



**Formas**

# **Mobility Grants for Early-Career Researchers 2022/2023**

**FORMAS** | ETT FORSKNINGSRÅD FÖR HÅLLBAR UTVECKLING – A SWEDISH RESEARCH COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Formas vision

# Knowledge builds a sustainable world



# Sustainable Development Goals







# Mobility Grants for Early-Career Researchers

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# What is the purpose of the call?

## **(1) Researchers formulate their own research questions**

- societal challenges within Formas' areas of responsibility
- fields of environment, agricultural sciences, and spatial planning
- multi- or interdisciplinary applications are encouraged, not mandatory

## **(2) Visit new research environments**

- learning new tools and methods
- discovering new directions for your research
- expanding your networks

## **(3) Contribute to national dissemination and internationalization of Swedish research**



# What is the delimitations for the call?

**- Sustainable energy is a central part of sustainable development, but, the call does not include research projects that aims to/at:**

- develop methods or materials for carbon capture and storage (CCS) or the carbon capture and utilization (CCU)
- develop methods for energy conversion or energy storage
- develop new or improved fuels and other energy carriers
- energy efficiency of processes with no clear or close connection to any of Formas' three areas of responsibility
- energy efficiency in the transport sector

**Please note that an assessment of whether an application is within the scope of the call or not can only be made based on a full proposal. Therefore, assessments will only be made once the call has closed.**





# Who is eligible to apply?

- **Researchers early in their career**
- **Doctoral degree issued**  
at the earliest January 1, 2019  
at the latest April 30, 2023



# Date of your doctoral degree

The date when the certificate of your doctoral degree was issued by the university

- ✓ you have fulfilled all requirements and have a degree
- ✓ compulsory courses, dissertation and approved doctoral thesis finished
- ✓ you have been issued an official certificate for your doctoral degree
- ✓ the certificate often have a university stamp





# Are there any exceptions to the time restrictions?

Your doctoral degree can be approved for the Mobility call even though it was issued earlier than 1 January 2019

- this only applies if you have not been able to conduct research during the period immediately following the doctoral degree
- an approved reason for deductible time
- **deductible time:** parental leave, documented sick leave, military service, political duties, or other similar circumstances



# General information

- Your doctoral degree can be issued from another country than Sweden
- You do not need to live or be employed in Sweden to be able to apply
  - BUT, discuss the terms and conditions for employment, and terms for visiting your host organization(s), with your home organization (their HR staff) before you apply.
- You are allowed to apply in the call Mobility grant for early career researchers and in other Formas' calls – but you can only get funding once for similar projects.



# Home and host organisation(s)

**You should always choose home and host organisation(s) according to:**

what is best for your research project, that expands your network and knowledge, and contributes to the development of your career  
– in accordance with the purpose of the call





# Home organisation – your administrating organsiation

- you should be employed under secure employment conditions
- administrates your grant and pays out your salary and flat-rates
- **Swedish** university, college or another Swedish public organisation
- stays should be at least one-third of the total project time (altogether)
- each individual stay must be at least three consecutive months
- an agreement with the home organisation when applying



# Host organisation(s)

- at least one, no upper limit
- universities, colleges, or research institutes
- located abroad and/or in Sweden
- visits should be at least one-third of the total project time
- each individual stay must be at least three consecutive months (altogether)
- should not charge any fees for premises, bench fees or similar



# What funding can you apply for

1. Your salary
  2. Indirect costs or overhead costs – costs shared by others in your organisation (administration, IT, renting of premises)
  3. Direct premises costs
- You cannot apply for any other costs than those above
  - The costs should be in accordance with your administrating organisation
  - You should verify these details with your administrating organisation





# Flat rate amounts to funded projects

## 1. Project costs

### Project-related expenses

- 100,000 SEK/year, the amount will be added if the project gets funded

### For example:

financing of interviews, analyses, fieldwork, publication in journals and databases that use Open Access, or participation in conferences



# Flat rate amounts to funded projects

## 2. Travel expenses and additional residency costs at host organisations

**Formas covers travel expenses and additional accommodation costs for residency at the host organisations**

- for the applicant and accompanying family members (specify)
- a lump sum added to the grant, size depends on
  - (i) the host country's cost of living level and
  - (ii) the number of accompanying family members

Read more in the call text and check the link to the Swedish Agency for Government Employers and their rules about "Merkostnadstillägg"



# Project duration

- Must be between 24 - 48 months (24, 36 or 48)
- At least one-third of the total amount of time must be spent at a home organisation  
must be spent at one or more host organisations (in total)
- Each individual period/stay must be a minimum of three consecutive months





# Three mandatory appendixes

## Appendix 1

The applicant's scientific development, added value of the research environments and travel plan for the project

## Appendix 2

Invitation from home organisation and host organisation(s)

## Appendix 3

A copy of your issued doctoral degree



# Appendix 1. The applicant's scientific development, added value of the research environments and travel itinerary for the project

- how the proposed project will contribute to the overall aims of the call
- how the focus of the project differs compared to your PhD studies
- motivate the choice of home and host organisation(s)
- how the research environments will contribute to the development of your career
- travel plan and dates of the visit(s) to the host organisation(s)

**Please read the calls specific *Grounds of assessment* for the added value of the research environments.**



# Appendix 2. Invitation from home organisation and host organisation(s)

The invitation must include a statement on the planned research and an assurance that the necessary facilities and resources will be made available for the applicant

- One invitation from each of the home and host organisation(s)

See further details in the call text





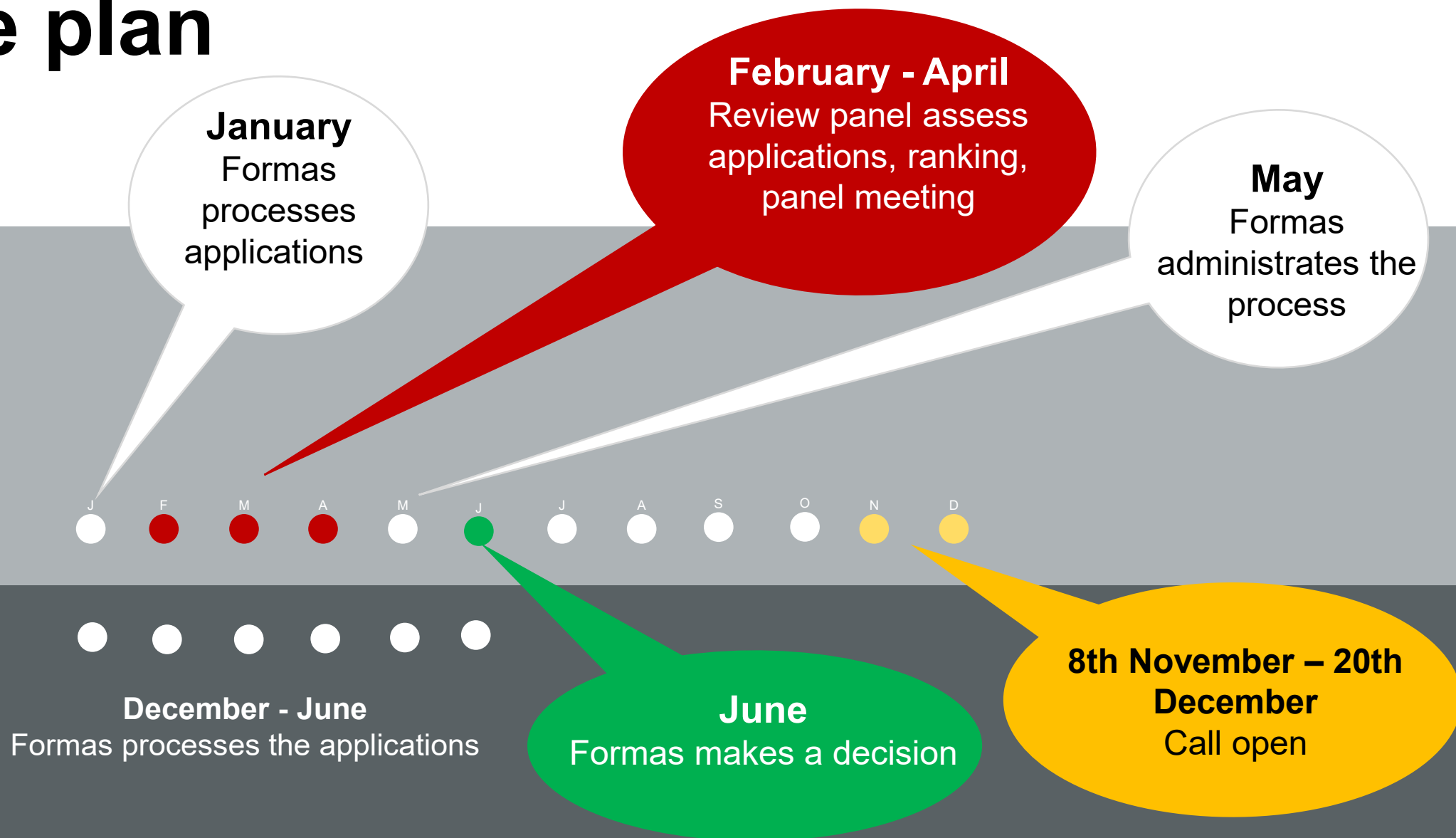
# Appendix 3. A copy of you issued doctoral degree

- Upload a copy of your issued doctoral degree
- If you do not have a doctoral degree when the call closes, you must upload information regarding the planned date for when you will be awarded your doctoral degree

**If you receive your doctoral degree after the call closes, it is your responsibility as an applicant, to ensure that your doctoral degree is available to Formas' research officers, responsible for the Mobility call, or Formas registrar no later than April 30 2023.**



# Time plan





# Grounds of assessment

## Scientific quality

- Research question
- Method and performance
- Scientific competence
- Added value of research environments

## Societal relevance

- Societal value of the research question and communication of the result







# The 7-point scale

- Reviewers assess the applications
- Score applications according to the five grounds of assessment
- Four reviewers on each application
- **The five grounds of assessments are equally important**





# Who is in the review panel?

- Around 24 panel members, including chair and vice chair
- Active researchers (clear majority) and stakeholders
- All members evaluate scientific quality and societal relevance





# Important advice

- have a great research question
- contact your home and host organisations (if you havent) – discuss terms of employment, and stays abroad if you will visit host organisations in other countries, with HR at your home organisation
- start writing in time!
- get to know Prisma
- be structured and clear





# Important advice

- NO reading between the lines  
– only what is in the application will be evaluated
- carefully read the **requirements** in the call text
- carefully read the **purpose** of the call
- address all the **FIVE** grounds of assessment



# Contact information

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**Get in touch asap if you have questions or difficulties, don't wait until the last minute!**





# Answers to FAQ

- Research aimed solely at developing energy technologies are in general not within the frame of this call.
- Mobility grants for early-career researchers may only be administered by a Swedish higher education institution, Swedish research institutes or other Swedish public-sector organisation that meets Formas' criteria for administrating organisations.
  - You must be employed during the whole grant period and any further additional availability period, which also means that you are employed and pay tax in Sweden. You must discuss the conditions for your employment with your home organisation.
- There is no definition of what a new research environment is. Choose home and host organization(s) based on what's best for your project and that will expand your networks and argue why you have chosen these home and host organisations. You can include research environments where you conducted your PhD and you have been visiting before.
- The grant can result in a postdoc employment but also other forms of positions. This is up to you to discuss with your home organisation.
- The grant is aimed for boosting your career and you can apply for 100 percent of your time. However, it's allowed to teach part time or work in other projects, but you can only be funded by 100 percent of your salary.





# Answers to FAQ

## Budget questions

- You can only apply for your own salary and overhead costs (no maximum budget). It's up to you to agree on the level of salary with your home organization.
- You cannot apply for funding to cover project costs in your application. For projects that are awarded a grant, Formas adds a lump sum of SEK 100,000 per year specifically for project-related expenses and adds the total to the amount awarded. The host organisations should not charge any fees for premises or the like, and this grant does not contains funds for that.
- You cannot seek funding for travel costs. Formas add a lump sum to covers travel expenses and additional accommodation costs for residency based entirely on current data from the Swedish Agency for Government Employers. The amount granted whose size depends on (1) the host country's cost of living level and (2) the number of accompanying family members stated in the application.
  - Family members can be partners and children (Formas doesn't require you to be married or anything like that, but check the rules for the country you will visit). You can include unborn babies in your application that will be born before the grant decision.