
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Strategic knowledge enhancement 14

The Knowledge Foundation invites Sweden's new higher education institutions (HEIs) to apply for grants to finance fellowships/appointments. The programme consists of three components aimed at funding

- Adjunct professors/senior lecturers
- International visiting professors
- Research directors

If you have questions about the call, please contact:

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**We require your application
no later than 3 p.m. (15:00)
on 5 February 2015**

For technical support, contact:
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About the Knowledge Foundation

The Knowledge Foundation finances research at Sweden's new universities and HEIs for the purpose of strengthening Sweden's competitiveness. We provide funding when research is conducted in collaboration between academic researchers and business sector partners.

Background of the programme

Through the Strategic Knowledge Enhancement programme the Knowledge Foundation aims to support the development of research environments through strategic recruitments. The recruitments should contribute to the strategic profiling of the HEI and benefit the business sector. A higher education institution (HEI) must be able to further develop its research and educational activities on knowledge platforms beyond those represented by the HEI's own specialists. Exchange and collaboration with the business sector and researchers working in other countries contribute towards a higher influx of new methods, ideas, and perspectives, thereby enhancing the scientific quality and industrial benefits of research.

Purpose and objective of the programme

The programme aims to help new universities establish ties to strategically important persons that contribute towards further development of the research environment and the HEI. Thereby also strengthening the capacity to conduct research in co-production with the business sector to also increase expertise in the business sector.

The objective to recruit an adjunct professor/senior lecturer is to give HEIs access to important experience concerning specific questions that companies address, how research findings are used in practice or to contributions to improvement of education relevant to the business sector. The programme also creates opportunities for business partners to informally access all knowledge sources and networks of the host institution. Further, the programme provides opportunities for people in the business sector to acquire additional academic qualifications.

The objective to recruit an international visiting professor is to facilitate greater international collaboration of research in areas of academic and business interest.

The objective to recruit a research director is to build and actively lead the development of a given strategic area in collaboration with the business sector.

Programme design

The programme has three components:

- Adjunct professors/senior lecturers
- International visiting professors
- Research directors

Adjunct professors/senior lecturers

The Knowledge Foundation is calling for proposals to finance fellowships/appointments for adjunct professors/senior lecturers from the business sector. Employment may range from 20 % to 50 % for a period of 1 to 3 years. During the time that the fellow works at the HEI, the HEI will provide co-financing of at least 10 %. Relative to the percentage of employment financed by the Knowledge Foundation, the adjunct professor/senior lecturer must work within one or more of the following areas at the HEI:

- **Research:** Conduct research, participate in joint applications, develop project proposals, supervise doctoral students, etc.
- **Teaching:** Contribute project ideas from a business perspective in teaching second-cycle courses, participate in second-cycle course and programme development, initiate business-related projects for second-cycle degrees.
- **Management:** Participate in the management of the HEI by contributing to strategic development, etc.

International visiting professorships

The programme offers funding for a limited time to employ/appoint visiting professors whose primary work is normally located in another country. The Knowledge Foundation finances up to 90 % of the fellowship costs. The HEI provides co-financing for the remaining 10 % of the costs.

A specific plan must outline the visiting professor's activities during her/his stay at the host institution, clearly describing the research questions and implementation of activities where both the HEI and the business partners contribute. The plan must also describe the expected benefits for both the HEI and the business partners.

Research directors

By using the so-called “summons procedure”, the programme aims to externally recruit research directors who are qualified to be full professors. Research directors should be employed as a full professor and be appointed as a research director at the HEI. A research director should be given responsibility for a general strategic area as clearly identified in the HEI’s research and education strategy.¹

The research director is to build and actively lead the development of a given strategic area in collaboration with the business partners. This can involve synthesising an area by combining previous activities at the HEI, or renewing an established area.

The research director’s role also includes developing the strategic area through a dialogue with business partners.

The programme provides the possibility for funding the position of research director for 2+2 years. During the first 2 years the Knowledge Foundation will fund up to 70 % of the HEI’s direct costs of employment, whereafter the work of the research director in the strategic area will be evaluated. If the evaluation shows a satisfactory result in accordance with the plan, funding can be awarded for another 2 years. However, during the second 2-year period the Knowledge Foundation will fund a maximum of 40 % of the HEI’s direct costs of employment. The research director is expected to work full time at the HEI.

Who may apply?

The call for proposals is aimed at HEIs and only Sweden’s new higher education institutions may apply. The HEI applies for funds to finance a fellowship or appointment of an identified individual. Although the vice chancellor is the applicant, the project manager for adjunct professors/senior lecturers and international visiting professors should be someone at a strategic level in the HEI who is responsible for research. Regarding applications for research directors, the vice chancellor or deputy vice chancellor should serve as project manager.

Individuals who may be considered for a fellowship/appointment as adjunct professor/senior lecturer, research director, or international visiting professor funded under this programme must meet the requirements of the HEI’s employment guidelines. The employment guidelines for adjunct

¹ For example, if the HEI identifies 4 profile areas in its research and education strategy, the research director shall be given overall responsibility for one of these areas as a whole, not simply part of the profile area.

professors/senior lecturers at HEIs can vary. Hence, the primary rule is that the position should go to an individual employed in with the business sector who holds a doctorate, and this is the type of fellowship that the guidelines should support.

The recruitment process must also adhere to the HEI's employment guidelines. Consequently, the positions do not necessarily require an open call. If, under the HEI's employment guidelines, expert review is required for a fellowship/appointment as an adjunct professor/senior lecturer, international visiting professor, or research director, the review can be performed after the Knowledge Foundation has rendered a positive decision. Hence, the Knowledge Foundation's decision is conditional, and if the plan presented in the application is not followed, the Knowledge Foundation may withdraw its planned financing.

Only individuals whose primary activities are located outside of Sweden may receive financing as a visiting professor under this programme.

How should the funds be used?

Budgeting of funds must comply with the instructions presented in the document *Guidelines on Approved Expenditures*, see www.kks.se.

The application should not include the amount added for overhead (OH). This will be calculated and included in the proposed contract if the Knowledge Foundation approves the application for funds.

Funds from the Knowledge Foundation may be used only to employ/appoint researchers at Sweden's new HEIs. A list of these HEIs is available on the Knowledge Foundation's website www.kks.se.

Although fellowships may include teaching at the undergraduate level, this activity cannot be financed with Knowledge Foundation funds. Also, teaching at the undergraduate level cannot be counted as co-financing.

What do the grants cover?

Adjunct professor/senior lecturer	Applicants may request funding for 1 to 3 years to cover a fellowship/appointment level of 20 % to 50 %.
International visiting	Applicants may request funding for 3 months to 1 year to cover a

professor	fellowship/appointment level of 50 % to 100 %.
Research director	Applicants may request funding for 2 years to cover a fellowship/appointment level of 100% per year. After 2 years, applicants may submit an application for an additional 2 years of funding.

The Knowledge Foundation finances fellowship/appointment costs as shown below:

	The Knowledge Foundation's contribution	HEI's contribution
Adjunct professor/senior lecturer	90 %	10 %
International visiting professor	90 %	10 %
Research director	70 %	30 %

The Knowledge Foundation finances fellowship/appointment costs as follows:

- Costs for salaries in accordance with the document *Guidelines on Approved Expenditures*, see www.kks.se.
- Costs for e.g. travel and direct project expenses, max 20 000 SEK per fellowship/appointment for adjunct professor/senior lecturer. For international visiting professors and research directors/professors, the maximum is 100 000 SEK per year per full-time position.

The Knowledge Foundation's maximum total contribution per fellowship/appointment, excluding overhead costs.

Adjunct professor/senior lecturer	Total of 1 100 000 SEK for the period covered in the application, but a maximum
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		of 550 000 SEK per year.
International professor	visiting	Total of 1 200 000 SEK per year for a maximum of 1 year.
Research director		Total of 1 200 000 SEK per year for 2 years.

The funding requested may be used to finance fellowships/appointments at the HEI. As regards fellowships/appointments of adjunct professors/senior lecturers or international visiting professors, the funds may also be used to reimburse the business partners/foreign HEIs for the time that the adjunct professor/senior lecturer or visiting professor is engaged at the host HEI.

Please note that costs accrued prior to the Knowledge Foundation's decision are not accepted. Any conflict of interest concerning financial or personal ties between involved companies, between companies and HEIs, or between companies and individual researchers must be declared. Specify, e.g. ownership of shares, governing board positions, or employment/consultancy and agreements concerning intellectual property rights (IPR) irrespective of scope.

HEI involvement

As regards the programme components adjunct professors/senior lecturers and international visiting professors the HEI must contribute resources to the project corresponding to 10 % of the direct costs. Regarding research directors the HEI must co-finance 30 % of the direct costs in the project.

In addition to co-financing, the HEI must offer organisational conditions related to the strategic importance of the fellowship/appointment. This means that the position must be placed within a context that offers the fellow the most favourable conditions possible to make a lasting contribution to the HEI's activities.

Business sector involvement

Please note that the business partners' involvement in the research environment and in the fellowship/appointment is an important aspect in the evaluation, as is the active contribution of the fellowship/appointment to the development needs of business partners.

By "business sector", the Knowledge Foundation refers primarily to the private business sector. The concept, however, may include companies under public ownership that are active in competitive markets and where the company finances its operations in the same manner as companies in the private business sector. Hence, public subsidies or fees may not constitute a significant part of the company's revenues. None of the organisations may be solely administrative enterprises. Primarily they must produce goods or services. The companies must operate in Sweden to the extent that their input provides value for co-production and they have the potential to integrate the results from co-production into their operation.

For the Knowledge Foundation's definition of the business sector, see www.kks.se.

Formal requirements

An application must meet the following requirements before the Knowledge Foundation will consider it for evaluation. If the application does not meet the formal requirements described below it will be rejected without further evaluation.

- The project must be in line with the purpose and objectives of the call for proposals.
- If any economic or personal links exist between the involved companies, between any company and the HEI, or between any company and individual researcher, this must be disclosed in the application form. The project plan must clearly indicate any personal conflicts of interest, and the individual's various roles in the company or HEI must be fully described. Specify, e.g. ownership of shares, governing board positions, and employment/consultancy.
- Budgeting of funds must be in accordance with the instructions presented in the document *Guidelines on Approved Expenditures*, see www.kks.se.
- The latest starting date for the initiative is January 2016.

- The initiative must involve a fellowship/appointment for an adjunct professor/senior lecturer, an international visiting professor, or a professor appointed as research director who is recruited via a so-called “summons procedure”. The employment guidelines for adjunct professors/senior lecturers at HEIs can vary. Hence, the primary rule is that the position should go to an individual associated with the business sector who holds a doctorate, and this is the type of fellowship that the guidelines should support.
- Co-financing must adhere to the levels described earlier in this call.
- The application must be signed by the vice chancellor.

Evaluation

The secretariat of the Knowledge Foundation reviews the applications to determine if they comply with the formal requirements.

An external evaluation panel then performs an overall evaluation based on the criteria below.

No additions or modifications to the application will be accepted after it has been submitted.

Funding decisions are made by the General Manager of the Knowledge Foundation.

Evaluation criteria

Scientific quality:

- What is the scientific level of the research environment where the prospective professor/associate professor will be working?

Benefits to the business partners:

- How and to what extent does collaboration currently exist between the research environment and the companies involved?

For adjunct professors/senior lecturers:

- What motivation does the business partners have for linking an industrial researcher to the research environment at the HEI?

For international visiting professors:

- To what extent is the fellowship/appointment designed in relation to the need to develop expertise among the business partners involved?

For research directors:

- To what extent is the fellowship/appointment designed in relation to the need for strategic development of the business partners involved?

Expected results and effects:

- To what extent does the fellowship/appointment contribute to the development of postgraduate education?

For adjunct professors/senior lecturers:

- How, and to what extent, does the fellowship/appointment contribute to the development of the research environment (and possibly the HEI) by introducing a business-orientated perspective?
- To what extent does the fellowship/appointment contribute to collaboration with the business partners in terms of transferring expertise and broadening the contact network?

For international visiting professors:

- How, and to what extent, does the fellowship/appointment contribute to development of the research environment (i.e. including the development of a new area within the research environment, or development of an already existing area)?
- How does the fellowship/appointment contribute to greater collaboration between the research environment and the business sector?

For research directors:

- In what tangible way does the fellowship/appointment contribute towards unifying the strategic development of the total research environment and thereby the HEI?
- How does the fellowship/appointment contribute towards developing strategic collaboration between the research environment and the business sector? (This may include both research and second-cycle courses.)

Implementation

- Do the organisational conditions clearly allow the fellowship/appointment to complement and reinvigorate the research environment, e.g. by describing the connection between the research strategy - research environment (including financing) fellowship/appointment?

Application

The Knowledge Foundation uses an electronic (online) application process. Applicants must log in to the Knowledge Foundation's website (www.kks.se), fill in the application forms, including attachments, and submit the application online to the Knowledge Foundation.

Applicants must create a user account to submit an application. A user account enables applicants to log in to the application service. Applicants may use a pre-existing account with the Knowledge Foundation if they have one.

Application documents consist of electronic forms and appendices that can be uploaded online. Special forms must be used for some appendices. The forms can be downloaded from the Knowledge Foundation's website, www.kks.se, or via the application portal.

Applications may be written in Swedish or English.

The appendices must be presented as follows, using corresponding headings in boldface print. Pages exceeding the allowed limit will not be included in the evaluation.

Appendix 1 must be presented as follows, using corresponding headings in boldface print.

- a) **The HEI's ambition regarding the fellowship/appointment.** Describe the connection between fellowship/appointment - research environment - research strategy **(max. 2 pages)**
- b) **The current research environment for the fellowship/appointment.** Describe current research environment, particularly with regard to profiles, staff composition, main results from the last 3 to 5 years, research plans, and business sector relevance/collaboration. Also describe any external financing from the Knowledge Foundation or other funding bodies and how it will be used together with the proposed fellowship/appointment in constructing the research environment. **(max. 5 pages)**
- c) **Contribution of the fellowship/appointment to the research environment and the business sector,** with particular consideration to contributions towards scientific development and contributions towards increased collaboration with the business sector. **(max. 3 pages)**
- d) **Recruitment plan.** Describe how recruitment will take place, with reference to the HEI's employment guidelines. **(max. 1 page)**

Appendix 2 must be presented as follows, using the same headings and number of pages as shown above:

- a) **Statement of intent from individuals that will be recruited.** The individuals shall state their reasons for seeking an appointment at the host HEI as adjunct professor/senior lecturer, international visiting professors, or research directors. **(max. 2 pages)**
- b) **CV from individuals to be recruited.** **(max. 2 pages)**

- c) **Letters of support from business partners** stating reasons for allocating time for employees to serve as adjunct professors/senior lecturers (**max. 1 page**) (Applies only to applications for adjunct professors/senior lecturers.)

Special forms must be used for the following three appendices. The forms can be downloaded from www.kks.se.

Appendix 3 Project budget (appendix form)

Appendix 4 Signatures of co-applicants (only for applications for adjunct professor/senior lecturer, appendix form)

Appendix 5 Signatures (appendix form)

Applications must be signed by the vice chancellor, department head/equivalent, and the CEO or official representative of the participating company. Unsigned applications will not be processed.

Timetable and decisions

- The Knowledge Foundation must receive your application no later than 3 p.m. (15:00) on 5 February 2015.
- The Knowledge Foundation's secretariat will review all applications for compliance with the formal requirements. The General Manager makes the decision to reject an application for failing to comply with the formal requirements.
- The external evaluation panel will submit its final recommendations to the Knowledge Foundation's General Manager during the spring.
- The Knowledge Foundation's General Manager will decide on funding no later than May.
- The recruitment is finalized during 2015 and the initiatives must commence no later than January 2016.