

# SWEDISH RESEARCH LINKS PROGRAMME

International Collaborative Research Grants  
Sweden, Asia, MENA and southern Africa

Call for applications 2009  
Guidelines for Applicants



# SWEDISH RESEARCH LINKS PROGRAMME

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2009

### **International Collaborative Research Grants International Planning Grants**

Closing application date: 6 May 2009 at 24:00 (support closing at 16:00).

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## 1. Type of grant

### **Background**

The Swedish Research Links Programme seeks to foster research ties between researchers in Sweden, on the one hand, and researchers in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) and southern Africa on the other. The key condition for the Swedish Research Links Programme is that researchers from the countries involved must submit joint applications on projects of mutual interest.

The Swedish Research Links Programme offers two forms of grant for international research collaboration:

- International Collaborative Research Grant (up to three years)
- International Planning Grant (one year)

The Programme is intended to support international research collaboration by funding the research partners' joint activities, such as exchange research visits between the partners, seminars, workshops and joint publishing. Minor items of equipment for use in the collaborative project may also be funded. Funding is awarded for both basic and applied research.

The Swedish Research Links Programme is funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and administered by the Swedish Research Council. The South African part of the programme is cofunded and jointly run by the National Research Foundation of South Africa.

The principles of mutual benefit, equity and fairness, and criteria relating to intellectual property rights, will apply throughout the collaborative research projects funded.

## Objectives

The main objective of the Swedish Research Links Programme is to encourage research cooperation between researchers in Sweden, on the one hand, and in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) and southern Africa on the other. The long-term goal is to contribute to mutual scientific and socioeconomic development of the countries involved through funding of collaborative research projects of high scientific quality and mutual relevance.

The Swedish Research Links Programme seeks to fulfil the following objectives:

- To establish a basis for long-term research cooperation.
- To produce new knowledge and enhance understanding in fields of mutual concern and relevance.
- To promote research excellence and quality.
- To encourage the internationalisation of research institutions.
- To foster interdisciplinary and scientifically complementary research.

## Conditions

**Applicants:** individual researchers (collaborative project leaders). The joint application must include at least two principal researchers: one affiliated to a university or research institution in Sweden and one affiliated to a university or research institution in a programme country (the programme countries are listed below). Swedish citizenship is not required for applicants from Sweden. If more than one programme country outside Sweden is involved, each must be represented by a principal researcher/applicant. For Sweden-South Africa proposals, the applicant representing South Africa must be a South African citizen or have permanent residence and must be affiliated to a research institution or higher education institution in South Africa to qualify for funding.

- **Scientific areas:** all scientific areas, including the Humanities and Social Sciences; basic and applied research.
- **Grant period:** International Collaborative Research Grant, awarded for up to three years (2010–12). International Planning Grant, one year (2010).
- **Cost categories:** the following costs may be funded: research visits between the collaborative partners, organisation of seminars and workshops related to the collaborative project, and joint publishing. Costs of minor items of equipment and consumables for use within the approved collaborative project may also be funded, maximum SEK 50,000 per year. Salaries, facilities and main equipment, are not funded by the programme. The grant does not fund fellowships.
- **Programme countries:**

- **Sweden** and the following countries listed in the OECD list (DAC list) of aid recipients ([www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist](http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist)):

**Asia:** Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, East Timor, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Rep., Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam.

**Middle East and North Africa (MENA region):** Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian adm. areas, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Yemen.

**Southern Africa:** South Africa, Botswana, Namibia.

**Other conditions:**

A grant recipient may only be awarded a joint collaborative grant once with the same partner. However, a former grant recipient may apply for a new grant with a new collaborative partner.

The collaborative project may include researchers affiliated to institutions outside the programme countries. However, costs of participation of researchers from non-programme countries may not be funded by the programme.

**A. International Collaborative Research Grant, Sweden–Asia, Sweden–Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and Sweden–Botswana or Namibia**

International Collaborative Research Grants of up to SEK 250,000 a year for three years, i.e. a total of SEK 750,000, are awarded for collaborative projects. The grant period is 2010-2012.

**Costs funded**

- Return airfares (economy class) for travel between the research partners' countries.
- Accommodation, subsistence allowance and local transport for research partners currently in one of the participating countries, taking part in approved collaborative projects.
- Organisation of project- and theme-related workshops and seminars with representatives from the countries involved.
- Production of coauthored publications emanating from the collaborative research project.
- Minor items of equipment and consumables for use within the approved collaboration project (maximum SEK 50,000 a year).

**Costs funded by the Asia, MENA, Botswana or Namibia partner(s)**

Personal accident and medical insurance for researchers from the partner country or countries travelling to Sweden. This insurance excludes costs of dental care, costs of treatment for chronic diseases, and repatriation costs in the event of urgent medical treatment in the country of origin, and in the event of death.

### **Costs funded by the Swedish partner**

Personal accident and medical insurance for Swedish researchers travelling to the host country of the collaborative project. This insurance excludes costs of dental care, costs of treatment for chronic diseases, and repatriation costs in the event of urgent medical treatment in Sweden, and in the event of death.

## **B. International Collaborative Research Grant, Sweden–South Africa**

For collaboration Sweden–South Africa, International Collaborative Research Grants for three years are awarded. The total amount available for the Swedish partner is up to SEK 150,000 a year (total three years SEK 450,000). For the South African partner, international collaborative grants of up to ZAR 150,000 a year for three years may be awarded (total three years ZAR 450,000). The grant period is 2010-2012.

An extra fund (Sida) is available for research collaboration with historically disadvantaged institutions in South Africa. Researchers from these institutions are encouraged to apply.

The South African contribution will cover costs in South Africa, while the Swedish contribution will be allocated to those in Sweden. International travel between Sweden and South Africa is the responsibility of the travelling partner. Local costs are the responsibility of the hosting partner.

All applicants should submit one application through the VR direct online system. They should register before submitting online. **No hard copy** of the application will be required by the NRF under this programme. Please post signed hard copy of signature page to the relevant agency in Sweden. This is a compulsory criterion under this programme which should not be breached. The ONUS is on the applicant to follow the correct procedures during the application process as the NRF will not be held responsible for mistakes executed by the applicant during the application process.

Please click on this link: <http://vrdirect.vr.se/> to register and submit application. Please provide the NRF with at least four names of reviewers and their emails addresses. This should be written under appendix A. The final budget for the SA partner will be determined by the NRF within the scope of activities applied under this programme.

### **Cost funded**

- Return airfares (economy class) for travel between the research partners' countries.
- Accommodation, subsistence allowance and local transport for research partners who are currently in one of the participating countries and participating in approved collaborative projects.
- Organisation of project- and theme-related workshops and seminars with representatives from the countries involved.

- Production of coauthored publications emanating from the collaborative project.
- Minor items of equipment and consumables for use within the approved collaborative project (maximum SEK 50,000 a year).

#### **Costs funded by South Africa**

- Return airfares (economy class) of South African researchers travelling to Sweden.
- Accommodation and local travel costs of Swedish researchers currently in South Africa and participating in approved projects. Subsistence allowance should be covered by the Swedish budget.
- Personal accident and medical insurance for South African researchers travelling to Sweden. This insurance excludes costs of dental care, costs of treatment for chronic diseases, and repatriation costs in the event of urgent medical treatment in South Africa, and in the event of death.
- Travel costs of South African participating students will be considered under this agreement.

#### **Costs funded by Sweden**

- Return airfares (economy class) of Swedish researchers travelling to South Africa.
- Accommodation and local travel costs of South African researchers currently in Sweden and participating in approved projects. Subsistence allowances should be covered by the South African budget.
- Organisation of project- and theme-related workshops with South African and Swedish participation.
- Production costs of co-authored publications emanating from the collaborative project.
- Personal accident and medical insurance for Swedish researchers travelling to South Africa. This insurance excludes costs of dental care, costs of treatment for chronic diseases, and repatriation costs in the event of urgent medical treatment in Sweden, and in the event of death. NB Insurance costs should be covered by the Swedish partner.

### **C. International Planning Grant — all programme countries**

An International Planning Grant of up to SEK 75,000 may be awarded to the research partners jointly. The purpose of the planning grant is to produce a joint application to an international research programme (Swedish Research Links programme or other). The joint application must include at least one applicant affiliated to a Swedish university or research institution and at least one applicant affiliated to a university or research institution in another programme country (Asia, MENA, South Africa, Botswana or Namibia). The grant period is January - December 2010.

## 2. Who can apply?

### **Required qualifications**

The applicants with scientific responsibility for the collaborative research project must have obtained a doctorate or have an equivalent qualification.

### **Affiliation requirements**

The Swedish applicant must be employed or otherwise affiliated to a university or research institution in Sweden. The international applicant must be employed or otherwise affiliated to a university or research institution in a programme country outside Sweden (for programme countries, see under the heading Conditions, above).

### **Administration**

Grants are normally administered by the respective universities or research institutions to which the grant recipients are affiliated.

## 3. Form of application

A complete application comprises the filled-in online form with appendices (see under the heading Appendices, below). Please observe that the signed Appendix S must be submitted to the Swedish Research Council in paper form.

### **General conditions for the application**

Applications to the Swedish Research Links Programme must be submitted electronically to the Swedish Research Council, using an online form. The online form is reached by clicking on 'Ansök här/Apply here' (VR-Direct) on the Swedish Research Council's website, [www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se).

Detailed technical instructions are provided with the online form. The online form automatically retrieves the appendices required for the form of grant selected. Applicants should then attach the appendices, preferably as pdf files, or convert them into pdf files according to the instructions accompanying the form. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that an application converted into pdf by the application system is complete, and that all the appendices are attached.

- Applications are submitted electronically.
- Incomplete applications will not be processed.
- Submitted applications are considered definite. Eventual changes in a submitted application must be done by the submitting applicant by submitting a new application before the application deadline (6 May 2009).
- Additions to applications after the last application date are not approved. If funding from another funding agency is granted for the same purpose as that of the application, the project leader should report this to the

Swedish Research Council (and, in the case of Sweden-South Africa collaboration, to the National Research Foundation) as soon as possible.

- Materials not explicitly requested should not be enclosed and are not included in the assessment of the application. An example of such material is a letter of recommendation.
- If a grant has already been approved for a project or equivalent for the years that the application refers to (as stated in the contract or the decision issued by the Swedish Research Council for the grant concerned), no new application for this project or equivalent should be submitted.

## Instructions for filling in the online form

To open the application form, start by registering at [vrdirect.vr.se](http://vrdirect.vr.se). After clicking on 'New application', make the following selections:

- 1.1 Area of science: 'Other areas'
- 1.2 Type of grant/position: select 'International Collaborative Research Grant' or 'International Planning Grant'
- 1.3 Announced grant: Swedish Research Links

## Language

Applications should be written in English.

## Applicant, Sweden and international

The applicants, Swedish and international, are scientifically responsible for the collaborative research project. If equipment is also applied for, the applicants are responsible for equipment and its scientific use.

## Abstract

The abstract in the online form should address the following questions:

- What will be done in terms of collaborative research?
- How will the collaborative research project be carried out?
- What has previously been done in this field?
- What may be the impact and added value of the collaborative project?

The account is intended to provide a brief introduction to the purpose and feasibility of the proposed collaborative project. The abstract should be written in such a way that someone from a research field other than the applicant's can understand the content.

## Keywords

Fill in a maximum of five keywords of the proposed research collaborative project.

## Research areas

Select the relevant research area for the proposed research collaborative project from the drop-down menu.

## Review panel

Depending on the affiliation of the international applicant, select the appropriate review panel (Asia, MENA, SA or Botswana/Namibia). The same review panel should be filled in in all three fields.

## Classification codes

Select the relevant classification codes from the drop-down menu. The classification codes (SCB) are in Swedish. The fields should be filled in in order of priority.

## Popular-scientific description

The popular-scientific description in the online form should be written in such a way so that someone who is not familiar with the subject can understand what the collaborative research project is about. If the grant application is approved, the programme agencies (Swedish Research Council, Sida, National Research Foundation) reserve the right to use the popular-scientific description for information purposes. The description should address the following questions:

- What will be done, and why?
- When may the collaborative project be expected to yield new knowledge and/or results? How may the new knowledge be important?
- How can international collaboration contribute to this field of knowledge?

## Indirect costs (overheads etc)

Applications should include indirect costs (overheads and costs of premises) for the Swedish and international institution (Asia, MENA, South Africa, Botswana/Namibia) respectively. The indirect costs may not exceed 35%. Where applicable, these costs are included in the grants awarded.

## VAT

In the application, VAT is excluded from estimates of funds to be administered by a Swedish state higher education institution or other public agency, municipality, county council, company or organisation whose activities are liable to value-added tax (VAT). In all other cases the amount applied for should include VAT.

## Public access

Applications to the Swedish Research Council are public documents. Please note that, for an applicant who intends to apply for a patent, the Swedish Research Council is unable to treat applications for research support as secret. An application containing material that is also to be included in a patent

application should therefore not be submitted to the Council until after the patent application has been submitted and when the next call for applications takes place.

## Ethical considerations

### General

Applicants must always consider whether their research entails any ethical aspects. If so, they must, under a special heading in the research programme, give an account of which ethical issues are involved and how they will be dealt with in the research work. Ethical issues may relate, for example, to human or animal experimentation, research making use of personal data, or commercial interests. Please observe that it is not sufficient merely to state that the Swedish Research Council's ethical considerations will be adhered to.

In their account of ethical considerations, applicants should state which aspects may be relevant to the collaborative project. If, in the applicant's view, there are no ethical problems concerning people connected with the research, arguments supporting this view must be presented in the research programme.

Furthermore, the account must clarify how ethical aspects are to be taken into account and related to current ethical codes in the research field concerned.

For projects carried out in their entirety in Sweden, Swedish rules apply. This means that the ethical assessment of research relating to human beings must be based on the following documents:

- the Council of Europe's Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine
- the Helsinki Declaration (the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects)
- the Swedish Research Council's Forskningsetiska principer inom humanistisk-samhällsvetenskaplig forskning ('Principles of Research Ethics in the Humanities and Social Sciences', in Swedish only).

For these documents, see the Codex database ([www.codex.vr.se](http://www.codex.vr.se)). The statement on principles of research ethics can also be downloaded from the Swedish Research Council's website ([www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se)). Its guidelines should, where applicable, be followed by researchers in other scientific fields as well.

When personal particulars are to be used, the Personal Data Act must be complied with. The research programme must also clarify whether personal data as defined in the Act are to be dealt with.

Any queries regarding the treatment of personal data may be addressed to the Swedish Data Inspection Board, tel. +46-8-657 61 00, [www.datainspektionen.se](http://www.datainspektionen.se).

For projects carried out in their entirety outside Sweden, procedure must be in accordance with institutional standards, criteria and approval of the country in which the project is carried out.

Renewed ethical approval is required, where applicable, when changes or additions are made to the original project plan. The recipient researcher or institution is responsible for ensuring that ethical approval in accordance with the above-mentioned (national) rules is obtained before the collaborative study is started. At the request of Sida or the Swedish Research Council, the recipient researcher/institution must show evidence of ethical approval. Sida and the Swedish Research Council retain the right to require such evidence to be shown before the grant is disbursed.

## 4. Appendices

The following appendices must be attached to the application:

- Appendix A, Research programme (maximum eight pages)
- Appendix B, CV and scientific qualifications (maximum two pages per person), focusing on the most important research projects and publications of the principal researchers and other researchers participating in the project.
- Appendix C, List of publications (principal researchers only)
- Appendix G, Detailed budget (International Collaborative Research Grants, only)
- Appendix a9, Relevance for poverty reduction (maximum one page).
- Appendix S, Signatures. Appendix S is generated and attached automatically with the electronic application.

Appendix S, complete with signatures, must be submitted to the Swedish Research Council in paper form. All other Appendices are electronically enclosed with the application.

The Times New Roman typeface, 12 points, is recommended. Illustrations and text should fit on an A4 page, with a margin of 25 mm. Printout of the application, e.g. by a reviewer, will be made in tones of grey with a resolution not exceeding 300dpi. Figures should therefore conform to this standard. The appendices constitute the basis for the evaluation of the application, and are filled in along with the online form. The online form requests automatically the appendices required for the type of grant selected. On each page of the appendix, at the top, the applicant's name and date of birth (for the Swedish applicant, the Swedish personal identity number) and the alphabetical code for the appendix should be written. All PDF files must be free of password security protection.

### **Appendix A — Programme for the collaborative research project**

This appendix should comprise a brief (max. eight A4 pages, 12-point typeface, including references) but complete description of the collaborative research project, according to the following six headings and in the order given.

## **1. Specific aims of the collaborative project**

Here, a detailed account should be given of the purpose and specific objectives of the proposed collaborative project, including how the collaboration will be organised.

## **2. Survey of the field**

Give a brief summary of the applicants' and others' research and previous findings in relation to the proposed collaborative project (including key references).

## **3. Project description and mode of cooperation**

Provide a summary plan for the collaborative project, including theory, method and implementation of the joint project. The project description should indicate which tasks will be carried out by the researcher(s) from Sweden, the international researcher(s) and/or both. Describe the cooperation between the institutions and researchers involved in this project, including any previous cooperation as well. The research plan should include detailed information on how the collaborative project is to be conducted (methodology, techniques, processing, timetable, state of research, etc) and also a detailed account of available resources, including all personnel and equipment. The timetable should provide an overview of the cooperation and a plan for travel and meetings. The focus should be on the collaborative project and joint activities.

## **4. Budget**

Give a brief explanation of all items in the proposed budget, with reference to Appendix G.

## **5. Record of preliminary results**

Define the major outputs expected from the collaborative project and outline the plans for the dissemination or implementation of the findings of the proposed research (reports, presentations, seminars, workshops, conferences, etc).

## **6. Significance**

Provide a brief account of the expected impact of the collaborative project in relation to the research field concerned. State the expected contribution of the project to new knowledge, its expected social and institutional impact, and other potential benefits.

## **Appendix B — CV and scientific qualifications**

A CV must be submitted both for the applicants (principal researchers) and for the other researchers participating in the collaborative project. The CV may be a maximum of two A4 pages for each person. Note that the list of publications should be given separately, in Appendix C.

Specify the following, in the order given:

1. Name, institutional and contact information
2. Doctoral degree (year, discipline/subject area, title of thesis, supervisor)

3. Postdoctoral work (year and position)
4. Qualification as Associate Professor (year)
5. Current position, period of appointment, time for research in the position
6. Previous positions and periods of appointment
7. Parental or other leave to date
8. Distinctions
9. People awarded doctorates for whom the applicant has been the main supervisor (names, years)
10. Postdoctoral researchers who are currently or have been collaborating with the applicant in the research group (names, years).

### **Appendix C — List of publications**

The list must comprise only the principal applicants' publications (not those by other participating researchers) over the past eight years (2002–2009).

Publications should be classified in the following order:

1. Peer-reviewed articles
2. Peer-reviewed conference contributions
3. Overview articles, book chapters, books
4. Patents
5. Publicly available computer programs developed by the applicant or researcher
6. Popular-scientific articles/presentations.

The researcher's ten most important publications should be marked with one asterisk (\*) and the ten most important publications for the project (or equivalent) with two asterisks (\*\*).

### **Appendix G — Detailed budget**

Appendix G is *not* required for applications for International Planning Grant.

#### **Budget description**

Specify the budget for the collaborative project in Appendix G under the headings specified below. The table below may be used. The budget must cover both parties' costs. Indirect, administrative costs may not exceed 35%. Funding from other sources should be listed in the online form.

1. Total costs of travel, accommodation and subsistence allowance.
2. Total costs of the organisation of project-related seminars and workshops.
3. Total costs of coauthored publications.
4. Total costs of minor items of equipment and consumables (maximum. SEK 50,000 a year).
5. Other costs.

## Swedish partner

	2010	2011	2012
Travel, accommodation, subsistence allowance			
Organisation of seminars and workshops			
Coauthored publications			
Minor items of equipment, consumables			
Indirect costs of the above, not exceeding 35%			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

## International partner

	2010	2011	2012
Travel, accommodation, subsistence allowance			
Organisation of seminars and workshops			
Coauthored publications			
Minor items of equipment, consumables			
Indirect costs on the above, not to exceed 35% (costs of international institution only)			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

## Appendix a9 – Relevance for poverty reduction

Describe how the collaborative project will contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development. Maximum one page.

## Appendix S – Signatures

Appendix S is generated and attached to the electronic application automatically.

Appendix S should be printed out and signed both by the applicants and by the heads (or equivalent) of the departments or establishments where the research will be conducted (in Sweden and abroad). The signature confirms that the department can accommodate the project (or equipment or network); that the costing in the application is approved by the department; that any proposed experimentation on human or animal subjects has been reported; and that

nothing inconsistent with good research practice has thereby emerged. The applicants must have discussed these conditions with the representative of the host university or institution before the latter approves and signs the application.

For applications to the Sweden–South Africa Research Links Programme the Appendix S must be signed by the respective South African principal investigator, Head of Department and University Research Authorising Officer. Applications not endorsed/signed by the research office and applicant will be disqualified.

**Appendix S, complete with signatures, must be received by the Swedish Research Council not later than 16 May 2009.**

In case the signed Appendix S is faxed or scanned and e-mailed to the Swedish Research Council, the original Appendix S, complete with signatures, must be received by the Council on 16 June 2009 at the latest otherwise the application will be disqualified.

## 5. Evaluation and decision

Evaluation of applications to the Swedish Research Links Programme is guided by international standards of scientific excellence. The applications are peer-reviewed by experts in the relevant scientific fields. Each application is evaluated by at least two reviewers.

All applications to the Swedish Research Links Programme are peer-reviewed and ranked by an expert panel composed of scientific experts and representatives of Swedish research councils and governmental agencies. These bodies are the Swedish Research Council, the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research (FAS), the Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (Formas) and the Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (VINNOVA). In addition, applications to the Sweden–MENA and Sweden–South Africa programmes are peer-reviewed and ranked in the MENA region and South Africa respectively (see below). The collaborative project's relevance to poverty reduction and sustainable development (appendix a9) is evaluated by Sida, Sweden.

### **Evaluation procedure, Sweden- Asia, Sweden- Botswana or Namibia proposals**

Applications are peer-reviewed by scientific experts in the relevant fields and ranked by the Swedish Research Council's expert panel for the Links programme.

## Evaluation procedure, Sweden - MENA proposals

Applications are peer-reviewed by scientific experts in the relevant fields in Sweden and in the MENA region, respectively. In Sweden, applications are assessed and ranked by the Swedish Research Council's expert panel for the Links programme. The MENA regional evaluation of application process is coordinated by the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and carried out by the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT) in Cairo. Applications are assessed by scientific experts from the MENA countries. The Swedish and MENA rankings are discussed by a committee composed of MENA research leaders and representatives of the Swedish Research Council, Sida, the Swedish Institute in Alexandria and the ASRT.

## Evaluation procedure, Sweden - South Africa proposals

Applications are peer-reviewed by scientific experts in the relevant fields in Sweden and in South Africa. In Sweden, applications are assessed and ranked by the Swedish Research Council's expert panel for the Links programme. In South Africa, applications are evaluated and ranked by the National Research Foundation (NRF) following the Foundation's regular peer-review procedure. The Swedish and South African rankings are discussed by a committee composed of representatives of the Swedish Research Council and NRF.

## Criteria

The applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality — in relation to the research standards currently applicable within the field or discipline.
- Relevance — in relation to the objectives established for the Swedish Research Links programme, including poverty reduction and sustainable development.
- Competence of the applicants in relation to the proposed research assignment, and their respective academic standing and track record.
- Balanced cooperation — both research partners should equally contribute to, and benefit from, the research collaboration.
- Budget — in relation to the collaborative project plan and funds available (please note that salaries are not funded); basic project funding must come from other sources.
- Gender — relevance of the collaborative project to, and its impact on, women and men where the project focus makes a gender perspective obvious and relevant.

In addition, for Sweden – South Africa proposals, the South African evaluation will apply the following evaluation criteria:

- Capacity building - student involvement, community outreach, particularly in disadvantaged areas. Proposals from South African applicants demonstrating strong elements of capacity building,

particularly among previously disadvantaged population groups, will be favourably regarded by the South African evaluators.

## **Grant decision**

The formal grant decision is taken by the Director General of the Swedish Research Council. Grant decisions will be published on the Swedish Research Council's website, [www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se), not later than 30 November 2010. Grant decisions for the Sweden–South Africa Research Links Programme will also be announced by the National Research Foundation, South Africa. Letters of approval or rejection, with a short statement of opinion, will be sent to the applicants.

## **Contract and disbursement of funds**

### **Sweden–Asia, Sweden–MENA and Sweden–Botswana or Namibia grants**

A contract is signed between the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish principal researcher's host institution. Disbursement of funds takes place on receipt of the signed contract. Funds will be disbursed to the Swedish principal researcher's institution. The Swedish principal researcher will be responsible for the transfer of funds to the international principal researcher(s). Overhead costs cannot be deducted by the Swedish institution from the international partner's funds. Grant funds may not be expended for purposes other than those specified in the grant conditions, i.e. stated in the application. The mutually agreed budget should be respected.

Disbursement of approved grants will begin in January 2010, at the earliest.

### **Sweden–South Africa grants**

Contracts are signed between National Research Foundation (NRF) and the recipient South African institution, on the one hand, and between the Swedish Research Council and the recipient Swedish institution on the other. Disbursement of funds takes place only on receipt the signed contracts.

Disbursement of approved grants will begin in January 2010, at the earliest.

## **Reporting**

The principal researchers will be responsible for scientific, collaborative and financial reporting, as well as the technical and administrative coordination of the project.

As stated in the contract, the principal researchers must submit to the Swedish Research Council and, in case of NRF funding, to the National Research

Foundation in South Africa a final report on the use of the funds for the duration of the project.

The principal researchers must assist and cooperate with Sida, the Swedish Research Council and the National Research Foundation South Africa in performing audits, follow-ups and evaluations, and in providing any other information that the programme agencies may request, including records and documents.

### **Intellectual property rights**

Specific terms and conditions regarding intellectual property rights, such as patents, know-how and copyrights, must be determined in separate agreements or protocols between the partners concerned.

### **Dissemination of research findings**

Research results may be freely published and disseminated.

Sida must be mentioned on the front page of any research reports and studies that are produced as a result of the research cooperation and have been funded by the Swedish Research Links Programme. If Sida wishes to reprint a report or publication, it should obtain written consent from the principal researchers involved in the collaboration.

## **6. Contact**

Queries about application content may be addressed by email or by phone to the liaison officers of the programme agencies (contact persons, below).

### **Swedish Research Council**

SE-103 78 STOCKHOLM

Sweden

Tel +46 8 546 44 000

[www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se)

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A list of Swedish universities may be found at  
<http://english.hsv.se/higher/institutions/addresses/>



## 7. How and when to apply

Applications to the Swedish Research Links Programme are submitted electronically to the Swedish Research Council, using an online form reached by clicking on 'Ansök här/Apply here' (VR-Direct) at [www.vr.se](http://www.vr.se).

To open the application form, start by registering at [vrdirect.vr.se](http://vrdirect.vr.se). After clicking on 'New application', make the following selections:

- 1.4 Area of science: 'Other areas'
- 1.5 Type of grant/position: select 'International Collaborative Research Grant' or 'International Planning Grant'
- 1.6 Announced grant: Swedish Research Links

Applications to the Swedish Research Links Programme for the year 2009 and subsequent years must be received by the Swedish Research Council not later than 6 May 2009 at 24:00 local time. Technical support is available until 6 May 2009, 16:00 local time. Appendix S, complete with signatures, must be received no later than 16 May 2009 at 16:00 local time. Appendix S is sent to:

Swedish Research Council  
Swedish Research Links Programme  
SE-103 78 Stockholm  
Sweden

