's review panels for assessment. The review panels are made up of researchers and community representatives. Based on their assessment, Forte's board makes the final decisions on which applications will be granted funding.

To be eligible for funding from Forte, applications must be of high scientific quality, societal relevance, and feasibility. Applications are assessed against the assessment criteria and general requirements described under the heading "Assessment criteria and requirements" below. The assessment is an overall assessment that weighs up all the criteria and requirements and relates them to the call and its objectives. Key to the assessment is how the applicant has justified the various choices made in the application (of the research question(s), theory, method, etc.).

[Forte's processes for assessment and final decision »](#)

Review panels
When you fill in your application in Prisma, you will be asked to choose a review panel for your application. However, we reserve the right to allocate the application to another panel.

The following review panels can be selected:

- Health

- Working life
- Welfare

Assessment criteria and requirements

Applications in this call are assessed against our general assessment criteria and general requirements. I addition, there are a number of additional criteria.

The assessment is an overall assessment that weighs up all the criteria and requirements and relates them to the call and its objectives. The various criteria are given equal weighting in the assessment.

General requirements

All applications must meet the following requirements in order to receive funding. The extent to which these requirements are met is part of the overall assessment by the review panel.

- The research must be relevant to Forte's areas and the focus of the call.
- The application must address and justify if a gender perspective is applicable or not to the research and how this is taken into account in the research.
- The research must be conducted ethically, and the application must address the ethical aspects of the research and how any ethical issues will be handled.

Scientific quality

- Purpose, research questions, theoretical framework and background
  How well and coherently the purpose, research questions, theoretical framework and background of the research are described, justified and grounded in previous research.
- Study design, empirical material and methods for data collection and analysis
  How well and coherently the research design, methods and empirical material are described and justified, as well as the appropriateness of these in relation to the purpose of the research, research questions, and the potential for relevant results.
- Originality
  The originality of the research and its potential to develop new knowledge (including novel methods, theories and/or data).
- Multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary approach, where applicable
  The relevance of a multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary approach, and how this is considered and justified in the application.

Societal relevance and utilisation

- Relevance to the wider community
  The societal challenges to which the research relates, how the research intends to help address these challenges, and how well the need for the research is described and

justified to the research stakeholders, the general public and/or the wider community.

- Benefit for the wider community
  How the research is expected to lead to short or long-term benefit for the research stakeholders, the general public and/or the wider community, and how this benefit is intended to be promoted.
- Collaboration with the wider community, where applicable
  How inclusion in the research process of actors affected by the research (such as users, patients, practitioners, professions, policymakers) has been considered and justified in the application, and, where applicable, how well this has been formulated.
- Communication of research results
  Whether dissemination of research results is planned for all relevant audiences, as well as the soundness of planned communication (such as in academic and/or popular science articles, books, seminars, workshops, training materials).

Feasibility

- Quality of the work plan
  The clarity and reasonableness of the work plan (including the schedule) in relation to the needs for conducting the research.
- Competence of the project manager and project team
  Competence and skills of the participants (based on previous experience and achievements) in relation to the needs for conducting the research.
- Staffing and budgets
  Reasonableness of budgeted costs and participants' planned activity level for conducting the research.

Additional criteria

- Choice of host department
  Is the host department relevant and established within the applicant's research area? For example, areas of expertise, strong environments, access to infrastructure, valuable collaboration partners etc.
- Competence development
  The potential of the grant period to contribute to the applicant's competence development regarding research or other activities within Forte's areas.
- Benefit for the research area
  Expected benefits of the grant period for the development of the research area.

Guiding questions

Forte has formulated guiding questions, based on Forte's general requirements and general assessment criteria. The purpose of these questions is to aid applicants in preparing their applications and assist Forte's reviewers in the assessment process.

Guiding questions for applicants and reviewers »

After the decision

Decision and statement

When a decision has been made in respect of your application, it will be published in your Prisma account. You will receive an email when the decision is published. Applicants can also read the review panel's statement, which can be found in Prisma on the "Applications" page under the "Details" button. You will also find the statement on the "Grants" page.

Terms and conditions for grants

In order to receive the grant from Forte, both the main applicant and the administrating organisation must sign the terms and conditions laid down in the call for proposals. Forte's General terms and conditions apply to this call for proposals. The signing takes place in Prisma after a decision on the grant has been taken.

Forte's general terms and conditions for grants »

Open access

By accepting grants from Forte, you as a project leader also accepts Forte's guidelines for publication with Open Access. Forte does not cover costs for Open Access publication within the framework of individual research projects. In cases where costs are included in the application, these will be deducted from the budget.

Forte's Guidelines for publication with open access »

Support and help

Forte has compiled answers to the questions most frequently asked during the grant application process. Questions and answers about applying for grants »

Do you have any questions about the contents of the call for proposals or how to fill in the application form? Please contact us by emailing etableringsutlysning@forte.se