

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CALL 2026-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 is planned during the first half of March 2026.

**Deadline:** Applications must be submitted no later than **May 05, 2026 at 14:00**.

**Decision:** Grant decisions are expected before the end of the year 2026.

**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) aims to support academic career development of outstanding researchers in space research.

Funded projects must concretely address at least one of the following bullets:

- Scientific analysis of measurements from space-borne platforms such as satellites (including the International Space Station and Earth Observation satellites, e.g. within the Copernicus Programme), planetary probes, planetary rovers, etc.,
- Scientific analysis of measurements from suborbital platforms, such as sounding rockets and stratospheric balloons,
- Scientific analysis of measurements from ESA-selected ground-based and airborne science projects, e.g., bedrest, parabolic flights etc.
- Research directly linked to the preparation of a future space mission selected or preselected by ESA, including theoretical modelling studies, even if it does not yet involve the use of space data.

To be considered for funding, an application must align with the objectives described above. Therefore, your application must explicitly specify the data sets to be used, their sources, availability (including timeframe), and authorised access. If the research concerns the preparation of a future ESA mission, the application must clearly describe the mission's context, its selection or preselection by ESA, and the project's relevance to its development.

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 fulfil 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:

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

SNSA intends to award no more than one Senior Researcher position per year under this call. The positions supported, funding duration and career age are described in more detail below.

### **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 extent and 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 can be granted at up to 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”. All grant holders are allowed to participate in teaching and other departmental duties for up to 25 % 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). If you need to significantly reduce your activity level on the project for another reason, during the course of the project, you will need to inform SNSA. Such an adjustment should benefit the advancement of your career in space research, and this will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by SNSA.

You may apply to this career support call if you are the project leader or participate in an ongoing project funded by one of SNSA’s other calls, on condition that the accumulated support to your salary does not exceed 100% of a full-time position.

### **Career age**

Career age is defined as the time between the date of the PhD defence and the starting date of the proposed project. The maximum career age indicated for each of the three position types will be considered as a strict upper limit.

You may deduct time spent on the following activities: parental leave, positions of trust in trade union organisations and student organisations, military service, 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”. In case your application gets selected, certificates that confirm your reasons for deductible time will be requested before signing the contract.

You may submit only one application for this career support call. Even if you are eligible in two different career age tracks, you must choose one of the tracks.

## **MOBILITY SUPPORT**

To support early-career scientists in broadening their international network and gaining experience from a new research environment, SNSA offers the possibility of increased project funding for a planned research stay abroad (see section Allowed Budget Requests). This could, for example, take the form of a postdoctoral position outside Sweden or a guest researcher visit abroad. It is strongly recommended to incorporate such a mobility aspect into your project, particularly if you have not had relevant international experience earlier in your career.

Such mobility support may only be granted for a stay at a university or research institute where you have never been employed or conducted significant research.

A maximum of two years during the period covered by the career grant can therefore be spent at a research establishment outside Sweden. Such a stay requires 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 planning the career position so that at least 12 months are spent at the administrating organisation in Sweden at the end of the grant period. For grants shorter than three years, the time abroad should be reduced proportionally while ensuring this repatriation 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, field-work, 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 (also called overhead costs), including premises costs, 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 project description enclosure 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. Information about the maximum number of pages and pdf sizes of each enclosure can be found in Prisma. 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** provided by SNSA, which is available on the home page of Call 2026-C. 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 evaluation of applications in this call is conducted in two phases. The following criteria are provided to the scientific advisory committee and external expert reviewers for evaluation:

### Phase 1: Scientific assessment

Phase 1 reviews are done by experts in the applicant's scientific field.

#### Scientific quality of the proposed research

- Assess the scientific quality and rationale of the proposed work.
- Assess the scientific and societal importance of the project internationally and for Swedish society (including pure and applied science aspects).

#### Novelty and originality

- Assess the novelty of the project and the extent to which it advances the field.
- Assess how the project relates to similar, on-going, or planned research internationally (i.e., what is new or different).
- Assess the project's potential to advance future national or international research in space science.

#### Merits of the applicant

- Assess the scientific merits, career outlook, and career plan of the applicant.
- Does the applicant have an established and relevant international research network?

#### Feasibility

- Assess the goals, project plan, implementation method, and work packages (note that the call requires a detailed plan for the first two years only). Are there deficiencies, is the methodology sound, and is the schedule realistic?
- Assess the necessity and scientific relevance of using data from space, or the strategic importance of the project for preparing for a specific future space mission. If the project involves the use of space-based data, assess whether the applicant has a clear and credible plan for accessing the required data.
- Assess whether the cost estimates and financial planning are clear, realistic, and well-justified.

### Phase 2: Cross-disciplinary assessment

Phase 2 reviews are done by a small cross-disciplinary panel, not necessarily experts, focusing on aspects comparable across disciplines.

- Assess the applicant's **overall CV**, including scientific experience, merits, publication record, and documented contributions beyond academia (e.g., outreach and societal engagement).

- Assess the strength of the **research environment**, including the adequacy of institutional support, access to necessary resources, and the relevance and robustness of the applicant's network of collaborators.
- Assess the **career plan**, focusing on long-term development, feasibility, alignment with the proposed research environment, and (where applicable) planned outreach and educational activities.

Reviewers take into account that different levels of scientific maturity are expected at the three respective career stages. The final recommendation is based on the combined results of both phases.

### **Programmatic Assessment**

The final research programme of SNSA will primarily be based on the criteria outlined above, combined with the following programmatic considerations:

- Budgetary constraints,
- Gender considerations (boundary condition for proposals of equal ranking),
- Consideration of Sweden's foreign, security and defence policy interests.
- Consideration of project connections to countries identified as security threats by the Military Intelligence and Security Service (MUST) or the Swedish Security Service (SÄPO).
- Consideration of handling or development of dual-use products.
- 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 the submission of applications, feedback and grant administration. An active personal account is therefore required. More information is provided in Appendix G.

It is crucial to register your application well in advance as the Prisma system will automatically prevent registration of your application after the submission deadline. Prisma will provide you with early feedback on missing information required for registration. The system also allows you to unregister, edit and re-register 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](mailto:kristell.perot@snsa.se))
- Per Magnusson (08-40 90 77 92, [per.magnusson@snsa.se](mailto:per.magnusson@snsa.se))
- Vilgot Claesson (08-40 90 77 75, [vilgot.claesson@snsa.se](mailto:vilgot.claesson@snsa.se))

- Kristine Dannenberg (08-40 90 77 98, [kristine.dannenberg@snsa.se](mailto:kristine.dannenberg@snsa.se))

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

- English: <https://prismasupport.research.se/user-manual.html>
- Swedish: <https://prismasupport.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 rules, the specific rules of the call have precedence over the general rules of this document.**

## **APPLICATION PORTAL PRISMA**

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).

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

For open calls, you find the applications forms on the above web portal under “APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS / Calls for proposals”. For invited calls, you receive a link to the call in the invitation from SNSA. Most calls require the uploading of bulk information in the PDF format into the application.

Please make sure to register the application in good time before the deadline applicable to the call.

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

## **LANGUAGE**

The applications can be written in Swedish or English. However, most members of the SNSA Science Advisory Committee and review panels do not understand Swedish and most external expert reviewers are drawn from the international research community. Thus, SNSA need to engage a translation service for applications received in Swedish. Applicants are advised to use **English** in the application to make sure that their intents are conveyed without such 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 information on the grant available on the web (SNSA web site and/or other web pages, such as SweCRIS), including the following information:

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

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

The applicant must either hold an existing affiliation or be eligible for affiliation with a Swedish university or research institution. This host organization must be where the project is primarily conducted. Formal employment at the host organization is not required at the time of application, but the host organization must formally sign and endorse the proposal promptly following the submission deadline.

Research grants 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, a copy of the doctoral certificate should reach SNSA by December 1 in the year of submission of the application.

SNSA can reject submitted proposals based purely on outstanding reports from previous grants to the applicant.

### **Other participants (*medverkande*)**

Additional staff (maximum six) standing behind the application and intending to work on the proposed project at a Swedish research establishment 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. Please note that lack of a personal account, CV or inaction from an intended participant can prevent registration of the application in Prisma. 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. Collaborators working abroad may be part of the team, without signing the proposal.

### **Funding to other research establishments**

In case part of the requested funding is intended to be used by team members at another research establishment in Sweden, then at least one researcher from that organization must sign the proposal in Prisma. The two involved research establishments must be prepared to arrange the transfer of such funding between them.

### **Gender aspects**

The fraction 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.

The chapter "Cost specification" must specify how the indirect costs are computed, usually in the form of percentages for different types of expenditures (salaries, travel, etc.).

### **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 the SNSA Science Advisory Committee or a review panel, 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**

Most SNSA grant decisions are made in December. Grant tables are usually posted at <https://www.rymdstyrelsen.se/forskning/beviljade-bidrag/>. In order to receive timely information on grant decisions, please subscribe to the SNSA Newsletter for Researchers (see <https://www.rymdstyrelsen.se/om-rymdstyrelsen/nyhetsbrev/>). Information on the grant decision will also be distributed within the Prisma system, but usually somewhat later.

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”) in Prisma 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.

## 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 (grants related to agreed deliverables may require yearly reporting).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:Kristell.Perot@snsa.se)
- Questions on the **individual call**: See specific instructions for the call.

## 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/>