Funding paths to excellence

PLANNING THE ACADEMIC CAREER
There are several career paths and profiles in academia, often combined or following upon each other in different stages of the career, requiring different types of skills. Research, teaching, collaboration, leadership and administration are all part of academic work and having experience from several of these dimensions, understanding their interconnections, is a merit in the evaluation of research proposals.

This guide provides a compilation of research funding opportunities¹ oriented towards basic research available in different stages of the career, together with an indicative list of merits and skills required to be competitive. By providing a clear overview, we hope to encourage and facilitate the strategic planning of researchers, departments, career support offices and the like.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE
The expected academic achievements described in this material may be achieved in diverse ways, and the lack of one merit may sometimes be compensated by possessing another. Since the expectations differ in between research fields, the material should be interpreted in the context of the individual researcher and the research field.

Individual researchers may use the guide as a starting point in the strategic development of their CV and track record and when planning for future research applications. Doctorate supervisors may use the guide in a similar way, with the purpose of guiding junior researchers. Heads of departments and team leaders may use the guide as a basis for discussion with colleagues, or in personal development reviews concerning how to fine-tune or improve CV and track record and identify the research funding opportunities of relevance. The guide may also help identify the support needed at the department and in the research environment.

¹ The funding opportunities described are a selection of possibilities rather than a comprehensive list, there may be field specific funding opportunities not included here. Also, note that there may be specific eligibility criteria involved, which are described in the actual calls for funding. The elapsed time since the award of the PhD taken is a common point of reference for eligibility, often reducible due to documented parental leave, long-term illness etc.
PHD
Students enrolled in a doctoral programme, undertaking independent research with the support of academic supervisors, learning academic skills and producing a thesis that present a novel knowledge contribution.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic career stage</th>
<th>Funding opportunity</th>
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<th>Grant amount</th>
<th>Project duration</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD studies</td>
<td>Public and private funding opportunities</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>Small grants to cover: Field work, travels, conferences, meetings, networking</td>
<td></td>
<td>Search for relevant calls for funding in the Research Professional database</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expected academic achievements to be emphasized in curriculum vitae
- Co-produced research outputs with supervisors/research leaders
- Participate in networks
- Started to build collaborations
- Organised or co-organised workshops and seminars
- Presented papers at conferences, workshops and seminars
- Managed to attract small funding for attending conferences, fieldwork, etc.

Support from the university
Contact your faculty or department for information
**Post-doc**

Scientists in the beginning of the career who have recently obtained their PhD degree and continue their research career, with some supervision of more senior scientists, starting to build their own scientific track record and gaining independence from their PhD supervisor.

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PhD degree or 4 years of research experience</td>
<td>Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>12-24 months (+ 12 months reintegration for Global fellowships)</td>
<td>- European Fellowships - Global Fellowships - Industrial Fellowships - Career Restart Fellowships</td>
<td>If you are an outgoing fellow, contact the Research Support office at your MSCA host institution for support with your application.</td>
<td>September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD degree</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at the Broad Institute Knut och Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse</td>
<td>Medicine, Natural sciences</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD degree</td>
<td>Postdoctoral Fellowship Program at Stanford University Knut och Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD degree, maximum 2 years post PhD</td>
<td>International Postdoc Swedish Research Council</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>18-36 months</td>
<td></td>
<td>February and September</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PhD degree, maximum 3 years post PhD</td>
<td>Wenner-Gren Fellow-stipendier för postdoktoral utbildning</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>January</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD degree, maximum 3 years post PhD</td>
<td>Formas Mobility grant for early-career researchers</td>
<td>Environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning</td>
<td>1-2 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expected academic achievements to be emphasized in curriculum vitae**

- Publications as main author or without the participation of PhD supervisor
- International mobility
- Collaborations
- Developing independence from PhD supervisor
- Organised workshops, seminars, conferences
- Presented papers at conferences, workshops and seminars, with some invited talk
- Prizes and awards
- Managed to attract some funding for own research or as co-PI

**Support from the University**

Research Services give support in Marie Skłodowska Curie Individual Fellowships for fellows and supervisors (primarily those with Lund University as the host institution). The support include e.g. individual consultation, feedback on draft proposals, information seminars, budget help, and workshops on how to write the proposal.

Contact your faculty or department for information
JUNIOR RESEARCHER

Early-career scientists starting to develop an independent career, ready to work independently, and who show potential to become research leaders. Scientific track record showing great promise, having already produced excellent work.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic career stage</th>
<th>Funding opportunity</th>
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<th>Grant amount</th>
<th>Project duration</th>
<th>Comment</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-7 years post PhD</td>
<td>VR Starting Grant</td>
<td>Medicine and Health</td>
<td>1.5 million SEK/year</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vetenskapsrådet</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-7 years post PhD</td>
<td>VR Starting Grant</td>
<td>Natural and Engineering Sciences</td>
<td>1.5 million SEK/year</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vetenskapsrådet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum 8 years post PhD</td>
<td>Wallenberg Academy Fellows (WAF), Knut och Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse</td>
<td>Medicine, Natural sciences, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social sciences</td>
<td>1-1.5 million SEK/year</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Internal nomination process, assurance of permanent position required. Invitation to nominate in June, external deadline mid-February. A five-year prolongation possible</td>
<td>Announced every two years, February 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-8 years post PhD</td>
<td>Pro Futura</td>
<td>Humanities and Social sciences</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Internal nomination process, assurance of tenure-track position required. Invitation to nominate in October, external deadline mid-December.</td>
<td>December</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Riksbankens Jubileumsfond</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-6 years post PhD</td>
<td>Ragnar Söderbergh Fellowship</td>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>7 million SEK</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ragnar Söderbergs stiftelse</td>
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<tr>
<td>2-7 years post PhD</td>
<td>ERC Starting Grant</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>1.5 million euros</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>Internal process at LU (no nominations) – contact Research Services at least one month before deadline. Research Services run a training programme for applicants, starting about 6 months before deadline. Contact us for further information.</td>
<td>October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>European Research Council, Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-8 years post PhD</td>
<td>Formas Research and development projects for early-career researchers</td>
<td>Environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning.</td>
<td>Up to 3 years</td>
<td></td>
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<td>April</td>
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</table>

Expected academic achievements to be emphasized in curriculum vitae

- Publications in high impact journals (at least one important publication as main author or without the participation of PhD supervisor)
- International mobility
- International visibility
- Collaborations
- Independence from PhD supervisor
- Organisational experience
- Invited talks
- Prizes and awards
- Leadership experience (e.g. supervising students or PhDs, managing a lab or group)
- Managed to attract funding as main applicant

Support from the university

Research Services give support in Wallenberg Academy Fellows, Pro Futura Scientia and ERC Starting Grant. The type and extent of this support vary depending on type of grant, but may include e.g. individual consultation, information seminars, workshops on how to write the proposal, budget help, interview training etc. There are mandatory LU internal processes when applying for these grants so please contact Research Services in good time before the deadline (see above).

Contact your faculty or department for further information
SENIOR RESEARCHER
Scientists who want to consolidate their independence by establishing a research team and continue to develop a career. Promising track record of early achievements in their own research field and career stage.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Academic career stage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 year- post PhD</td>
<td>Wallenberg Scholars, Knut och Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse</td>
<td>All research areas, but Natural sciences, Engineering and Medicine are prioritized</td>
<td>4 million SEK/year</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Internal nomination process at LU, invitation to nominate in October, external deadline in May. Note that this time-frame is tentative. Next call in 2023. A five-year prolongation possible</td>
<td>Announced every four years May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12 years post PhD</td>
<td>VR Consolidator grant, Vetenskapsrådet</td>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences Medicine and Health, Natural and Engineering Sciences and Educational Sciences</td>
<td>2 million SEK/year</td>
<td>6 years</td>
<td>Project outline: February Full application: August</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12 years post PhD</td>
<td>ERC Consolidator Grant European Research Council, Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>2 million euros</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>Internal process at LU (no nominations) – contact Research Services at least one month before deadline.</td>
<td>February</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expected academic achievements to be emphasized in curriculum vitae
- Publications in high impact journals (several important publications as main author or without the participation of PhD supervisor)
- International mobility
- International visibility
- Collaborations
- Independence from PhD supervisor
- Organisational experience
- Invited talks, preferably at international conferences
- Prizes and awards
- Leadership experience (e.g. supervising students or PhDs, managing a lab or group)
- Managed to attract funding as main applicant

Support from the university
Research Services give support in Wallenberg Scholars and ERC Consolidator Grant. The support vary depending on type of grant, but may include e.g. individual consultation, information seminars, workshops on how to write the proposal, budget help, interview training etc. There are mandatory LU internal processes when applying for these grants so please contact Research Services in good time before the deadline (see above).

Contact your faculty or department for further information
WELL ESTABLISHED RESEARCHER
Established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements who pursue ground-breaking projects, often contributing to opening up new research possibilities for researchers within their own or adjacent fields.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 years-post PhD</td>
<td>VR Distinguished Professor Grant, Vetenskapsrådet</td>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences, Medicine and Health, Natural and Engineering Sciences and Educational Sciences</td>
<td>5 million SEK/year</td>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>Internal process at LU solely involving the Vice-chancellor’s letter of support. Contact Research Services no later than a month prior to deadline.</td>
<td>Announced every two years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 years-post PhD</td>
<td>ERC Advanced Grant, European Research Council, Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe</td>
<td>All areas</td>
<td>2.5 million euros</td>
<td>Up to 5 years</td>
<td>Internal process at LU (no nominations) – contact Research Services at least one month before deadline.</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Expected academic achievements to be emphasized in curriculum vitae
- Internationally visible and recognized researcher
- Outstanding publication record, very good bibliometric indicators
- Collaborations with highly recognized research partners
- Worked in international consortia, coordinated large projects and/or networks
- Developed strong research environment
- Organised international conferences
- Several invited talks at international conferences
- Substantial grant funding
- Involved in commissions of trust (committees etc), member of editorial boards
- National / international awards
- Good evidence of supervision and training of young researchers (PhD and postdocs)
- Top publications first authored by early career scientists that they have mentored

Support from the university
Research Services give support in ERC Advanced Grant, e.g. individual consultation, information seminar, budget help, and workshop on how to write the proposal. There are mandatory internal processes when applying for this grant so please contact Research Services in good time before the deadline (see above).

Contact your faculty or department for information.

As you approach the end of your career in academia and begin thinking about the next steps: consider the research environment that you have created. It is important to formulate a handover or rejuvenation plan to ensure the retention of knowledge, leadership and expertise and the continuation of excellent research. You should discuss this plan with colleagues and leadership to take into account the wider perspective of your faculty.