Starting grants 2025

Instructions for the Prisma application form
Starting grant

General information

Prisma

All applications must be submitted through the Prisma application and review system.
For most of the required steps, user manuals are available. We urge you to consult these
when writing your application.

- Prisma user manual »
- FAQ Prisma »
- Prisma support »

Before you apply

Before writing your application, make sure the following conditions are met:

- You have created a personal account in the Prisma application system
- You have stored your CV and details of your publications in your account
- The administrating organisation for the grant has an organisational account in Prisma and has been approved as an administrating organisation at Forte. Forte's criteria for administrating organisations »
- You meet the requirements and conditions for applying as described in the text "Information about the call" on the web page for the call.

Language

The application can be written in Swedish or English.

Character limits

Please observe that spaces are included in all character limits. If you intend to copy text into the application form, we recommend making sure that the number of characters, according to the word processing programme, matches the number of characters in the form in Prisma. Underlying formatting may be included which causes the number of characters to differ. In such a case, you must either try to clear all formatting by copying paragraphs into Notepad or similar, or type directly in Prisma.

Images

It is not possible to add images in the text fields, these are instead added in the field Image uploader (under Project description). Include a visible reference inside the images so that you may reference them in the text.

Overview

On this page of the application form you can see which parts of the application that are still lacking mandatory information, either from you or your participating researchers. It also shows whether character limits or other types of limits have been exceeded.

The application form includes both mandatory and non-mandatory information. The application cannot be submitted if mandatory information is missing. Ensure that the non-mandatory information you wish to include is also included in the application upon registration. Read the call text and instructions carefully before registering the application.

Basic information

Project title and abstract

Project title in Swedish (max. 200 characters)
Project title in English (max. 200 characters)
The title should be formulated so that the project's purpose is evident and so that non-specialists may also form an impression of the content of the project. The project title is often used on its own and should be formulated with care.

Abstract in Swedish (max. 2,500 characters)
Abstract in English (max. 2,500 characters)
The abstract should provide an informative description of the project as a whole. It should be able to stand on its own, which is why you should make no references to other parts of the application. It is also important that non-specialists can understand the abstract. If your application is granted, the abstracts in Swedish and English will be published in open project databases without a confidentiality assessment.

The abstract should be structured under the following headings:

- **Research problem and specific questions (Swe: Frågeställning)**
  Describe the overall research question and any sub-questions. Briefly describe how the research question is related to existing knowledge and research.
- **Data and methods (Swe: Data och metod)**
  Describe the data and methods to be used and explain why and in what way these are best suited for answering the research questions.
- **Societal relevance and utilisation (Swe: Samhällsrelevans och nyttiggörande)** Briefly describe the societal challenges that the project addresses and how the project results could contribute to the management of these challenges.
- **Plan for project realisation (Swe: Genomförande)** Describe in general terms how the project will be conducted.

Project time

Enter the time frame for your project.

Subject classification

Keywords

Provide 1-5 keywords for your project.

Forte's main areas and sub-areas

Choose a suitable main subject area and a sub-area for your application. Forte reserves the right to reclassify your application.

Alternative sub-area

You have the option of choosing an alternative sub-area for your application. This sub-area may belong to another main subject area. Forte reserves the right to reclassify your application.

Forte's areas of coordination

Forte is the national coordinator for research in five research areas. Choose one of the areas if they apply to your application. If none is applicable to your project, choose the option "no coordination area". Forte reserves the right to reclassify your application.

SCB codes

In order to facilitate future analysis of research funded by all Swedish research funding agencies, all applications are classified according to Statistics Sweden's standard for Swedish classification of research topics. Select research topic at three levels.

Sustainable development goals

Classify your application according to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. You can choose a maximum of three goals. The United Nations' sustainable development goals »

Project description

Project description

Purpose, research questions, theoretical framework, background and the originality of the project (max. 10,000 characters)

Provide a description of the project's purpose, specific research questions and background. Write a brief literature review and describe the project's originality and added value in relation to previous research. Also describe the theoretical starting points for the project. If the project is based on a previously completed or still ongoing project, describe how the projects relate to each other, the results of the previous research and the

contribution of the new project. The research referred to does not need to be funded by Forte.

Previous Forte grant reference number
If Forte has funded all or parts of your research described above, please state the reference number.

Study design, empirical material and methods for data collection and analysis (max. 10,000 characters)
Describe the study design, what data will be used, how the data collection will be carried out and the principles and methods for data processing and analysis.

Work plan (max. 7,500 characters)
Clearly describe what is going to be done and how the work will be organised. The work plan should contain information about any support staff, if relevant to the project, including details of the persons' tasks. Cooperation with other researchers outside of the project group is also described here. The work plan should be detailed enough for reviewers to assess the feasibility of the project.

Image uploader (max 4 MB/image)
Here you can upload images that illustrate parts of your project description. Include a visible reference in the image so that you can refer to it in the text. Permitted file extensions: JPG, PNG and GIF format.

Expected benefits of the starting grant

Expected benefits of the starting grant for the applicant, the host department and the research area (max. 3,000 characters)
Outline how the experience and knowledge gained during the starting grant period will benefit you as a researcher, the host department and the development of the research field.

Societal relevance and utilisation

Relevance to the wider community (max. 2,000 characters)
Explain the relevance of the project to identified societal needs by describing the societal challenges to which the research relates and how the research intends to help address these challenges. Also explain and justify the relevance of the research to intended stakeholders.

Benefit for the wider community (max. 2,000 characters)
Describe how the research is expected to lead to short or long-term benefits for the research stakeholders. Discuss possible target groups and describe the actors to be involved, the methods to be used in the work and expected effects. The benefits may for instance concern effects on policy, practice or working methods.

Plan for collaboration with the wider community

Is collaboration with the wider community included in the project?
State if collaboration with actors outside of the scientific community is planned within the project.

If yes, answer the three questions below about the planned collaboration. If no, leave the three questions below blank and justify your answer in the text field "Collaboration with the wider community".

Forte's perspective on collaboration in research »

Extent of collaboration
Specify to what extent collaboration is part of the project.

Part/s of the research process with collaboration activities
Specify in which part/s of the research process collaboration activities are included. You may choose more than one alternative.

Does the project budget include costs for collaboration?
State yes or no. Enter these costs in the designated table on the "Budget" page. Describe and justify the costs in the text field "Explanation and justification of total budget".

Collaboration with the wider community (max. 2,000 characters)
If collaboration is planned with actors outside of the scientific community (such as users, patients, practitioners, professions, policymakers), describe the planned collaboration activities. Specifically, describe which actors you will engage, during which phases of the research process and in what forms. Explain the relevance of the collaboration and describe expected effects. Also describe any previous experience of collaboration or co-creation. If collaboration activities are not part of the research project, explain and justify this.

Communication of research results (max. 2,000 characters)
Describe how information about the project and its results are to be disseminated within and outside the scientific community (such as in academic and/or popular science articles, books, seminars, workshops, training materials). Describe which target groups will be included in the research dissemination.

Additional project information

Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity

Multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary approach (max. 1,500 characters)
Describe how the project is multi- and/or interdisciplinary, if such an approach is applicable. If so, also describe in what way these perspectives contribute to the project.

Sex and gender perspectives in the content of the research

Is a sex or gender perspective applicable to your project?
State yes or no.

Explain and justify your answer (max. 1,500 characters)
Explain and justify your answer and describe how this is considered in the application.

Ethics

Ethical considerations (max. 1,500 characters)
Address the ethical aspects of the research and how any ethical issues will be handled. Note if the project will be submitted to the Swedish Ethical Review Authority or has received ethical approval. The Ethical Review Authority »

International collaboration (optional)

Collaboration countries
State countries where any collaborative partners operate.
Forte's principles on international collaborations »

References

Reference list for the application (max. 5,000 characters)
Provide a reference list for the application. List publications supporting your research competence on the "Publications" page.

Doctoral degree

Your doctoral thesis

Title of the doctoral thesis
Write the title of your doctoral thesis.

Academic field of the doctoral thesis
Fill in the academic field of your doctoral thesis, for example sociology.

Summary of the doctoral thesis (max. 7,500 characters)

Summarise your doctoral thesis. If the doctoral thesis is a compilation thesis, start off with a list covering the various pieces of work including information about authors and publication status (with name of the journal if accepted).

Eligibility requirements

Doctoral degree certificate

Attach a degree certificate if you have a doctoral degree that was issued outside of Sweden.

If your degree is issued in Sweden, you must instead validate it against Ladok via your personal account on the Educational history page in Prisma and leave this field blank. See User manual for Ladok validation »

Deductible time

Specify any breaks you have had in your active research time between the date of the doctoral degree and the closing date of the call, caused by any of the grounds approved by Forte. You should enter the break calculated as full-time and rounded to the nearest full calendar month. For the absence to count as a calendar month, it needs to be at least 14 days, otherwise it is rounded down (i.e. 0-13 days of absence does not entitle to claim deductible time or are rounded down while 14-31 days of absence are rounded up to one month's absence, etc.). You can add up single days of absence.
Forte's guidelines for deductible time »

Stay abroad

Will you conduct all or parts of your project outside of Sweden?
Indicate yes or no. If yes, provide information about the host country and department.

Host department
If you plan to carry out all or part of your project outside of Sweden, click 'Add' and enter the information in the table. If you intend to conduct the project at several departments outside of Sweden, add a new entry for each host department.

Host country
Enter the country where you plan to carry out all or part of your project.

Host university
Enter the university from which you plan to carry out your project in the selected host country.

Number of months at host department

Enter the length of time you plan to spend at this host department. This must be entered in full months.

Department at host university

Enter the department at the university in the chosen host country where you plan to carry out your project.

Host department commitment

Attach a certificate of the foreign host department's commitments here. Please note that only one document can be uploaded, and this must be in PDF format. If you wish to attach several certificates, you must combine them into a single document. It must be signed by the head of department or equivalent. The certificate must contain the following parts:

• The name of the host department
• The name of the applicant and the time period of the visit
• How the applicant's proposed research project fits into the research and expertise of the department and/or research team involved
• A description of the applicant's proposed role in the department and/or in the research team
• How the department will fulfil the applicant's need for premises, equipment and other infrastructure
• How the research environment will support the development of the applicant's scientific career, networks and competence

Funding of additional expense allowance

When staying abroad, Forte will grant funding for additional expense allowance ("merkostnadstillägg") for you, an accompanying cohabiting partner, as well as for children under the age of 19 for whom you have an obligation to provide. Do not include the requested funding of additional expense allowance in your stated budget. Forte will contact you after grant decisions have been made if further information is needed.

Are you seeking funding for additional expense allowance?

State yes or no. If yes, answer the following questions regarding any accompanying family members. If no, continue to the question regarding increased accommodation costs.

Accompanying cohabiting partner

State whether you have an accompanying cohabiting partner or not.

Number of accompanying children under the age of 19

Enter the number of accompanying children under the age of 19 for whom you have an obligation to provide.

Preliminary calculation of additional expense allowance
Make a preliminary calculation of your additional expense allowance. This is calculated according to principles set up by the Swedish Agency for Government Employers and is adjusted to the cost situation in each specific country. [Guidelines for additional expense allowance (in Swedish) »](#)

Travel arrangements and time periods (max. 2,000 characters)
Describe preliminary travel arrangements and which time periods family members intend to accompany.

Funding of increased accommodation costs while residing abroad

Are you seeking funding for increased accommodation costs while residing abroad?
State yes or no. If yes, answer the following questions regarding your increased accommodation costs. If no, continue to the page Budget.

Preliminary calculation of increased accommodation costs while residing abroad
Make a preliminary calculation of your increased accommodation costs. Your calculation of the requested funding must be based on actual increased accommodation costs associated with your stay abroad. Potential indirect costs are calculated according to the model used by your department. Do not include the requested funding of increased accommodation costs in your stated budget. Forte will contact you after grant decisions have been made if further information is needed.

Rationale for the requested funding for increased accommodation costs while residing abroad (max. 2,000 characters)
Describe and justify the requested funding for your increased accommodation costs.

Budget

Give an account of how you plan to use the funds that you are applying for. Total budget must not exceed SEK 3.75 million (including indirect costs) for three-year projects and SEK 2.5 million (including indirect costs) for two-year projects. Costs that fall outside of the project's time frame are not eligible and should not be included in the application.

Please note that as main applicant you must have an activity level of at least 50 % of full time and the salary should mirror the activity level. Costs relating to funding of additional expense allowance and/or increased accommodation costs must not be reported on this page.

Activity level and cost categories

Activity level in the project
Enter the estimated activity level as a percentage of full-time employment. The time allocated for you and potential support staff must be adapted to the persons' project tasks. As the main applicant, you have scientific responsibility for the project as well as being

the project leader and are therefore expected to be active in the project throughout the entire project. Support staff may be included to a lesser extent as needed. The activity level should also be specified for individuals who will not be paid from the project. If additional support staff will be recruited at a later stage and therefore cannot be named in the application, it is possible to enter "to be recruited" in the name field.

Salaries including social fees
Enter salary costs/estimated salary costs including social security contributions for all personnel who will be paid from the project. Salary costs should also be entered for not yet appointed personnel.

Running costs
Specify what is applied for in terms of operational costs. It is important that costs are specified and estimated with as much detail as possible and that they are explained and justified in the text field "Explanation and justification of total budget". Create and name items in the table so that it is clear what the grant will be used for.

It is not permitted to include publication costs for open access publication of research articles in the application. Forte's guidelines for publication with open access »

Premises costs and the cost of equipment specific to the project, additional to what is included in the indirect costs (OH), must be separately explained and justified in the text field "Explanation and justification of total budget". If the equipment is also to be used outside of the project, only costs related to the use during the project should be included. If the equipment is regarded as capital expenditure, you may only apply for depreciation costs. You must not include the cost of purchasing personal computers or other normal office equipment in the application as these are expected to be covered by the indirect costs.

Government organisations report their costs exclusive of VAT. For non-governmental organisations, Forte only reimburses VAT when it constitutes a real cost for the project. The same applies to foreign organisations.

Total budget
Everything entered in the tables "Salaries including social fees" and "Running costs" is automatically summarised in the table "Total budget".

In this table, indirect costs (OH) are entered separately. Report indirect costs as a separate item specifying amount per year. The model used for calculating the indirect costs should be the one used at your department.

Explanation and justification of total budget (max. 2,500 characters)
Write a short explanation and justification of the costs you are applying for.

Other funding

Other funding for this project

If you have applied for or received funding for similar costs and purposes from Forte or another research funder, provide information about it here. Report the name of the funder, the applicant/project leader, type of grant, whether the funding has been granted or not, reference number or equivalent and granted/applied for amount per year.

Administrating organisation

In order for you to apply, your Swedish higher education institution (HEI) or research organisation must have been approved by Forte as an administrating organisation and created an organisational account in Prisma. Approved administrating organisations are listed as choices in Prisma. From there, you can select your HEI as administrating organisation and the relevant unit as the project site for your application. When the call for proposals closes, your application will automatically be sent to your administrating organisation who must then sign the application in Prisma within 7 days. If your HEI/research organisation is missing as a choice in Prisma, it means that they have not been approved as an administrating organisation and must apply to become one. [Forte's criteria for administrating organisations »](#)

Review panels

Choose between the review panels health, working life and welfare depending on which group you consider to be best suited for your application. Forte reserves the right to reallocate your application to another review panel.

Participants

Participating researchers

For the starting grant, you may not invite participating researchers.

Participating administrators

The main applicant may 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.

CV

All CV and publication details are stored on your personal account. Under this heading, import CV-data from your personal account. The following limits apply (maximum number):

Educational history
- 1 doctoral degree (mandatory)

- 2 research educations
- 2 basic educations

Professional history
- 3 employments
- 3 post-doctoral assignments
- 3 research exchange assignments
- 3 interruptions in research

Merits and awards
- 3 associate professorships
- 10 supervised persons
- 5 research grants awarded in competition
- 3 awards and distinctions
- 3 other merits

Intellectual property
- 3 intellectual properties

Publications

Under this heading, you import your publications from your personal account. The purpose of these publications is to validate your research competence. Applications are limited to ten publications.

Register

Register your application here. The application cannot be submitted unless all compulsory fields have been completed and no limits exceeded.

Contact information

If you have any questions about the call for proposals or how to fill in the application form, please contact: etableringsutlysning@forte.se.