

INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL 2023-C

Open call to researchers in Sweden to apply for support of a Career Position directed towards Space Research, including Earth Observation Research

SCHEDULE

- Release:** Release in Prisma planned no later than March 17, 2023.
- Deadline:** Applications must be submitted no later than **May 10, 2023 at 14:00**.
- Decision:** Grant decisions are expected before the end of the year 2023.
- Grant types:** 3-year grant supporting a Postdoctoral position
4-year grant supporting a Research Fellowship
3+3-year grant supporting a Senior Researcher position
- Mobility support:** All three grant types above can include a stay of up to 2 years at a research organisation abroad.

PURPOSE OF THE CALL

With this call, the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA) wants to promote good academic career opportunities for excellent researchers who have chosen a research career related to space.

Funded projects shall concern, in a concrete way, scientific analysis of measurements from:

- space-borne platforms like satellites (including International Space Station and Earth Observation satellites, e.g., within the Copernicus Programme), planetary probes, planetary rovers, etc.,
- sounding rockets and high-altitude balloons,
- ESA-selected ground-based and airborne science projects, e.g., bedrest, parabolic flights etc.

Note that a career grant may support several research activities. However, for simplicity, in these instructions we use the word “project” when referring to all activities within the grant period.

The proposal must include detailed plans (including work packages and milestones, if appropriate) of research activities for the first two years. The research plan for the following years requires less detail. A career plan for the principal applicant must be presented. A letter of support from the hosting department or institute is mandatory. It is recommended that the letter addresses the use of facilities and the career outlook beyond the proposed grant period.

These requirements are described in more detail in the following sections. An application must fulfill all requirements to be evaluated for funding.

SNSA plans to award up to approximately four new grants based on this call. The final number of grants will depend on the economic situation, the turnout of the call, and programmatic constraints.

Successful applicants will receive a grant tailored specifically to support them personally at a specific hosting department/institute. It is therefore not possible to have co-applicants within this call, nor can the grant be transferred to other staff.

TYPES OF CAREER SUPPORT AND AGE CONSTRAINTS

SNSA can fund three types of career support based on this call:

Positions supported	Max. funding duration	Career age
Postdoctoral position	3 years	0–3 years
Research Fellowship	4 years	2–7 years
Senior Researcher position	6 years (3+3)	7–12 years

Below we describe the positions supported, funding duration and career age in more detail.

Positions supported

SNSA has three types of career support, corresponding to three different stages in the typical research career.

Please note that SNSA is in no case an employer or responsible for staff at the administrating organisation (“medelsförvaltaren”). Instead, SNSA career grants are used by the administrating organisation to finance staff costs (salaries and associated social fees). The name used by the administrating organisation for the supported position does not need to correspond to the SNSA terms. However, the employment duration of the principal applicant (person seeking a career position) must correspond to at least the funding duration of the research contract. The employment rules of the administrating organisation apply to the involved staff.

Support to a Senior Researcher position (6 years) is intended to help a young researcher to qualify for tenure (“tillsvidareanställning”). Statements to this effect in the letter from the head of department is an asset in your proposal (see section Letters of Support below).

Funding duration

The number of years given above specify the maximum period of SNSA support at each stage of the career. The Senior Researcher support is contracted in two steps: first for 3 years, and after that period the project leader will be invited to a non-competitive prolongation call for a second 3-year period.

The SNSA career support is normally granted at 100% of full time. In case much less is needed, then clearly explain the circumstances in your career plan description in the enclosure “Career Plan and Project description”. However, all grant holders are allowed to participate in teaching and other departmental duties for up to 20 % of their working time on funding outside the career grant. The career support funding saved in this way can be used in the year beyond the nominal grant period (last year of disposition time).

Career age

The career age is defined as the time from you obtaining the PhD degree to the starting date of the proposed project.

You may deduct time spent on the following activities: parental leave, positions of trust in trade union organisations and student organisations, mandatory service in the total defence forces, long-term illness (own reported illness or care of child/close family member), general medical internship (maximum 24 months) or further training/specialist medical internship for clinically active professionals (maximum 24 months). Please note that we do not accept other employment, unemployment, or holidays as deductible time. If the fulfilment of these rules is not obvious from the CV information uploaded into the proposal, then please address this issue in the section “Previous achievements” of the enclosure “Career Plan and Project Description”.

MOBILITY SUPPORT

SNSA promotes experience from working in a different research environment during the early career of scientists. For example, this could be in the form of a Postdoctoral position outside Sweden, or a guest researcher visit abroad.

A maximum of two years can be spent at a research establishment outside Sweden while supported by a career grant from SNSA. Such a stay must have the approval of the administrating organisation in Sweden (“medelsförvaltaren”), which remains the employer throughout the supported stay abroad. Thus, for career grants with mobility support, the SNSA funding will be transferred in the normal way to the administrating organisation in Sweden, which is responsible for all employment aspects of the work outside Sweden.

SNSA recommends that the career position is planned in such a way that at least 12 months at the end of the career position is spent at the administrating organisation in Sweden (repatriation within the grant period).

If you intend to work abroad, it is mandatory to include a letter of support from the host research establishment (see section Letters of Support below). In addition, you should explain how this stay abroad would benefit the advancement of your career in the section entitled “Career Plan” of the enclosure “Career Plan and Project Description”.

ALLOWED BUDGET REQUESTS

Within this call it is possible to seek support for:

- Salary costs for the principal applicant, including social fees (base yearly increase on employer standard, if available).
- A maximum of 100 000 kr/year for other direct costs (publication, travel, computer costs, etc).
- This limit cannot be exceeded unless you are applying for mobility support. In this case, the additional direct costs associated with the planned stay abroad, within the limit of 50 000 kr per year, should be thoroughly justified.
- Indirect costs, including premises, according to the rules of the administrating organisation.

If you want to apply for a career position, but you have research ambitions requiring costs outside the above limitations or a project that also fits the Research (R) Call, then it is possible to apply for both a Career (C) grant and a Research (R) grant. In this case, clearly specify the relationship and possible overlap between these proposals in a specific sub-section entitled “Overlapping proposals”, in the section “Specification of Costs” of the enclosure “Career Plan and Project Description” of both proposals.

ENCLOSURES

Three **mandatory** enclosures in PDF format must be uploaded to the Prisma system for inclusion in the application. The minimum font size for bulk text in the enclosures should be 12 p. These enclosures are described below. Each of them should have a heading corresponding to the one given below.

Career Plan and Project Description

This enclosure is the most crucial part of the application. It should include a description of your previous scientific achievements and future career plan, as well as a detailed description of the proposed research project and a specification of the costs.

It is mandatory to use the template that can be found in the home page of call 2023-C ([Utlysning 2023-C - Rymdstyrelsen](#)). Detailed information about required content is given in this template.

In addition, you should make sure to include clear answers to all questions given in the section “Criteria for evaluation” (see below).

Publication list

A complete list of your scientific publications should be enclosed to your application. Peer-reviewed publications should clearly be distinguishable from other types of publications. Please highlight the publications which are the most relevant to the proposed project.

Letters of Support

- A letter of support from the head of department / institute at your administrating organisation in Sweden is **mandatory**. It is recommended to include the career outlook of the applicant beyond the grant period. It may also include specification of facilities and support to be provided to the project and the applicant.
- In case you are applying for mobility support as part as this proposal, please also include a letter of support from the host organisation abroad. This should include the rationale for wanting to welcome the applicant to the research establishment.
- You may include letters from third parties informing about resources and allocations made available to the project. For example, this may address data availability from an international space mission. (optional)

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The following evaluation questions are provided to the reviewers in the initial evaluation process:

- Please assess the scientific merits, career outlook, career plan, and the suitability of the principal applicant (“project leader”). Is the applicant well-connected in a research network?
- Please assess the scientific excellence and importance of the proposed project, internationally, nationally and for society, which may include basic science aspects but also other aspects like applications, outreach, etc. How does the project relate to similar, on-going or planned projects?
- Please assess the project aim, goals, and implementation plan (note that the call requires a detailed plan for the first two years only). Do you find deficiencies? Is the proposed methodology good and the schedule realistic?
- Please assess the justification for utilizing data from space, experiments in space, or the strategic importance of the project for preparing for future space application (e.g. technology or methodology development).
- Please assess the novelty of the project and its potential to renew, develop and promote future national and international research efforts in using space-based or high-altitude equipment.

The final decision by SNSA will be based on the above criteria, combined with the following:

- cross-disciplinary comparisons of the achievements of the applicants,
- good career opportunities for excellent researchers,
- budgetary constraints,
- gender considerations (boundary condition for proposals of equal ranking),
- adequate support from the hosting department/institute,
- extent to which the applicant has delivered mandatory reporting of previous projects funded by SNSA.

PRISMA

The Prisma system (<https://prisma.research.se/>) is used for applications, feed-back and administration of grants. You must have a personal account in order to apply. More information is provided in Appendix G.

Please note that the Prisma system will automatically prevent registration of your application after the submission deadline. We therefore **strongly advise** applicants to register their application well ahead of the deadline. In this way you will get early feedback from the system on missing information required for registration. The system also allows you to withdraw, edit and re-submit an application before the deadline. For more information, see: <https://primasupport.research.se/user-manual/researcher/apply-for-a-grant/register-application.html>

QUESTIONS AND CONTACT PERSONS

For questions on this specific call, please contact:

- Kristell Pérot (08-40 90 77 72, kristell.perot@snsa.se)
- Vilgot Claesson (08-40 90 77 75, vilgot.claesson@snsa.se)
- Per Magnusson (08-40 90 77 92, per.magnusson@snsa.se)
- Kristine Dannenberg (08-40 90 77 98, kristine.dannenberg@snsa.se)

For technical questions on the Prisma application system, use contact in the menu at:

- English: <https://primasupport.research.se/user-manual.html>
- Swedish: <https://primasupport.research.se/>

APPENDICES

- G – General instructions

Appendix G

General Instructions

This appendix contains general rules and information concerning some calls within the Research Programme of the Swedish National Space Agency (SNSA, *Rymdstyrelsen*). It is appended to the specific instructions for calls to which it applies. In cases of conflicts between the specific rules of the instructions of a call and this document, the specific rules have precedence over the general rules of this document.

In 2020 SNSA gradually migrated to the Prisma system for research administration. Please note that the nomenclature of this document has been adapted to fit Prisma and departs somewhat from the nomenclature used by SNSA for calls made prior to the adoption of Prisma.

APPLICATION PORTAL PRISMA

Applicants must have a **personal account** within the system Prisma. For more information, see: <https://prisma.research.se/>

An application is created on the above web site by adding required information in the application form. In addition, most calls require the uploading of bulk information in PDF format into the application. Please make sure to register the application in good time before the deadline applicable to the call.

Please note that the organization where you are employed (or intends to be employed) must have an **organization account** in Prisma and be accepted by SNSA. If this is not the case, please make sure your employer submits an application to SNSA at least two weeks before the deadline (this is also done via the web site above).

For support and information on Prisma, see: <https://prismasupport.research.se/>

LANGUAGE

The applications can be written in Swedish or English. However, most members of SNSA advisory committees do not understand Swedish and most external expert reviewers are drawn from the international research community. Thus, SNSA need to have translated applications received in Swedish to English. Applicants are advised to use **English** in the application to make sure that their intents are conveyed without a translational interface.

However, please note that many calls require a project title in both languages and that a popular science summary in Swedish is required.

SPREAD OF INFORMATION

For successful applicants who are granted funding, SNSA plans to make the following information available on the web (SNSA web site and/or other web pages, such as SweCRIS):

- Funding organisation
- Project leader
- Affiliation
- Abstract (English) and popular summary (Swedish)
- Project duration
- Yearly funding level

WHO CAN APPLY?

The applicant is required to be, or be eligible to become, affiliated to a university or research establishment in Sweden where the project work is to be carried out.

Research contracts are issued only to researchers who have a doctoral degree. Applicants who do not have such a degree but expect to receive it shortly may nevertheless submit a research proposal. In this case SNSA must receive a copy of the doctoral certificate or a written confirmation from the head of department/institute that the principal applicant is planned to obtain the PhD degree or comparable degree by the end of the year. For calls with a deadline in May, the confirmation must reach SNSA by October 1 of the same year (for other situations, please consult with SNSA staff). Lacking such confirmation, the application will not be further considered.

A research grant is normally contracted to a project leader who will remain younger than 69 years of age during the first calendar year of the grant. If the applicant will reach the Swedish LAS-limit during the proposed project duration, then the application should contain a plan for the future transfer of the project leadership. If a university department or institute wishes to receive funding for research leaders older than the above limits, then the case must be clearly stated, e.g. in a letter from the head of department included in the application.

SNSA can reject submitted proposals based purely on applicants have outstanding reports from previous grants.

Other participants (*medverkande*)

Additional staff (maximum six) standing behind the application and intending to work on the proposed project may also sign the application. These persons must also have a personal account in Prisma and CV information from their personal profile in Prisma will be included in the application. Note that lack of a personal account, CV or inaction from an intended

participant can prevent registration of the application. Thus, plan in good time with signing participants.

In addition to the above, note that you may have any number of additional persons in your project team, without having them sign the application.

Participants from other universities

Both signing and non-signing participants in your team may be affiliated to other research establishments, both in Sweden and abroad. You may include costs at other research establishments in Sweden, but your own organization must be prepared to arrange the transfer of such funding within Sweden.

Gender aspects

The proportion of female researchers using space-based platforms is still rather small in Sweden. SNSA therefore encourages the scientific community to contribute towards more women getting involved. Without waiving quality requirements, SNSA will consider gender as one of several boundary conditions when evaluating applications within open calls.

Information in the CV

Specific rules for what information can be included in the applicant's CV are imbedded in the Prisma system for each individual call.

BUDGET

Under this heading in the Prisma forms you need to summarize the costs sought for the project from SNSA. The costs should be given in Swedish kronor. Please distribute the costs among the table headings as follows:

- **Salaries** (see special section below for more details)
 - Salaries
 - Social fees (*lönekostnadspåslag*)
- **Running Costs**
 - Instruments and equipment
 - Expendables
 - Computer costs, computing costs
 - Publication costs
 - External consultancy
 - Depreciation costs
 - Premises
- **Expenses - Travel**
 - Transportation of equipment and travel to project meetings
 - Conference travel to present results

- **Total Budget**
 - All the costs previously indicated are added automatically
 - Manually add indirect costs (see special section below for more details)
 - “Other costs”, not to be financed by SNSA (optional information in most calls)

All costs must be specified and justified in the project description, in the chapter "Cost specification".

Indirect costs

Indirect costs must be computed using standard procedures of the administrating organisation (and the partner organisation, if applicable, without employing double overheads on the same direct costs). Please note that in the budget forms, only sought indirect costs should be included, not total indirect costs. If an organisation has a mandatory tabulation for computation of indirect costs (“full kostnadstäckning”), then please include it in the “Cost specification” chapter of the project description. However, those tables don’t free the applicants from the responsibility of specifying indirect costs in a correct way in the Prisma budget tables.

Salaries and social fees

SNSA grants can be used by the administrating and participating organisations in Sweden for salaries and associated social fees for staff working on the project. The employment rules of the organisation apply. SNSA grants may also be used to hire external consultants with appropriate expertise for the research project.

In the budget of your application, you may include any type of staff costs essential to the needs of the proposed project, including secondment/”friköp”), Research Fellows, PostDocs, PhD students, Research Engineers, etc.

Clearly motivate each staff cost.

OTHER FUNDING

Under the heading "Other funding" on the forms, if available, it is mandatory to include information on all awarded grants and submitted applications that overlap with or complement the current application.

For career applications and specifications to extend a career grant, it is also mandatory to include information on all awarded grants and submitted applications that include funding of the applicant.

AFTER SUBMISSION

Applications are assessed by a scientific advisory committee of SNSA, sometimes supplemented by external expert reviews and programmatic constraints by SNSA.

Additional information

In case relevant information becomes available after the application deadline, applicants may inform SNSA (in English) to allow this new information to be taken into account. For example, information on new schedules for space missions or allocation of telescope time (please include proof) should be conveyed in this way. Please note that applicants are not allowed to use this avenue to improve their applications with information that should reasonably have been available at the submission deadline. Failure to inform SNSA with data of relevance to the assessment of the feasibility of the project may result in rejection of the proposal.

Decisions and feedback

The schedule for grant decision is usually provided in the specific instructions for each call. Most calls are planned to allow funding from the month of January following the submission deadline. Thus, most SNSA grant decisions are made towards the end of the calendar year. However, in some years, formal rules related to limits on commitments for future years (*bemyndiganderam*) may force the formal grant decision to be postponed to early January.

The principal applicants can expect feed-back on their applications through the Prisma system after the grant decision.

Receivers of grants must approve the terms and conditions (“godkännande av villkor”) on time, in order to receive funding.

GRANTS

Type and extent of support

The research grants provide traditional research support, with funding at the disposal of a university entity or research institute (*medelsförvaltare*), in accordance with standard terms (*generella villkor*) of SNSA. The funding for a calendar year is normally provided as monthly instalments. Individual grants are normally limited to a maximum of 3-4 years, but SNSA can make longer-term commitments when appropriate.

Publication of results, data policy and open access

SNSA adheres to the basic principle that results and data from public funded research must be made available on-line to other researchers and to the general public free of charge without unnecessary time delay. The objectives are to ensure that other scientists will be able to use data in the future for other projects and to bring more scientific value of investments as an evident part of the knowledge society. More information is provided in the standard grant terms.

Reporting

Grant holders must report in Prisma in accordance with terms of the grant, which usually involves the following as a minimum:

- Financial Report (ekonomisk återrapportering), both yearly and at the end of the project.
- Scientific report (*Vetenskaplig återrapportering*) at the end of the project.

STAY INFORMED

In order to receive timely information from SNSA on future calls and other relevant information, please register for our Newsletter for Researchers at:

<https://www.rymdstyrelsen.se/om-rymdstyrelsen/nyhetsbrev/>

CONTACTS

In case of questions, please get in touch as follows:

- For technical questions about the **Prisma** application system, use contact in the menu at:
 - English: <https://primasupport.research.se/user-manual.html>
 - Swedish: <https://primasupport.research.se/>
- General questions about **SNSA research calls** for research:
 - Vilgot.Claesson@snsa.se
 - [Kristine Dannenberg@snsa.se](mailto:Kristine.Dannenberg@snsa.se)
 - [Per Magnusson@snsa.se](mailto:Per.Magnusson@snsa.se)
 - Kristell.Perot@snsa.se
- Questions on the **individual call**: See specific instructions for the call.