



Availability of research funding for a senior researcher position in the field of aquatic radioecology at a university in Sweden

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority (SSM) announces the availability of research funding for a senior researcher position in the field of aquatic radioecology. The application deadline for this grant is 11 May 2018.

The purpose of the grant is to give a researcher an opportunity to build up and develop a research and education activity in the above-mentioned field. If your application is approved, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority will provide funding for your research position.

Only individual researchers, and not institutions, are eligible to apply for this grant. You should have earned the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), or the equivalent, and have the qualifications to apply for a lectureship/position of assistant professor, or an equivalent senior post, at a Swedish university or other institution of higher education in Sweden.

The grant is awarded for a period of three years, with a possibility for an extension of three years following an evaluation of the research programme. Financial support may be sought for the applicant's salary and certain additional project costs, including overhead costs payable to the applicable administrating university in Sweden; however, the funding is not permitted to be used for scholarships. The financial support totals a maximum of 1,700,000 Swedish kronor (approx. EUR 170,000) per year, including indirect costs.

Research grants must be managed by a Swedish institution of higher education in Sweden. The researcher awarded this grant by the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority must be employed by the administrating university by the date when the funding period commences. You do not need to be employed by the Swedish university at the time your application is submitted. By signing your application, the administrating university confirms its obligations in the event a grant is awarded to you.

Background and purpose

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, SSM, has carried out a situational and scenario analysis with a special focus on research (SSM 14-860). Here, the Authority identified a need to develop and sustain expertise in Sweden within the Authority's areas of operation. Conclusions drawn from this analysis were not only that research and education in radioecology comprise a subcritical area, but also that the field of radioecology constitutes a key basis of most of SSM's areas of operation.



Several competence studies demonstrate the need for a programme focusing on radioecology in order to sustain national competence over the long term (most recently SSM2014-1013). SSM also points out in its risk and vulnerability analysis (SSM 2012-5351) the importance of training experts in areas such as radioecology to enable their eventual assistance in an emergency situation.

The Authority's Radiation Protection Department has decided (SSM 15-2020) to strive to give support to a greater number of projects in order to sustain Swedish expertise. This implies providing funding for research positions in academia. This is viewed as a good way to achieve quality research while at the same time fostering new expertise in the field of radiation protection using an approach that is socioeconomically sustainable.

The purpose of the financial support is to improve the prerequisites to sustain and develop Swedish expertise in radioecology over the long term. As research is conducted within the framework of the project, another clear aim is to produce new knowledge in the area that will be useful for the Authority's ongoing radiation safety work.

The relevant area of research

Radioecology studies areas such as behaviours of different radioactive substances in the surroundings, such as how dispersion, deposition, enrichment, uptake in organisms, and transfer between organisms vary in different environments, and the factors influencing these processes. The field is also considered to include environmental risk assessments relating to the occurrence of radioactive substances in the environment.

Long-term research in radioecology has the objective of producing and disseminating knowledge about the processes affecting the flows of radioactive substances in the environment, their uptake in food chains, and resulting exposure of humans, animals and plants.

The purpose of research is to build up the knowledge base for enabling estimates of possible radiation doses and radiation effects on the part of humans, animals and plants where the root cause is anthropogenic or natural radioactive substances, or elements in the environment. This kind of knowledge constitutes a basis for assessing risks when establishing new operations, activities or practices that might lead to raised radiation levels in the environment, as well as for environmental surveillance in the field of radiation protection.

Radioecological research also communicates findings useful for national nuclear and radiological emergency preparedness. This is in the form of reliable models and strategies for collecting and interpreting data, making forecasts, projections and prognoses, and suggesting measures in connection with events that have occurred.

How to apply

The Swedish Radiation Safety Authority strives to follow the procedures of the Swedish Research Council for grant applications and has for this reason chosen to largely follow the Council's procedure for considering and processing applications. Apply by filling out our application form and attaching the requisite appendices. On each page of the appendices, provide your name, personal identity number or the equivalent and the appendix number.

Scan the completed application and submit it electronically together with the appendices/attachments to the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority. Use the email address



registrator@ssm.se. State reference number SSM2018-1028. Your application form must have been signed by the head of the department or the equivalent at the university department in Sweden where your proposed research project will be conducted. You are responsible for ensuring the completeness of your application. This means that the application form must be filled out correctly and that all attachments (appendices) have the format described in these instructions. If your application is incomplete, this may either affect its consideration or mean disqualification of your application.

Attach only the materials expressly requested by us. We cannot accept supplementary information provided after the application deadline, aside from information that we have expressly requested.

Create the attachments in A4 format using margins of 25 mm and the font Arial, size 11. If you use formulas or symbols in your attachments, be sure to carefully examine their final appearance in your application before submitting it.

Your application must contain the following:

- Summary (application form)
- Popular science description (application form)
- Budget details (application form)
- Signatures (application form)
- Research programme (Appendix 1)
- CV (Appendix 2)
- List of publications (Appendix 3)
- Budget and resources for research (Appendix 4)

An application missing any compulsory appendices/attachments will be disqualified.

Summary (application form)

The summary account of the research programme must briefly describe:

- The planned work,
- The approach to the research,
- The scientific methods or procedures that will be used, and
- Key aims of the planned research.

The text is to provide a brief and general orientation on the research work's purpose and execution. Formulate the summary so that readers having a different research orientation will be able to understand the information. Enter the summary account in the application form.

Popular science description (application form)

Describe the project using popular science wording to aid comprehension by readers who are not knowledgeable about the subject. Describe what is planned, and why, and explain how the new knowledge may be of significance. The popular science description comprises an important tool when the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority communicates about research funding provided by the Authority.

If we award a grant to you, we, the Swedish Radiation Safety Authority, reserve the right to use your description for information purposes. Enter your popular science description in the application form.

The project's total budget (application form)



Enter budget details in the application form. State the total amount that can cover all kinds of project-related costs, for example salary, consumables, external laboratory analyses, travel, publication costs and relatively small pieces of equipment. Funding provided by SSM is not allowed to be paid to a third party in the form of (for example) a scholarship.

Include both indirect and direct project-related costs. If you have questions about classification of indirect and direct costs, please contact your institution of higher education in Sweden. The maximum amount that may be approved per year is SEK 1,700,000 (salary, project costs and overhead).

Signatures

Print out the application form and sign it. It must also be signed by the head of the department or the equivalent at the institution of higher education in Sweden where your proposed research will be conducted. These signatures will signify confirmation that:

- The described research, post and equipment can be given scope within the department during the period of time and to the extent stated in your project plan;
- The department approves the cost estimate belonging to your application;
- You have accounted for any secondary occupations and business ties from which no factors have emerged that conflict with good research ethics;
- Approval and/or authorisation has been granted by the time of the project commencing, for example pertaining to an ethics review.

You must have discussed the above items with the representative of the administrating university before the representative approves and signs your application. The administrating university is responsible for ensuring that your project is in compliance with the conditions and assumptions as defined by Swedish legislation. Scan and email your signed application form to registrator@ssm.se.

APPENDICES/ATTACHMENTS

Research programme (Appendix 1)

Appendix 1 must contain a brief, though complete, description of the proposed research, a maximum of ten A4-size pages including references. The focus of your research programme is to be forward-looking, in other words, a description of what is to be done. The description should focus on your research programme for the first three years. It is allowed to describe in more general terms the research activities envisaged for the possibly subsequent three years. Please note that any pages exceeding the permitted number will be excluded from consideration.

The following information must be described under separate headings in your proposed research programme:

- **Purpose and aims** Give an account of the overall purpose and specific aims/objectives of the research.
- **Survey of the field** Provide a summary account of your own and others' research and previous findings in the field of research. Specify key references.
- **Project description** Provide a summary account of your proposed project describing theory/hypotheses and methods, and the time schedule, execution and project organisation.
- **Significance** Give an account of the project's significance (importance) in relation to the field of research.



- **Preliminary results** Describe your own trials and preliminary studies in the field of research.

CV (Appendix 2)

Attach your CV, a maximum of two A4-size pages.

List of publications (Appendix 3)

Attach a list of publications in which you have indicated with an asterisk (*) the three publications of key importance for your project. Important: Only include articles/papers or the like that have been published or accepted for publication.

Budget and resources for research (Appendix 4)

Provide a brief explanation of each item of the budget accounted for as part of your application. Describe your existing research resources for the proposed project. Also provide an account of resources that you and any prospective collaborators or partners have applied for, inclusive of this application. State the kind of funding, contribution or grant, source(s) of the financial support, the recipient of the financial support/project manager, the period or duration of such funding, and the applicable amounts. Appendix 4 is not allowed to encompass more than two A4-size pages.

Consideration and decision

A scientific assessment of applications will be conducted by a body of experts in the field of radioecology. The applications will be considered on the basis of scientific standards, feasibility and relevance in the specific field of research described above. Processing and consideration of the applications will consequently encompass an assessment of applicants' scientific qualifications, in addition to the scientific environment within which the researchers will pursue their proposed work. Beyond these aspects, consideration will be given to the proposed scientific programme and to an assessment of as to whether suitable premises and adequate research resources can be offered to the applicant by the administrating university. As the purpose of the funding provided for a senior researcher position includes building up and developing an activity or a project which, in the long term, contributes to sustaining expertise in Sweden within the field, the applicant's capability to exercise academic leadership is a key criterion when the applications are undergoing evaluation.

SSM is positively inclined to project proposals involving cooperation between several stakeholders and active networking.

In June 2018, the Authority will use its official website to announce its decision on the grant to be awarded. Notification of this decision will be sent to all applicants. The first disbursement of approved funding can take place as of 2018 once a research contract has been concluded.

Procedure and deadline for submitting applications

Email your application form with all appendices/attachments to registrator@ssm.se no later than 11 May 2018. State reference number SSM2018-1028.

You are responsible for ensuring that your application is complete. If your application is incomplete, it may be disqualified.

Contact person

Pål Andersson, pal.andersson@ssm.se, Tel: +46 8 799 4139