

Research projects – Animal protection and animal welfare

Call opens: 2019-05-02

Application deadline: 2019-06-11

Date of decision (preliminary): 2019-11-20

	What you can apply for? Projects that promote an increased knowledge in animal protection and animal welfare for those animals that are kept permanently, or for a limited period of time, by humans.		Who can apply? Researchers with a doctoral degree, active at a Swedish university, college or research institutes, which are a, by Formas approved, administrating organisation.		How much can you apply for? Project length may be up to three years and the maximum grant for a three-year project is six million SEK.
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Revisions

Changes in the call text after the date of publication will be specified here.

Date	Change

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Description of the call

Introduction

Sweden is one of the leading countries regarding animal protection and animal welfare and it is the ambition of the Swedish government that Sweden shall remain in that position. The Swedish Research Council Formas, in consultation with the Swedish Board of Agriculture, announces a funding call for research projects regarding animal protection and animal welfare for those animals that are kept permanently, or for a limited period of time, by humans. Project length may be up to three years and the maximum grant for a project is six million SEK. According to the letter of regulation from the government, Formas has committed totally 36 million SEK for the years 2019-2021.

Background

How we keep our animals is regulated by the animal welfare legislation. All animals cared for by humans, for example farm animals, sporting and companion animals, are thus affected by the animal welfare legislation. Good animal protection means a clear legislation that are complied with and good animal protection is the foundation for good animal welfare. Animal welfare can, in turn, be defined by the five freedoms: freedom from hunger or thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behaviour and freedom from fear and distress.

Sweden is one of the leading countries regarding animal protection and animal welfare and it is the ambition of the Swedish government that Sweden shall remain in that position. Furthermore, the Swedish government raises in the bill 2016/17:104 -A long term food strategy for Sweden that the demand for animal products will increase globally as the result of an increased population and an improved economy. This will in turn increase the demands in knowledge of and the requisites for a sustainable animal husbandry in which preventive measures for animal health and welfare are important.

Research need to be developed together with business practitioners, and we encourage contact between researchers and the surrounding community to help ensure that the research is rooted in society's needs. Formas therefore arranged a seminar with invited representatives from society and academia in May 2018 with the aim to identify areas in need of research and development within animal welfare and animal protection.

According to the letter of regulation from the government, Formas has committed totally six million SEK per year for animal protecting- and animal welfare measures. Furthermore, Formas shall announce the call in consultation with the Swedish board of Agriculture which in turn is assigned by the government to ensure a high level of animal protection and to work for a sustainable development and a competitive food industry.

Purpose and focus

The purpose with the call is to promote increased knowledge and knowledge based on research regarding animal protection and animal welfare for those animals that are kept permanently, or for a limited period of time, by humans. Furthermore, it is important that ethical and political discussions are based on scientific grounds, and that laws on animal protection are based on scientific fact.

Formas will, in consultation with the Board of Agriculture, announce funds that aim to finance research that, for example:

- gives a scientific foundation to the requirements of animal welfare regulations,
- gives an improved legal security and correct assessments at controls, or
- examines the economic impact of an improved or reduced animal welfare

The projects must have an explicit and clear relevance for the welfare of the particular animal species the application concerns. Formas encourage inter- and transdisciplinary approaches when applicable. If the project concerns farm animals, horses or insects it is eligible that the project is associated to one of the identified areas in need of research stated in the document “Demanded research”, which was compiled after the seminar in May 2018.

Project length may be up to three years and the maximum grant for a project is six million SEK. According to the letter of regulation from the government, Formas has committed totally 36 million SEK for the years 2019-2021.

Before you apply

Who can apply

- To apply for a grant for research projects, the main applicant must have obtained a doctoral degree (by the close of the call at the latest).
- Participating researchers must have completed their doctoral degree. Other staff involved in the project do not need to have a doctoral degree. The proposed grant recipient must be stated as a project manager on the application.
- Grants for research projects may only be administered by a Swedish university, college or other Swedish public organisation that meets [Formas' criteria for administrating organisations](#).
- Subcontractors are permitted if they participate in defined parts of the project. Subcontractors may, for example, be innovation offices or patent and business consultants (to be procured in accordance with the rules applicable at the university, institute or authority managing the grant). Other participants can also contribute in-kind funding. If so it should be described in the application.

- There is no age limit for the main applicant and participating researchers. However, researchers who are full-time pensioners are not eligible to receive funding towards salaries.

Your application

What you can apply for

- Grants for research projects can include, in addition to salary funding, funding to cover operating costs (consumables, equipment, travel, conferences, publication in peer-reviewed journals and open-access databases), depreciation costs for equipment, and premises costs. The maximum amount allowed for equipment and depreciation costs is a total of 500,000 SEK for both costs.
- Grants for research projects can be used to cover salaries for researchers, PhD students and technical staff.
- Salary for PhD students can be granted for up to three years.
- Note that the total salary amount for a single researcher, PhD student or other staff must not exceed 100 percent of full-time employment. This means that additional salary funding cannot be granted to researchers, PhD students or other staff who already receive grants or contributions with full salary funding.
- Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increases.
- International collaboration. Grants from Formas can be used to fund research that is partly conducted outside Sweden, although the research must be initiated and managed from Sweden. The administrating organisation must be located in Sweden and approved by Formas and is responsible for hiring any foreign staff or paying for activities or services outside Sweden in accordance with the administrating organisation's guidelines.

Grant amount and project duration

- Grants for research and development projects can cover a maximum of 2 million SEK per year, on average, over the years the application is valid for. That means that applicants can apply for more than 2 million SEK for one year if the amount applied for during another year of the project period is less than 2 million SEK. Applicants may not apply for 6 million SEK in total for a period shorter than 36 months.
- If the total amount applied for exceeds the average annual amount of 2 million SEK, the application will be rejected.
- Funding can be requested for a maximum of three years (36 months).
- The project's start date is preselected in Prisma and cannot be edited as project funding will be paid in December 2019. The funding may be spent throughout 2022 (no funding

will be paid in 2022). Final reports, including a financial and a scientific report are requested three months after the end of the project period.

- No co-funding is required for this call, but it is welcomed and encouraged. Co-funding may be in-kind contribution.

Eligibility criteria

- To apply for a grant, the main applicant must have obtained a doctoral degree as stated under the heading “Who can apply”.
- Main applicants may submit no more than one project application to this call. However, main applicants are allowed to submit one project application in the thematic call for Research projects- Animal protection and animal welfare.
- An applicant is not allowed to submit the same application with different main applicants in this call. Applications that have the same content will be rejected.
- It is possible to have ongoing project grants from one of Formas’ targeted calls or the annual open call.

How to apply

Applying in Prisma

To apply for a grant from Formas, the project manager should submit an application online in the Prisma application system. To create an application in Prisma, you need a user account. We recommend that you create an account and an application as early as possible and contact Formas with any questions in good time.

Prisma

In order to submit an application, the organisation where the project manager works must be an approved administrating organisation. If the organisation is not already an approved administrating organisation, the organisation must apply to become one in good time before the call closes, as it can take a few weeks to become approved as an administrating organisation.

What the application must include

Applications may be written in Swedish or English, but Formas recommends writing applications in English. Evaluation panel will include international experts. Applications that are written entirely in Swedish will be translated into English before being submitted to the Evaluation panel for review. It will not be possible to make changes to the application when it has been translated. The project summaries must be available in both Swedish and English. Please note that the budget specification should always be written in English: a Swedish budget specification will not be submitted for translation but will be reviewed by the international experts as it is.

A recommendation is to choose the Arial font in font size 12 for the information you enter in all text boxes.

The application registered in the Prisma application system must include a clear description of the project under the following sections:

Basic information

- Number of years applied for
- Project title in Swedish and English (max. 200 characters including spaces)
- Popular science description in Swedish (max. 4,500 characters including spaces)
- Abstract in Swedish and English (max. 1,500 characters each including spaces)

Research programme

- Specific aims and objectives of the proposed project, and a background description containing an overview of the research area (max. 7,000 characters including spaces).
- Description of the project, including a summary of the structure, theory, methods, performance, and a plan for scientific deliverables (max. 15,000 characters including spaces). Include the following points if you consider them relevant to the project: (i) a short description of existing and future needs for basic equipment, (ii) a brief description of national and international collaboration, (iii) confirmation of compliance with international agreements and regulations, (iv) sex and gender perspectives in the content of the research. (v) supervisor if funding is sought for a PhD student.
- Description of the potential societal value of the research question and planned communication with stakeholders and end users (max. 8,000 characters including spaces).
[Support for addressing the communication criterion](#)
- References. List the in-line references pertaining to the above sections in a separate field (max. 5000 characters including spaces).

Budget

- Salaries including social fees. For any current employment positions, the salary in effect at the time of the application (including social fees) must be used for all subsequent years. For new employment positions, the starting salary at the administrating organisation must be used for all subsequent years. Note that Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increases.
- **Dedicated time for this project.** State the degree of activity in the project. This indicates whether the applicant contributes in-kind services or other funding for completing the project.
- **Running costs.** Specify running costs in accordance with practices at the administrating organisation.
- **Depreciation costs.** Specify equipment depreciation costs if relevant to the application.

- **Premises.** Specify the costs for premises (if not part of overhead/indirect costs) in accordance with practices at the administrating organisation.

- **Total budget.** This heading refers to a budget summary.

Specified costs: Data already completed in previous budget tables will be automatically transferred to this table. Specify the indirect costs in the project budget in accordance with the practices at the administrating organisation. Indirect costs relate to overhead costs. Formas does not allow overhead for equipment depreciation costs or costs of premises.

Other costs: “Other costs” refers to funds that are not sought for but that are relevant for completing the project. An example is co-funding from collaborative partners. Also specify whether the project receives funding from other sources.

- **Budget specification.** Provide a brief justification for all salaries and other expenses. A description of the total project budget, including funding from other sources, should also be included. All other costs must be clearly justified. The budget specification is part of the evaluation.

Note that you should always write the budget and budget specification in *English*; any Swedish budget specification will not be translated but will instead be reviewed as it is by the international review panel.

In Prisma, amounts should be written in full. For example, 1 million SEK should be written as: 1 000 000 SEK.

Ethical considerations

You should specify whether there are specific ethical concerns in your project. If so, you must describe the relevant ethical considerations and how they will be managed. Examples include research that uses personal data, or experiments on humans or animals. [Read more about ethical considerations.](#)

Classifications

- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three subject areas.
- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three SCB codes.
- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of three of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that best apply to your project. When selecting more than one goal, specify the goals in priority order. The goal that is most relevant to the project should be stated in the first box. Read an explanation of these goals on the UN Development Programme website. As the meaning of the goals is sometimes narrower than what the title indicates, we encourage you to follow the link and read in more detail about the goals you intend to specify to ensure that the intended research contributes towards achieving that particular goal.
- Select a minimum of one and a maximum of five key words that describe the project.

Appendices

The following appendix can be uploaded if relevant for the application:

- **Appendix J.** Illustrations. If you need figures, tables or images to describe the project, you can upload them as an attachment here. A maximum of one PDF attachment of 4 MB can be uploaded.

Administrating organisation

- Select your administrating organisation and add the department or unit where the project is based. Read more about [Formas' criteria for administrating organisations](#).
- Prisma contains a default list of approved administrating organisations. Contact your organisation if it is missing from the list. Your organisation will need to create an organisation account in Prisma.
- The administrating organisation is responsible for transferring part of the funding to co-applying project partners.
- After the call is closed, a registered application will be sent automatically to the administrating organisation for approval, which will have seven calendar days to digitally sign the application.

Participants

- The main applicant invites participating researchers (i.e. researchers with a doctoral degree that are considered as co-applicant) and participating administrators (people **not** involved in the project but who help you fill in the application form).
- Each participant must have created a user account in Prisma.
- The main applicant invites people to participate in the application process by searching for their given name, surname and email address in Prisma (note that exact spelling of names and email addresses is required).

CVs

Applicants retrieve the data from their personal profile that are relevant for the current application. Participating researchers add their CV-information from their personal account in Prisma and should ensure that their CV in Prisma is complete and up to date. The CV information should include:

- **Education:** postgraduate (doctoral), undergraduate and graduate level.
- **Professional history:** Current position and relevant previous longer-term positions, postdoctoral residencies, research exchange visits relevant to the described research project, and any significant period of interruption in the research (such as parental leave, illness, military service or political duties).
- **Merits and awards:**
 - o Associate professorships

- o **Supervision:** doctoral students, postdoctoral students, and exam project students; state the total number in each respective category and provide the names of the most relevant supervisions (max 10).
- o **Grants awarded in competition:** Specify the most relevant grants (max. 10).
- o **Prices and awards:** Specify the most relevant ones (max. 10).
- o **Additional merits, including bibliometric summary:** Here the applicant researcher's entire bibliometric indicators should be summarised (max. 800 characters including spaces). This bibliometric summary should include: (i) the number of publications of various types, such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, books and other monographs, conference papers and popular science contributions, and (ii) any other publication or citation specifications relevant to the applicant's field of research. Under "Additional merits," you can list other qualifications that are relevant to the application, such as any popular science publications or proven experience of collaboration and research communication (max. 10).
- **Intellectual property:** For example, patents and open source software that you have developed (max. 10).

List of publications

The main applicant and participating researchers should list up to ten of their most relevant publications. Note that the publications should be linked from the applicants' personal profiles in Prisma.

How applications are evaluated

The applications will be evaluated by a panel of active researchers as well as experts in the field of farm animals, sporting and companion animals. Each application will be evaluated by four panel members. The panel's evaluations and prioritisation of applications will constitute information for Formas' Scientific Council. Formas will have the opportunity to revise the ranking based on a portfolio perspective to facilitate high-quality projects. Formas will also ask the panel to consider the distribution of project regarding species and field of research.

Applications are assessed with respect to scientific quality and societal relevance. This includes the following five criteria:

Criteria for scientific quality

- Research question
- Method and performance
- Scientific competence

Criteria for societal relevance

- Potential societal value of the research topic

- Communication with stakeholders and users

All the criteria must be addressed in the application, and we advise applicants to clearly relate their application to these criteria. We also strongly advise applicants to structure and write the application clearly and accurately, as the review is based solely on the information contained in the application. Gender perspectives should be considered in project proposals where applicable.

In-depth information about [Formas' assessment criteria and review process](#).

Funding decisions

Formas' Scientific Council is expected to reach a decision on 20 November 2019 concerning which projects will be granted funding. Decisions will be announced the following day at the latest on Formas' website and later sent via email from Prisma. Decisions about funding grants cannot be appealed.

For granted projects

Reporting for granted projects

Financial statements must be submitted each year for projects longer than 18 months. The final financial and scientific reports must be created as agreed and are usually submitted within three months after the end of the availability period. [Read more about how to report expenses and results](#).

Applications submitted to Formas become publicly available documents after the decision is announced. However, Formas does not disclose information about an individual's business relationships or operating conditions, inventions or research results if the disclosure would be assumed to cause the individual suffering. If applications are requested, Formas conducts a confidentiality assessment

Open access to publications and research data

Results from research funded by Formas must be published with open access. [Read more about open access to research results and data](#).

Funded projects need to have a data management plan for the data produced in the project. Signing the terms and conditions for the grant, also means that a data management plan will be in place when the project starts and that it will be maintained. This plan replaces Appendix K (Research Data), which was requested for all projects submitted in 2018. In 2019, Appendix K is not necessary.

SweCRIS

Formas shares information about awarded grants to SweCRIS, a national database of grant-funded research that was instituted by request of the government.

Support and shortcuts

- [How it works](#)
- [Ethics policy](#)
- [Criteria for administrating organisations](#)
- [Formas' review process](#)
- [Support for addressing the communication criterion](#)
- [Global goals](#)
- [Prisma](#)
- [Prisma online user support](#)

Timetable

The call closes:	11 June 2019 at 14:00 CET
Formas' Scientific Council decides on grant award:	20 November 2019

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For Prisma technical support

[Prisma support](#)