

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.

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

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.

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

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.

Academic career stage	Funding opportunity	Research area	Grant amount	Project duration	Comment	Deadline
2-7 years post PhD	VR Starting Grant Vetenskapsrådet	Medicine and Health	1.5 million SEK/year	4 years		March
2-7 years post PhD	VR Starting Grant Vetenskapsrådet	Natural and Engineering Sciences	1.5 million SEK/year	4 years		April
Maximum 8 years post PhD	Wallenberg Academy Fellows (WAF) Knut och Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse	Medicine, Natural sciences, Engineering and Technology, Humanities and Social sciences	1-1.5 million SEK/year	5 years	Internal nomination process, assurance of permanent position required. Invitation to nominate in June, external deadline mid-February. A five-year prolongation possible	Announced every two years, February 2019
3-8 years post PhD	Pro Futura Riksbankens Jubileumsfond	Humanities and Social sciences		5 years	Internal nomination process, assurance of tenure-track position required. Invitation to nominate in October, external deadline mid-December.	December
5-6 years post PhD	Ragnar Söderbergh Fellowship Ragnar Söderbergs stiftelse	Medicine	7 million SEK	5 years		May
2-7 years post PhD	ERC Starting Grant European Research Council, Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe	All areas	1.5 million euros	Up to 5 years	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.	October
2-8 years post PhD	Formas Research and development projects for early-career researchers	Environment, agricultural sciences and spatial planning.		Up to 3 years		April

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.

Academic career stage	Funding opportunity	Research area	Grant amount	Project duration	Comment	Deadline
13 year-post PhD	Wallenberg Scholars , Knut och Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse	All research areas, but Natural sciences, Engineering and Medicine are prioritized	4 million SEK /year	5 years	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	Announced every four years May
7-12 years post PhD	VR Consolidator grant , Vetenskapsrådet	Humanities and Social Sciences Medicine and Health, Natural and Engineering Sciences and Educational Sciences	2 million SEK/year	6 years		Project outline: February Full application: August
7-12 years post PhD	ERC Consolidator Grant European Research Council, Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe	All areas	2 million euros	Up to 5 years	Internal process at LU (no nominations) – contact Research Services at least one month before deadline.	February

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.

Academic career stage	Funding opportunity	Research area	Grant amount	Project duration	Comment	Deadline
12 years-post PhD	VR Distinguished Professor Grant , Vetenskapsrådet	Humanities and Social Sciences, Medicine and Health, Natural and Engineering Sciences and Educational Sciences	5 million SEK/year	10 years	Internal process at LU solely involving the Vice-chancellor's letter of support. Contact Research Services no later than a month prior to deadline.	Announced every two years.
12 years-post PhD	ERC Advanced Grant European Research Council, Horizon 2020/ Horizon Europe	All areas	2.5 million euros	Up to 5 years	Internal process at LU (no nominations) – contact Research Services at least one month before deadline.	August

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.