
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Strategic recruitments 14

The Knowledge Foundation invites Sweden's new higher education institutions to join with the business sector in applying for financing for strategic recruitments.

With this type of grant, the Foundation and the business sector collaborate to jointly finance positions at Sweden's new HEIs. The programme consists of two subcomponents aimed at recruitment for:

- Professorships
- Associate senior lecturer (or equivalent)

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 18 September 2014**

For Technical support, contact:
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About the Knowledge Foundation

The Knowledge Foundation finances research at Sweden's 16 new universities and HEIs¹ 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 and motive of the programme

The Knowledge Foundation's mission includes promoting the development of distinctive research environments at Sweden's new higher education institutions (HEIs). As part of this, the Foundation encourages the HEIs to enhance their long-term strategies for recruitment of research and teaching staff. Towards this end, the Foundation focuses on two types of positions that are of major strategic importance for directly strengthening capacity at the senior level and for recruiting junior researchers to secure the long-term development of the research environment.

Purpose and objective of the programme

Creating strong and dynamic research environments requires a continual influx of researchers. The Strategic Recruitments programme aims to strengthen the capacity of strategically important research environments.

The overarching objective of the programme is to develop the capacity for research in strategically important areas at Sweden's new HEIs in co-production with the business sector. The programme should contribute to innovative research and increase expertise in the partner companies by creating opportunities to recruit researchers in new and complementary research fields.

Who may apply?

The call for proposals is intended for the HEI. Only Sweden's new HEIs may apply. The HEI applies for funding in collaboration with business partners to finance a position at the HEI. Recruitment must comply with the HEI's employment guidelines and be announced publicly. (In certain cases, so-

¹ Blekinge Institute of Technology, Dalarna University, University of Borås, University of Gävle, University of Halmstad, Jönköping University, Kristianstad University, University of Skövde, University West, Karlstad University, Linnaeus University, Malmö University, Mid Sweden University, Mälardalen University, Södertörn University, Örebro University

called “summoning procedure” may be used to recruit professors. In such cases this must be clearly described in the application.) The vice-chancellor is responsible for the application, but the project manager must be someone at the strategic level at the HEI with responsibility for research, e.g. pro-vice-chancellor.

Programme design

The programme has two subcomponents:

- Professorships
- Associate senior lecturer (or equivalent)

Budgeting of funds must be in accordance with the instructions presented in the document *Guidelines on Approved Expenditures* (see www.kks.se).

The funds applied for should not include overhead. This will be calculated and included in the proposed contract upon approval of the application.

The fellow must be employed full time by the HEI, and during the time that the Knowledge Foundation provides financing at least 2/3 of the position must be reserved for research. However, lecturing and other departmental duties may be incorporated in all positions and financed by the HEI.

When applicable the HEI shall assume full responsibility for financing when funding from the Knowledge Foundation ceases.

Professorship programme: Fellows must be employed as professors. Individuals qualified to be professors for the position as professor in accordance with the higher education ordinance and local regulations of the HEI.

Associate senior lecturer programme: Fellows must be employed as associate senior lecturer (or equivalent). The position must correspond to the qualifications in the higher education ordinance, Chapter 4, Section 12 a & b. The position must be addressed in the employment guidelines of the applicant HEI.

The Knowledge Foundation’s maximum funding per position

Professorship programme	SEK 500 000 per year for 2-4 years
Associate senior lecturer programme	SEK 400 000 per year for 2-4 years

The HEI, co-financing company, and the Knowledge Foundation each finance one third of the position. The Knowledge Foundation only finances time devoted to research. The co-financer may not invoice the HEI for other costs associated with the position.

Funding is calculated based on the following:

Salary costs are calculated on the basis of gross salary plus an incremental charge of 50 % to cover payroll tax, holiday pay, insurances and assessed rental value.

Related costs, e.g. travel and direct project costs, can be included to an amount of maximum SEK 75 000 per year and position.

HEI involvement

Co-financing by the HEI shall involve placing direct resources, e.g. salaries, at the disposal of the project. See *Guidelines on Approved Expenditures*, www.kks.se for further information.

In addition to co-financing, the HEI must provide organisational prerequisites related to the strategic significance of the position, i.e. the position must fit into a strategic context of the HEI.

Business sector involvement

The Knowledge Foundation accepts one or more companies as co-financers of a position. The respective companies should participate in preparing the application by describing their involvement, input, needs, and benefits from the project. The application should describe how the proposed position is expected to contribute to the development of the company/companies. Funding from companies must be in cash.

By “business sector”, the Knowledge Foundation refers primarily to private companies. 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 private companies. 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 organisation here.

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 following requirements, it will be rejected without further evaluation.

- The project must be in line with the purpose and objective of the call.
- If any economic or personal links exists between the involved companies, between any company and HEI, or between any company and individual researcher(s), this must be disclosed on the application form. For example, ownership of shares, board memberships, employment/consultant work should be specified .
- 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 project: 2016-01-01, at which point fellows must be on site and begin working.
- The application must describe the involvement and co-financing of the business group as specified in the call for proposals, i.e. HEI 1/3, business partners 1/3 (cash), and the Knowledge Foundation 1/3.
- The Knowledge Foundation's maximum funding in the Professorship programme is SEK 500 000 per year for 2-4 years and in the Associate senior lecturer programme SEK 400 000 per year for 2-4 years.
- The Knowledge Foundation only finances time devoted to research.
- The HEI must employ the fellows full time, and research must comprise two thirds of the position.
- Fellows must be employed as professors or associate senior lecturer (or equivalent). Regarding the latter, the position must correspond to the qualifications in the higher education ordinance, Chapter 4, Section 12 a & b. The position must be addressed in the employment guidelines of the applicant HEI.
- The vice-chancellor, department head/equivalent, the director responsible at the respective company/companies must sign the application.

Evaluation

The secretariat of the Knowledge Foundation reviews the applications to determine if the application complies with the formal requirements. An external evaluation panel will review applications based on the criteria for the call (see below)

No additions or modifications to the application will be approved after submission of the application.

Funding decisions are made by the CEO of the Knowledge Foundation, based on recommendations from the external evaluation panel.

Evaluation criteria

Scientific quality:

- What is the scientific level of the research environment?

Benefits to the business partners:

- To what extent does the proposed position relate to the needs for development of knowledge at the collaborating company?

Expected results and effects:

- How, and to what extent, is the position expected to contribute towards advancement of the research environment? (May include development of new areas in the research environment or development of areas already established.)
- How, and to what extent, is the position expected to promote closer collaboration between the research environment and the business group?

Implementation:

- What are the HEI's ambitions concerning the position in terms of the connection between the position, the research environment, and the research strategy?
- To what extent has the HEI created space for the position within the organisation so that it can contribute as much as possible to the strategic direction of the organisation?
- How, and to what extent, do the research environment and the business group currently collaborate?

Application

The Knowledge Foundation uses an online application process. Applications are submitted via the Foundation's website, www.kks.se.

To use the online application service, applicants must create a user account or use a pre-existing account with the Knowledge Foundation.

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 Foundation's website, www.kks.se or from the application portal.

The application may be written in Swedish or English.

The appendices must be organised as follows, under the following headings:

1. **The HEI's ambition regarding the position** (max 2 pages): Describe the connection between the position, the research environment, and the research strategy.
2. **The research environment related to the position** (max 4 pages): Describe the current research environment, giving particular attention to its profile, staff composition, main results from the past 3 to 5 years, research plans, and business group relevance/collaboration.
3. **The position's contribution to the research environment and the business group** (max 3 pages): Describe the position's contribution to scientific advancement and contribution to increased collaboration with the business group.
4. **Plan for recruiting applicants for the positions** (max 2 pages): Present the timetable for filling the positions, the text for the recruitment call, and the plan for recruiting outside of the applicant HEI. (If a "summoning procedure" is used this must be described.)

Special forms must be used for the three following appendices:

5. **Project budget** (appendix form, only the Foundation's form can be accepted)
6. **Signatures of co-applicants** (appendix form)
7. **Signatures** (appendix form)

The vice-chancellor, department head/equivalent, the CEO or official representative of the respective company/companies must sign the application.

Timetable and decisions

- The Knowledge Foundation must receive your application no later than 3 p.m. (15:00) on 2014-09-18.
- After the Knowledge Foundation receives the applications, all of the forms will be reviewed as soon as possible. The Foundation's CEO will decide whether an application must be rejected for failing to meet the formal requirements.
- The Knowledge Foundation's CEO will render a decision on financing at the end of November after receiving recommendations from the evaluation panel.