

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CALL 2020-C

Open call to apply for support of a Career Position in Sweden

These Instructions should be read carefully by all applicants.

You are also expected to read the following two general documents:

- **SNSA Research Calls**
- **Technical Guide 2020** (for non-Prisma Research Applications)

2020-C

Career support

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

Deadlines¹

Digital version: 2020 May 13, 24:00²

Paper version: 2020 May 27, 17:00³

¹Two submissions are mandatory, both a digital submission and a paper version with original signatures. See Technical Guidelines for details.

²Maximum size of attached PDF document: 5 megabyte

³Swedish postal stamp of the preceding working day is sufficient.

NEWS

Please note the following changes compared to last year:

- There are now explicit rules for the number of years after the PhD (career age) for the different types of career support.
- The current call is based on the classical SNSA system with forms in Excel and manual assembly of PDF documents for e-mail submission. However, please note that successful applicants who are granted funding must be prepared to take some simple actions to incorporate the grant in the Prisma system. Subsequent administration of grants, starting from January 2021, is planned to be made with Prisma.

PURPOSE OF THE CALL

With this call, SNSA wants to promote good academic career opportunities for excellent researchers who have chosen a research career related to space. Applicants must present a research programme which concerns, in a concrete way, work related to the types of space activities supported by the SNSA research programme (see the section *SNSA as a Research Funding Agency* in the document *SNSA Research Calls* for a closer specification).

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

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 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.

Successful applicants will receive a grant tailored specifically to support a suitable position for the main applicant at the hosting department/institute, and the grant can't normally be transferred to other staff or hosting organisations.

TYPES OF CAREER SUPPORT AND AGE CONSTRAINTS

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

Position supported	Funding length	Career age
Postdoctoral position	2 years	0–2 years
Research Fellowship	4 years	2–6 years
Senior Researcher position	6 years (3+3)	6–12 years

Below we address each of the three columns of the table.

Position 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 administration entity ("bidragsförvaltande organ"). Instead, SNSA career grants are used by the administration entity to finance a staff cost (salaries and associated social fees). The name used by the administration entity for the supported position does not need to correspond to the SNSA terms. However, the employment length must be at least the funding length of the research contract. The employment rules of the administration entity 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 (Enclosure 2).

If the rules presented above are at odds with the employment rules used at your research establishment, then please contact SNSA before applying.

Funding length

The number of years given in the table above specify the maximum nominal period of SNSA support at each stage of the career. The support to Senior Researcher positions is planned in the form of a contract for 3 years and a later invitation to a non-competitive prolongation call for a second 3-year period.

Grant holders may participate in teaching, tutoring of doctoral students, and other department duties for up to 20 % of the working time funded by SNSA, which would limit the time on the research project to 80% of the time funded by SNSA.

Career age

The career age is normally the time from obtaining the PhD degree to the start of the sought employment. 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.

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 blessing of the administrating organisation in Sweden (“förvaltande organ”), 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 option within the grant period).

Applicants intending to work more than 3 months abroad must in Enclosure 2 include a letter of support from the research establishment abroad.

CONTENTS OF A RESEARCH APPLICATION

Application forms

A proposal must contain the following set of forms:

- Form A (Overview)
- Form B (Administrative information, with signatures on paper version)
- Form C (Abstracts)
- Form D (Other sources of funding)
- Form E (Staff overview)
- Form F1-F4 (Sought amounts)

Enclosures

A PDF cover sheet is provided for each of the following types of enclosures that can be appended to the proposal:

1. Career Plan and Research Project (*mandatory*)
2. Specification of Costs and Letters of Support (*mandatory*)
3. Previous Research Achievements
4. Curricula Vitae (*mandatory*)

The cover sheet must be the first page of each enclosed enclosure. These sheets specify rules for the contents of each enclosure.

Letters of support

Letters of support may only be appended to Enclosure 2 and only in accordance with its cover sheet.

MODULES

A proposal may be divided into 1-3 modules. Form B and Forms F1-F4 are prepared for this, and if you use more than one module than please make sure that this is reflected in a transparent way in corresponding sub-sectioning of Enclosure 1. The modules may correspond to different levels of ambition, different phases of a project, or activities of different type. Such modules must be presented in Enclosure 1 as components of a single structured proposal.

WHAT FUNDING CAN BE SOUGHT ?

Within this call it is possible to seek support for:

- Salary for the principal applicant and associated social fees.
- A maximum of 100 kkr/year for other direct costs (must be justified in Enclosure 2).
- Indirect costs.

The signature of the head of department or institute on the application are considered to guarantee that the holder of the position is to be offered a workplace and reasonable work conditions during the grant period and the possibility to adhere to the rules given above concerning teaching and tutoring. Before allocation of funding for a career position, SNSA may, whenever necessary, contact the department or institute in question to discuss the conditions for funding of the position.

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 Call 2020-R, then it is possible to apply to both Call 2020-C and 2020-R with overlapping project aims and similar science goals. In this case, you may include your own salary in both proposals. For such pairs of proposals, specify clearly the relationship and overlap between the proposals in Enclosure 2 of both proposals. Please also consider using modules to clarify such overlaps.

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS ON INFORMATION REQUESTED ON FORMS

Abstract

Each project is to have an abstract of 100-250 words giving a brief and clear description of the proposed work. The abstract must be included on Form C, but may also be repeated as part of Enclosure 1, if appropriate. A summary in Swedish must also be included, preferably in a popular science style. For successful proposals, SNSA may have summaries in both languages published on the web as a description of the granted project.

Suggestions on evaluators

To broaden the basis of SNSA's scientific peer review process, applications should generally include names and contact information of three international experts on the subject of the proposal (Form B). The three experts should be free from conflict of interest with respect to the applicants and their research groups. The three experts must not all have the same gender. Please, do not repeat the same set of proposed names every year.

Other funding sources

It is mandatory to include on Form D information on all grants awarded to the applicant and his/her research group, as well as all funding requests submitted by the applicant/research group to other funding agencies (informative titles of projects required). It is also mandatory

to specify in the application forms the degree and the manner in which the activities of the applicant will be supported by the home institution and/or other funding agencies.

SUPPORT TO SALARIES

When filling in details about the staff cost, please be aware that some of the early steps have automatic numerical consequences on Forms F1-F4:

1. Specify the appropriate percentage(s) for indirect costs of staff on Form B.
2. Explain the basis for estimating future salaries in the box at the bottom of Form E (for example a yearly percentage increase).
3. Fill in the upper part of the table in Form E.
 - a. Specify the social fees (“arbetsgivar- och premieavgift”) prescribed at the administration entity (percentage).
 - b. Fill in the monthly salary for all relevant years (this is the only place in the forms where the unit is kr, as opposed to kkr)
4. On Forms F1-F4, fill in the number of months and the fraction of time to be spent on the research project for the applicant (usually 12 and 100%).
5. Enclose CV's to the extent required by the cover sheet of Enclosure 4.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The following criteria are considered by SNSA in the evaluation process (in no particular order, except the first two bullets are most important):

- Scientific merits, career outlook, career plan, and the suitability of the principal applicant.
- The scientific excellence and importance of the project, internationally, nationally and for society, including both pure science and applied science aspects.
- The project aim, goals, implementation and project plan.
- Motivation for and need of space experiments or observations in or from space, or the potential for future space application.
- 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.
- Letter of support from the head of department/institute.
- For mobility support, the letter from the host organisation outside Sweden.
- A plan for popular information to the public on the research activities.
- The extent to which the applicants have achieved mandatory reporting of previous projects funded by SNSA.

The final research programme of SNSA will be based on the above criteria, combined with boundary conditions such as budgetary constraints, strategic and policy considerations, gender aspects, and the long-term evolution of the research programme.

STAY INFORMED

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

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