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GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH GRANTS 2024

News for 2024 is the jubilee grant (in
a separate attachment)

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1 RESEARCH SUPPORT FROM THE SWEDISH HEART LUNG FOUNDATION

1.1 General focus

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation supports research based on clinically relevant questions in cardiovascular diseases, pulmonary diseases, and tuberculosis. Notably, the research on lung cancer or infectious lung diseases is not supported by the foundation, unless there's a distinct correlation with cardiovascular and/or respiratory conditions, such as tuberculosis and COVID-19.

The foundation also welcomes applications regarding comorbidities between heart, vascular, or for example diabetes and cancer. However, it is imperative that the research distinctly addresses heart, vascular, or lung diseases rather than solely focusing on the underlying condition.

Support for basic research within the above-mentioned areas can be provided if it is based on clinically linked questions or if the results can be of significance to clinical practice and applied to patients in near future. The board of The Swedish Heart Lung foundation has decided to prioritize research based on clinically relevant question formulations.

When evaluating projects with a more fundamental research orientation, the connection of the applicant and the project to ongoing clinical research is considered. Funds are allocated to projects that align with the foundation's focal points and uphold the utmost quality in terms of scientific inquiries, originality, and methodology.

Preclinical researchers need to spell out how their project is clinically relevant, detailing the connection to clinical work through collaboration with a clinician and explaining the use of patient materials. The Heart-Lung Foundation's research council deals with and evaluates all research matters unless specified otherwise. The research council's proposals for grant allocation are then submitted to the Heart-Lung Foundation's board for decision.

In the assessment of applications in the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation's major grant round (applications for project grants, research fellowships/months, postdoctoral fellowship, and Returning postdoc grants), the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation's research council seeks assistance from several medical experts.

In addition to questions, project plan, methodology, competence, and feasibility, applications are also graded based on relevance to the foundation. Foundation relevance entails clinically relevant research within the field of heart, vascular, and lung diseases. The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation defines clinically relevant research as projects grounded in clinically relevant questions, involving studies on humans, and expected to lead to applications in healthcare. This includes early-stage clinical studies involving human materials and certain experimental studies that may have substantial implications in the ongoing fight against these diseases. Assessors indicate one of the following three options for each application: No foundation relevance, Questionable foundation relevance, or Full foundation relevance. For instance, an application may not be considered foundation-relevant if it relates to a disease beyond the scope of the Swedish Heart Lung foundation's support or if the posed question lacks perceived clinical significance.

Confidentiality

All assessors evaluating applications for the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation are required to commit to professional secrecy and confidentiality by signing a dedicated form. Despite these measures, it's essential to understand that the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation cannot ensure absolute confidentiality. Applicants are hence advised not to include information in their applications that could be pivotal for aspects like patent applications or similar considerations. This advisory is intended to mitigate potential risks and protect sensitive information during the evaluation process.

The King Oscar II Jubilee Foundation

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation maintains a well-established collaboration with the King Oscar II Jubilee Foundation (OII), dedicated to supporting research in the areas of pulmonary diseases and tuberculosis. The Research Council of the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation takes charge of handling and evaluating all research applications intended for OII. Subsequently, proposals for grant allocations undergo submission to the OII Board of Directors.

Recipients of funding from OII will receive their award letter and requisition form directly from OII, distinct from the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation. Notably, inquiries regarding grants awarded by OII should be directed to the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation, which is available to address any questions applicants may have in this regard.

1.2 General terms and conditions for applications

- The application is submitted on the research website of the Swedish Heart Lung foundation:
www3.hjart-lungfonden.se.
- Both the main applicant and co-applicants must be associated with the health service, affiliated with a department at a higher education institution in Sweden, or employed by a Swedish higher education institution to be eligible for funding. In cases where the applicant lacks such employment or affiliation at the time of application but anticipates taking up a position during the project period, this must be verified during the application.
- While the main applicant is not required to be a registered medical practitioner or clinician, a strong emphasis is placed on documented collaboration with established clinical researchers.
- Framework grants are designed to cover operating costs, salaries, and publication expenses.
- The main applicant must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis.
- The main applicant must be employed at a minimum of 50% in Sweden, and the grant is designated for research conducted within Sweden. Exceptions to this rule may occur in cases where the individual holds a position as a senior professor, allowing for a lower percentage of employment.
- Research applications utilizing the SCAPIS data service to address clinical problems are encouraged. A crucial requirement is the presence of a clearly defined research question. These applications undergo evaluation collectively and in competition with all other submissions. If the application involves national data from SCAPIS, it is imperative to explicitly state that the applicant has authorized access to the data. Transparent disclosure of costs is essential to prevent duplication of funding for expenses already covered or anticipated to be covered through the main study.
- Most grants awarded by the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation are conditional on the submission of an annual report. "Annual report", page 34.
- Most of the grants awarded by the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation are conditional on the submission of a final report at the end of the grant period. "Final report", page 34.
- An additional investment will be made in prevention research "Norhedsstiftelsen's (the "Norhed Foundation's") prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation" page 24. Other applications for prevention

research will be processed as normal in the regular funding round and are unaffected by this additional investment.

- In the research application, specify which one of the following research areas best fits your application:
 - **Basic research** – This involves early, hypothesis-generating research with the primary objective of advancing molecular, structural, and theoretical knowledge.
 - **Translational research** – Focused primarily on understanding disease mechanisms and developing new treatments, where the anticipated results are intended to be applied to clinical research for the benefit of patients.
 - **Clinical and epidemiological research** – Encompasses patient-based research, including investigations into disease occurrence, treatment outcomes, prognosis, and register research.
 - **Prevention research** - Involves studying possibilities for preventing diseases in healthy individuals (primary prevention) or avoiding the worsening of medical conditions (secondary prevention).
 - **Care research** - Primarily entails patient-centred research with a focus on nursing and rehabilitation, emphasizing the aspects related to patient care.

1.3 3R- An important part of research

Adhering to the principles of the 3Rs – replacing, reducing, and refining animal experimentation – is not only a legal requirement for individuals conducting animal experiments but also a means to enhance the quality of Swedish research. This approach involves developing new and improved methods, refining working routines, and ensuring the utilization of the best available methods in each study. We believe that all participants in a research project play a crucial role in fully implementing the 3Rs principles. As research funders, we acknowledge our responsibility in this regard and encourage researchers applying for funding from us to integrate the 3Rs principles thoroughly into their applications.

The application of the 3Rs involves a meticulous examination and consideration of various aspects. This includes exploring the feasibility of employing animal-free methods, minimizing the number of animals used without compromising scientific relevance, and enhancing animal welfare while reducing any associated suffering. To effectively replace and refine more animal experiments, there is a need to develop and assess new methods and working routines, which may necessitate special investment. When all partakers that influence a research project contribute to the implementation of the 3Rs principles, it will lead to increased quality in Swedish research, better use of resources, and more relevant research results.

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation expects researchers to conscientiously consider the principles of the 3Rs in their research projects. However, it's important to note that the incorporation of these principles will not be a formal component of the evaluation process.

1.4 Standard amounts for 2024

Research fellowships, doctoral research months, postdoctoral research months, and returning postdoc grants adhere to a standardized amount determined by the average salary, social security contributions, and an 18 percent allocation for indirect costs.

This amount relates solely to salary and may not be used for costs other than salaries.

Working as a	Amount
Doctoral student	SEK 58,000/month
Doctoral student medicine	SEK 64,000/month
Postdoc (not medicine)	SEK 74,000/month
Registered medical practitioner, specialty trainee/registrar	SEK 97,000/month
Researcher	SEK 92,000/month
Specialist physician	SEK 130,000/month

Grants for postdoctoral scholarships abroad cover the applicant's living expenses in the form of a stipend at the EMBO flat rate for the country in question, [Contract rates \(embo.org\)](https://embo.org), see table below (will soon be updated)

Exchange rate in 2024 (spring postdoctoral fellowship abroad, date 8th of April 2024):

EUR: SEK (will be updated)

USD: SEK (will be updated)

For other exchange rates, please contact us at:

Email: forskning@hjärt-lungfonden.se

Phone: 08-566 24 220

(An updated figure of the Postdoctoral Fellowship 2024 will soon be placed here)

1.4 Date of call and decision 2024

Applications can be submitted until **24:00** on the last day of the application period.
NB! It is not possible to complete an application after the application deadline.

Grant	Application period	Date of notice of decision
The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's jubilee Grant 2024	2024-01-23 – 2024-02-14	April
The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation's Large Research Grant	2024-01-09- 2024-01-31	April
Prince Daniel's Research Grant for Promising Young Researchers	2024-02-13- 2024-03-12	June
The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation's Large funding round: Project grants National collaboration projects Research fellowships Postdoctoral fellowships Research months Returning postdoc grants	2024-04-08 – 2024-05-13	End of November
Postdoctoral scholarship abroad (two application periods, spring and autumn)	2024-04-08 – 2024-05-12	End of June
	2024-09-12 – 2024-10-02	End of November
Travel grant/conference grant	The application must be submitted no later than during the application period preceding the conference (the first day of the conference applies). 2023-12-06 – 2024-03-31 2024-04-01 – 2024-06-21 2024-06-22 – 2024-09-30 2024-10-01 – 2024-12-11	April July October December
Scientific meetings	All year round	Decisions are notified approximately one to two months after the application has been submitted.
Networking support	All year round	Decisions are notified approximately one to two months after the application has been submitted.
Norhedsstiftelsen's (the "Norhed Foundation's") prevention grant via the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation's prevention grant	2024-10-23- 2024-11-20	April

2 THE SWEDISH HEART LUNG FOUNDATION'S VARIOUS GRANTS

2.1 The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation's Large Research Grant

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation aims to facilitate a significant research breakthrough in a crucial field by providing substantial investment over a limited duration through this grant. This initiative extends support to nationally coordinated intervention studies and registered research.

The grant amounts to SEK 5 million per year, totaling SEK 15 million over a three-year period. It's important to note that the main applicant is eligible for this grant only once.

Applications are evaluated by a specially appointed Nordic assessment committee.

For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- The grant is aimed at well-established researchers with a high level of expertise.
- It should be clear how the project is structured to meet the objectives of the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation.
- In the evaluation of the research program, particular consideration is ascribed to originality and probable clinical significance.
- The attached publication list pertains specifically to the main applicant and does not encompass the publications of the co-applicants.
- The grant is a framework grant, see "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

For drafting the application, see "DRAFTING THE APPLICATION", page 27.

2.2 Prince Daniel's Research Grant for Promising Young Researchers

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation endeavours to nurture the upcoming generation of young researchers, a commitment manifested through the awarding of grants to exceptionally promising individuals in this demographic.

This specific grant encompasses SEK 2 million per year, totalling SEK 6 million over a three-year period. It is important to note that the main applicant is eligible to receive this grant only once. For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- The grant is specifically designed for researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but have not yet attained a professorship.
- Eligible applicants for this grant are considered as young researchers, and for this purpose, the term "young researcher" applies to individuals who are 40 years of age or younger. However, a slightly higher age limit, especially in the context of clinical work (approximately 45 years), may be considered. The Research Council of the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation conducts an individual assessment, considering the applicant's progress in their scientific career, future development potential, and time allocated for clinical training. In some cases, a higher age limit may also be applicable, particularly in situations involving parental leave.
- The grant is a framework grant, see "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

For drafting the application, see "DRAFTING THE APPLICATION", page 27.

2.3 Project grants

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation provides grants for research projects for a project period ranging from one to three years and for the purposes specified in the application.

For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- Only one researcher may be the main applicant for a project grant during the same period, with the sole exception of national collaboration projects, see description on next page.
- Simultaneous support for two similar projects within the same research group or department is not permissible.
- Project grants can be utilized for scholarships, subject to adherence to the university's regulations.
- The grant is a framework grant, see "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.
- A post-retirement professor may apply for a maximum of 25% of their salary.
- When applying simultaneously for a project grant and a research fellowship/research month for a researcher who has successfully defended their doctoral thesis, the application must pertain to the same project.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

2.4 National Collaboration Projects

A national collaboration project is defined by its association with a national planning group linked to a national project manager. It is a project with a clear additional value by operating as a national collaborative project and where there is close collaboration between all concerned parties.

National collaborative projects encompass initiatives such as national studies that span multiple locations and involve national data collections that offer advantages to numerous researchers. Applications for national collaborative projects are accepted for a project period ranging from 1 to 3 years.

Terms and conditions:

- A researcher can only be the main applicant for one national collaboration project during the same period (although they may apply for a personal project grant).
- Exceptions from specifying co-applicants. As it is a national collaboration project, it must have co-applicants from all participating higher education institutions. The research program shall also describe their separate areas of responsibility.

For drafting the application, see "DRAFTING THE APPLICATION", page 27.

2.5 Research fellowships

To enhance the flexibility in allocating funds for research fellowships and research month grants, the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation has decided that applications for research fellowships will also be considered for research month grants. Applications for these grants are submitted at the same time, using the same application form. Consequently, it is not feasible to apply solely for a research fellowship. However, it is still possible to apply exclusively for a research month grant, particularly for individuals who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis.

The Swedish Heart Lung Foundation supports a limited number of multiannual research fellowships. These fellowships are primarily designed as career development opportunities for young researchers expected to progress to prominent scientific positions. This type of fellowship is not intended for individuals who already hold positions as a professor, adjunct professor, senior lecturer, or adjunct lecturer. However, adjunct professors and senior lecturers are eligible to apply for research month grants.

For research fellowships, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation does not adhere to a strict definition of the term "young researcher." Instead, the Research Council of The Swedish Heart Lung foundation conducts a thorough assessment, considering various factors. This comprehensive evaluation includes considerations of the applicant's progress in their scientific career, potential for future development, and the time allocated for clinical training.

From 2022, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation accepts applications for six-year research fellowships. A report will be requested after three years to assess progress. It is also possible to apply for a three-year research fellowship.

The fellowships can be full-time or half-time (12 or 6 months per year).

For research fellowships, standard amounts are applied; see “

1.4 Standard amounts for 2024”, page 7.

For the current application period, see “Date of call and decision 2024”, page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- To be eligible for a research fellowship from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation, a researcher shall have with distinct independent profile and competence equivalent to the level of a docent.
- When applying at the same time for a project grant and research fellowship/research month for a researcher who has successfully defended their doctoral thesis, the application must apply to the same project.
- See also “General terms and conditions for applications”, page 5.

2.6 Research months

The primary goal of the research month grants from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation is to enable a greater number of researchers to dedicate time to their research endeavors. These grants can extend for a maximum period of three years. Standard amounts apply to research fellowships, and you can find the details in the "Standard amounts for 2024" on page 7. When applying, the applicant specifies the number of months per year they are seeking.

For research fellowships, standard amounts are applied; see “

1.4 Standard amounts for 2024”, page 7.

The applicant fills in the number of months he/she is applying for per year.

For the current application period, see “Date of call and decision 2024”, page 8.

There are **two types** of research month grants:

- Research month grants designed for researchers **who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis.**
- Research month grants tailored for doctoral students.

Research month grants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis

Research month grants are not intended for those who have already been appointed as a professor or lecturer. However, adjunct professors and adjunct senior lecturers may apply for research month grants.

Research month grants for a researcher who has successfully defended their doctoral thesis are not available to anyone with a former six-year research fellowship.

To encourage researchers, regardless of gender who have recently been on parental leave to re-engage in research activities, the Research Council of The Swedish Heart Lung foundation has introduced grants for post-parental leave research months. These applications should be submitted during the regular application period and will be evaluated alongside other applications for research month grants for researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis. Notably, additional consideration may be given to these applications when they are deemed to be of equal value to other applications.

The eligibility requirements for a post-parental leave research month grant are outlined as follows:

- The applicant must have been on parental leave for a minimum of six months, and this period does not necessarily need to be continuous.
- The successful defence of their doctoral thesis should have occurred no more than five years before the date of the application. However, in cases where

this period includes deductible time, the eligibility extends to no more than eight years. Deductible time may include clinical work and/or parental leave, including the mandatory six-month parental leave. The applicant's CV should specify the date of the successful thesis defence and the details of any deductible time.

Terms and conditions for research month grants for a researcher who has successfully defended their doctoral thesis:

- The applicant must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis at the time of application.
- If applying simultaneously for a project grant and a research fellowship/research month for a researcher who has successfully defended their doctoral thesis, the application must pertain to the same project.
- The application must include a specified work task schedule.
- Research months grants can only be used to fund the applicant's own research time.
- Additional information and general terms and conditions for applications can be found on page 5 under "General terms and conditions for applications."

Research month grants **for doctoral students**

Terms and conditions for research month grants **for doctoral students**:

- These grants are intended to support research time for doctoral students based in Sweden.
- Research month grants for doctoral students may be **applied for by the principal supervisor** (not by assistant supervisors). The supervisor is the main applicant, and **the doctoral student is a co-applicant**.
- Each supervisor is limited to applying for a research month grant for one doctoral student per application round.
- The application must contain a description of the doctoral student's competence regarding the implementation of the project.
- Clarity regarding the role of the doctoral student is imperative within the research program.
- Half-time review must have been conducted at the time of application.
- The application should include a description of the progress of the student's thesis work, specifying the date of the halfway point assessment.
- The planned date for the defence of the thesis must be indicated.
- A work task schedule, directly related to the doctoral student, must be included in the application.
- The supervisor's CV is to be entered into the research system following the new procedure, while co-applicants should attach their CVs as PDF files.
- Each application can include a maximum of 12 research month grants, which can be distributed throughout 1 to 3 years.
- Please note! If the doctoral thesis is defended during the grant period, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation should be promptly informed by emailing forskning@hjärt-lungfonden.se. Research months for doctoral students may be taken up to three months after the successful defence of a doctoral thesis if the purpose is to complete the doctoral degree project.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

2.7 Postdoctoral fellowship

To enhance the flexibility in the allocation of postdoctoral fellowships and postdoctoral research months, individuals applying for a postdoctoral fellowship will automatically be considered as applicants for a postdoctoral research month. Both grant applications should be submitted simultaneously using the same application form. While the option to apply exclusively for a postdoctoral fellowship is not available, applicants can still choose to apply solely for research months if they wish.

From 2022, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation is supporting several postdoctoral fellowships designed as career development opportunities. These fellowships are specifically targeted towards young researchers aspiring to build a career in academia.

The postdoctoral fellowships come in two variants:

- A two-year full-time fellowship.
- A part-time fellowship spanning up to four years, intended to be paired with a clinical appointment ranging from 25% to 50%. The funding for the postdoctoral position is capped at a maximum of two years (24 months) when considered on a full-time basis.

A standard sum is awarded for a postdoctoral fellowship. "Standard amounts for 2024", page 7. For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Parental leave during a postdoctoral fellowship: If fellows take parental leave during the grant period, they have the option to apply for an extension to their postdoctoral fellowship. In such cases, the fellowship will be prolonged by 0.5 times the duration of parental leave. (i.e., six months of parental leave provides entitlement to three additional months of funding).

To be eligible for this extension, parental leave must be continuous and last for a minimum of two months (resulting in one extra month of funding) and a maximum of 12 months (resulting in an entitlement of six extra months). It's important to note that this extension is solely applicable to the period of parental leave. If you plan to take parental leave and wish to explore the extension option, please reach out to forskning@hjärt-lungfonden.se, and we will be happy to assist you.

Terms and conditions:

- Applicants must take up the postdoctoral fellowship position within five years of successfully defending their doctoral thesis, with the flexibility of the deduction up to one year for clinical work and parental leave.
- At the time of application, the candidate must have successfully defended their doctoral thesis in Sweden. These positions are specifically designed for younger researchers aiming to advance their research careers in Sweden.

- The work task schedule shall be included in the application for a part-time position.
- The applicant must have one or more mentors, as described in the application. Mentors play a supportive role in career development and should not be affiliated with the group where the applicant defended their thesis.
- Some kind of change in the research environment or development of research focus after disputation are prioritized and this should be clearly outlined in the application.

Examples of a change in the research environment include national or international research collaborations, learning new methods from another higher education institution, translational projects receiving a stronger clinical profile or clinical researchers learning more about basic research.

- The stipend is exclusively for funding the applicant's own research time.
- A postdoctoral fellowship is expected to lead to an independent research profile. The application should describe how this independence will be achieved.
- Research shall be clinical or translational with a distinct connection to the clinic.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

2.8 Postdoctoral scholarship abroad

The Swedish Heart Lung foundation awards a limited number of grants for postdoctoral research at recognized foreign institutions. These scholarships are awarded for periods of 6–12 months, with a maximum duration of three years.

The selected candidate will receive compensation for living expenses in the form of a stipend based on the EMBO flat rate applicable to the respective country, see “

1.4 Standard amounts for 2024”, page 7.

Additionally, the applicant will be reimbursed for travel expenses for themselves and up to two accompanying children. In cases where accompanying children require childcare or schooling, compensation is provided at SEK 7,500 per child per month. However, no remuneration is provided for accompanying partners.

For the current application period, see “Date of call and decision 2024”, page 8

From 2022, a **returning postdoc grant** (research months) is linked to postdoctoral scholarships abroad. If the duration of stay abroad is 12 months, the recipient is eligible to receive 6 months (within 1 year), and if the stay exceeds 12 months, the grant extends to 12 months (spread over 2 years). The report associated with the returning postdoc grant must be submitted to The Swedish Heart Lung foundation before the postdoc returns from their stay abroad and should include a guarantee of a position at an institution in Sweden. Instructions regarding the returning postdoc grant linked to postdoctoral scholarships are available at www3.hjart-lungfonden.se.

Terms and conditions:

- These scholarships are intended for postgraduate researchers who will do a postdoctoral fellowship. The application may be submitted prior to the planned date of the thesis defence.
- To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have defended their doctoral dissertation successfully within the last five years (with the allowance of deducting up to one year for clinical work and parental leave).
- The application should include a formal invitation from the host institution, affirming its commitment and capacity to accommodate the scholarship holder. The invitation must provide a brief description of the project and the research focus area.
- The summary and research program must clearly outline the applicant's responsibilities during the scholarship period.
- The research program should explicitly articulate the significance of the research stay for the ongoing scientific development of the researcher.
- Refer to "General terms and conditions for applications" on page 5 for additional information.

2.9 Returning postdoc grants

The purpose of the grant is to facilitate further research in Sweden after a period of postdoctoral research at a foreign higher education institution. The Swedish Heart Lung foundation awards a limited number of grants after completing a postdoctoral period abroad. The grant constitutes a position equivalent to 50 percent full-time at a higher education institution in Sweden over two years. The remaining time must either be spent in a clinical position or be funded by the Swedish host institution. The remaining time must be allocated to a clinical position or be funded by the Swedish host institution. Researchers awarded a postdoctoral scholarship abroad from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation in 2022 or later cannot apply for this grant. They are further referred to the automatic returning grant linked to the postdoctoral fellowship. Researchers who have received a postdoctoral scholarship abroad from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation in 2022 or later are not eligible to apply for this grant. They are instead directed to the automatic returning grant associated with the postdoctoral fellowship.

For returning postdoc grants, standard amounts are applied; see “

1.4 Standard amounts for 2024”, page 7.

For the current application period, see “Date of call and decision 2024”, page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- Only persons with a **current** international postdoctoral position are eligible to apply.
- The application must be submitted **before returning** from the international postdoctoral position.
- A certificate of employment as a clinical practitioner or funding commitment from the Swedish host institution must be attached to the application.
- The grant is applied for jointly by the postdoc (main applicant) and responsible researcher at the Swedish host institution (co-applicant).
- Both the main applicant's and co-applicant's CVs and publication lists shall be included in the application. The main applicant's CV is linked from the research system, while the co-applicant's CV is attached as a PDF file.
- The application must include a brief overall research program for the planned research in Sweden (maximum 5 A4 pages).
- Grant awards are permissible up to six years after the successful defense of the doctoral thesis, with potential consideration for clinical employment and parental leave.
- See also “General terms and conditions for applications”, page 5.

2.10 Travel grant/conference grant

Applicants are eligible to request travel allowances or conference allowances for the following purposes:

- Participation in well-established conferences organized by recognized organizations. Travel allowances are not usually granted for travel within Sweden, but exceptions may be considered for major international conferences located in Sweden.
- Brief study visits lasting between 4 to 12 weeks aimed at acquiring methodological knowledge or establishing collaboration with another research group.

A maximum of two travel grants are permitted per applicant and year. This is based on when the trip takes place and not when the application is submitted.

Maximum amount granted:

Travel within Europe:	12,000	SEK
Travel outside Europe:	24,000	SEK
Study visits:	35,000	SEK

The allowance can only be used for accommodation, travel, and conference fees, not salary costs.

For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- The applicant must have an affiliation with a project currently receiving support from the foundation.
- In the application, the estimated costs for the travel destination must be outlined, accompanied by a brief explanation of the trip's purpose.
- The application must include an abstract and documentation confirming the acceptance of this contribution to the conference. If the abstract has not been accepted at the time of application, the acceptance decision must be sent by e-mail to The Swedish Heart Lung foundation as soon as it has arrived; forskning@hjärt-lungfonden.se
- A maximum of one allowance is granted per accepted abstract.
- The allowance is exclusively designated for the specified occasion detailed in the application.
- Applicants seeking allowances for less recognized meetings have the option to Request for meeting programs as part of their applications.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

2.11 Scientific meetings

The Swedish Heart Lung foundation places a significant emphasis on contributing to the organization of scientific meetings, recognizing the considerable value in advancing support for such events. The objective is to propel scientific development within the foundation's priority research domains and foster collaborative interfaces among researchers.

The foundation predominantly lends its support to national open meetings geared towards advancing contact and collaboration among diverse research groups in Sweden. It's especially crucial to allow young researchers to interact with peers from other universities and hospitals.

Decisions concerning support for scientific meetings rest with The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's Consultation Group, comprising the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Research Council, along with representatives from the foundation.

For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- The application must be submitted prior to the planned activity.
- Support from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation is exclusively provided for scientific meetings where the foundation serves as the sole sponsor or clearly holds the primary sponsorship.
- The application should incorporate a budget and a rationale for the requested support. Notably, the budget cannot encompass contributions to lecturer fees.
- A preliminary program must be attached.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

2.12 Networking support

The Swedish Heart Lung foundation recognizes the evident value in supporting the creation of networks for researchers, especially younger researchers. The aim is to contribute to the career development of young researchers by stimulating exchanges of experience and creating points of contact between researchers.

The foundation primarily lends its support to networks designed to facilitate communication and collaboration among researchers who can significantly gain from being part of such networks. It places special emphasis on providing young researchers with the opportunity to connect with counterparts from different research institutes, universities, and hospitals. The foundation deems it highly advantageous if these networks have diverse compositions, encompassing both genders, various age groups, and preferably individuals specializing in both cardiovascular and pulmonary research.

These networks can be either regional or national and may have a specific focus, such as a single area of disease.

Decisions regarding the allocation of networking grants rest with The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's Consultation Group, comprising the chair and deputy chair of the Research Council, along with representatives from the foundation.

Grants totalling SEK 200,000 may be awarded.

For the current application period, see "Date of call and decision 2024", page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- Applications must be submitted before the planned launch.
- Support from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation is exclusively provided to networks where the foundation serves as the sole sponsor or clearly holds the primary sponsorship.
- Applications must encompass a budget, a rationale for grant consideration, and a description outlining the anticipated achievements of the network.
- Grants may cover up to two years of networking, after which a new application must be submitted for a possible extension.
- See also "General terms and conditions for applications", page 5.

2.13 Norhedsstiftelsen's (the "Norhed Foundation's") prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation

Through its collaboration with the Norhed Foundation, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation seizes the opportunity to further invest in lifestyle-related interventions for preventing and treating cardiovascular diseases. This research area is of paramount importance, given that a substantial portion of cardiovascular diseases, akin to many prevalent health issues, are influenced by lifestyle factors. Additionally, projects encompassing studies related to the link between these lifestyle elements and chronic pulmonary diseases are also considered within the project's scope.

The grant primarily centers on diet and physical activity, addressing both primary and secondary prevention while emphasizing lifestyle-oriented measures as integral components of cardiovascular disease treatment.

The foundation encourages applications for projects with a comprehensive outlook, highlighting the significance of lifestyle considerations. This support should preferably be applied for by research networks consisting of at least two research groups and in the form of a project grant.

Two projects will be granted funding:

- **The main grant from the Norhed Foundation** is for SEK 2 million per year for a three-year period, totaling SEK 6 million. Emphasis will be placed on projects expected to yield results or be completed within the designated project period.
- In addition to the main grant from the Norhed Foundation, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation will fund an additional project within the grant framework. This project will receive SEK 1 million per year for a three-year period, in total SEK 3 million.

Notably, the main applicant is eligible to receive the grant only once, irrespective of whether the award is for a total of SEK 6 million or SEK 3 million.

The assessment of applications is conducted by a dedicated Nordic Assessment Group comprising five experts in the field of prevention. All applications undergo an initial review to ensure compliance with the call's requirements. Applications failing to meet the criteria will not be assessed by the Nordic Assessment Group and, therefore, will not be commented on.

For the current application period, see “Date of call and decision 2024”, page 8.

Terms and conditions:

- Applications are to be written in English and the research program shall not exceed five A4 pages (excluding references).
- Researchers who have previously received project grants from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation are allowed to apply for this grant.
- The grant is a framework grant, see “General terms and conditions for applications”, page 5.
- Applications for regular project grants and research months/research fellowships within the realm of prevention research undergo regular processing in the standard funding cycle and remain unaffected by these special initiatives.
- See also “General terms and conditions for applications”, page 5.

For drafting the application, see “DRAFTING THE APPLICATION”, page 27.

3 APPLICATION AND DECISION

3.1 Application

The application is submitted via the research website of The Swedish Heart Lung foundation: www3.hjart-lungfonden.se

3.2 Signature/signing

The following applications must be approved by the applicant's head of department:

- The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's jubilee grant
- The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's Large Research Grant
- Prince Daniel's Research Grant for Promising Young Researchers
- Project grants
- National collaboration projects
- Research fellowships
- Postdoctoral fellowships
- Research months
- Norhedstiftelsen's (the "Norhed Foundation's") prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's prevention grant

The signing is done via Bank ID/Mobile Bank ID/form. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the is application signed. **Unsigned applications will not be processed.**

The applicant fills in the name and e-mail address of the head of the department. After the application deadline, the head of the department receives an e-mail to sign the application. The application must be signed as soon as possible after the application deadline, **but no later than six days after the application deadline.**

3.3 Decision

A notice of decision is published in the applicant's account on the research website. Upon decision finalization, applicants are notified via email, urging them to log in to their account to access the decision details. The Swedish Heart Lung foundation has implemented digital award letters/contracts and requisition forms for several grants, conveniently available within the user's account on the research website.

3.4 Justification of the decision

For most grants, a so-called "triage procedure" is applied. The two-thirds of applications that are highest ranked receive a justification, while the remaining applications do not receive a justification.

4 DRAFTING THE APPLICATION

(Mainly for The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's Large Research Grant and project grants, but also applicable to other applications that include the following headings.)

4.1 Language of application

Applications for large research grants and Norhedsstiftelsen's (the "Norhed Foundation's") prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's prevention grant **shall** be written in English. However, applications for project grants and other applications are accepted in either English or Swedish.

4.2 Popular science summary of the research program

The popular science summary must **always** be written in Swedish and is aimed at laypeople who are not medical experts.

The popular science summary is used by The Swedish Heart Lung foundation to disseminate information about the research in question to donors, the media, decision-makers, and other interested parties in society.

4.3 Scientific summary of the research program

Briefly describe the project, using the following headings: Background, Objective, Work Plan, and Significance. The "Objective" section must include a clearly formulated hypothesis.

4.4 Clinical basis

The Swedish Heart Lung foundation places a distinct emphasis on projects with clinical relevance. It is imperative to precisely articulate the clinical linkages of the project, elucidating its novelty and originality, and delineating how the research can contribute to healthcare enhancement. A realistic assessment of the potential impact on healthcare should be provided, incorporating a consideration of the time perspective.

For preclinical researchers, collaboration with a clinician is essential, and the clinical connection should be accurately described. The assessment places significant emphasis on how patient material is characterized.

4.5 Research environment

It is paramount to provide a clear description of the combined competencies essential for executing the project. This entails delineating the capabilities within the researcher's own group as well as articulating the external collaborations. The Heart-Lung Foundation is committed to fostering collaboration within expansive research environments and across diverse fields of knowledge and disciplines. The Heart-Lung Foundation is committed to fostering collaboration within expansive research environments and across diverse fields of knowledge and disciplines.

Illustrate the research environment by providing details on resources, facilities, clinical materials, patient materials, and other essentials crucial for project

execution. Briefly delineate the research group's structure and outline the specific responsibilities assigned to individual researchers within the project.

Describe collaborations with other research groups, both nationally and internationally. For senior researchers, it is especially important to outline the research environment and how experience and expertise are passed on to younger researchers to enable them to become independent. Senior researchers should distinctly define their role in the project and articulate how it will be conducted throughout the funding period. Established group leaders are expected to clarify their mentorship approach for guiding younger team members. Present a comprehensive plan for the career development of younger researchers, as this description holds significance in the application assessment.

For project grants, no co-applicants should be listed (the only exception being projects classified as national collaborative projects). Collaborative partners should therefore be described in the research environment and the research program under the heading "Partners and Research Network".

4.6 Research program

The research program should be submitted as a PDF file, adhering to concise, clear, and succinct writing. It must be formatted in a minimum 12-point font size (Times New Roman) with single-line spacing. The program's length should not exceed 10 A4 pages, inclusive of references. **Failure to meet this requirement will result in the application not being assessed.**

It's important to note that applications for Norhedsstiftelsen's prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's prevention grant, as well as research month grants for doctoral students and returning postdoc grants, should limit the research program to a maximum of five A4 pages, excluding references.

The research program should cover the following points in the following structure:

1. Explanation of abbreviations used in the research program
2. Background
3. Results related to previously awarded grants
4. Objective/hypothesis
5. Work plan
6. Preliminary results
7. Partners and research network
8. References

1. Explanation of abbreviations used in the research program

List the abbreviations and explain their meaning.

2. Background

Commence with a concise overview of the clinical problem, underscoring its significance as it serves as a crucial foundation for assessors to comprehend the research's importance.

- If appropriate, indicate past or preliminary results. Only include results that are connected to the main research question.
- Describe previous results relevant to the application.
- Additionally, pinpoint any gaps in information that justify the need for the current study.

3. Results related to previously awarded grants

For main applicants who have previously received funding from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation, kindly provide a succinct description (maximum 1/3 A4 page) of the progress achieved in the previous project. If more contextually appropriate, this information may also be incorporated under the "Background" heading. This requirement stands irrespective of whether the current submission is a new application or an extension application.

4. Objective/ hypothesis

The objective must be clearly worded, straightforward, and concise. Is there a clear link between the research question and the background provided? Is there a clear link between the research question and both the methodology that will be applied and the planned studies? In terms of assessment, having a well-defined hypothesis that aligns with the research question is typically advantageous, as it provides a focused and testable framework rather than solely relying on a descriptive approach.

5. Work plan

Provide a summary of how the project will be implemented.

- Briefly describe the principles of methods that are not widely known.
- Where justified, specify statistics, methodology, and power calculation.
- Describe methods, patient materials, and animal models.
- Describe what is unique about the implementation of the project.
- Answer your own questions; this demonstrates whether you can see how these can lead to answers.
- Use only a few generally accepted abbreviations. The extensive use of abbreviations makes the application difficult to read and is often to the detriment of the assessment.

6. Partners and research network

In the case of project grants, where there is only a main applicant, it is crucial to elucidate the collaboration details with other researchers, outlining their respective roles within the project. Particularly for non-clinical researchers, outlining collaborations with clinicians and elucidating their access to clinical material within the project is of utmost importance. Additionally, a comprehensive portrayal of the research network, both Swedish and international, associated with the project is essential. This description is valuable when assessing the feasibility of the project.

7. Preliminary results

Provide a brief overview of the preliminary results, considering whether it is appropriate to present this information alongside the background or under the section titled "Results related to previously received grants." The inclusion and clear presentation of preliminary results hold particular significance in the evaluation of new projects.

8. References

List references – your own and those of others – that support the theories and background of the research program. Limit your references; cite a maximum of 20 references. As regards the formulation of the list of references, see below under "List of publications".

The following headings are included in the application form:

Financial plan

A summary of the research program's budget must be presented here, with a clear indication of each item in the budget relates to the grant to which the application relates. The Swedish Heart Lung foundation places significant emphasis on the accuracy of financial information and favors budgets that are deemed realistic about the grant in question. Specify all grants received from other sources associated with the current project, outlining personnel costs, operating costs, equipment costs, and indirect costs. It is essential to note that indirect costs should not exceed 18% of the grant, encompassing expenses such as rent for premises like offices and laboratories.

Example: If the amount granted is SEK 500,000, a maximum of SEK 90,000 may be allocated for indirect costs.

Comments on the financial plan

Provide a comprehensive description of the total costs and existing resources for the project, encompassing staff, equipment, and premises. Justify the need for support from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation by comparing it to other received support.

CV

The CV is now entered into the system rather than being attached as a PDF file. If co-applicants are required to submit a CV, these should be attached at the designated step in the application procedure.

List of publications

The list of publications must be attached as a PDF file. Enter only published and accepted works for **the most recent five-year period (1 January 2019– application date)**. Do not cite work that is still under review or in manuscript form. Number and list the publications in chronological order. If there are more than 20 co-authors, specify the first two authors, the last two authors, and your own position in the list of authors. The list of publications must be numbered and sorted chronologically under two headings:

1. *Original works* in journals with referee systems.
2. *Other works*, leaders, review articles, chapters in textbooks, case descriptions, etc. (only if it is relevant to the project)

Abstracts should not be included in this list.

Literature references are to be cited in accordance with the **Vancouver System**, with an indication of **all author names**.

Scientific report

The scientific report section is always completed when applying for an extension.

If the application concerns a project for which the main applicant has previously received a grant, the report must describe the progress of this work. Pertinent publications submitted articles and manuscripts may be cited here.

The report must also be filled out if the applicant changes focus compared to the previously awarded project grant. In such a case, the report must describe how the new focus relates to the previous project and the results of the funding received.

5 GUIDELINES, PAYMENT AND ACCOUNTING, ETC.

The Swedish Heart Lung foundation retains the right to review and modify its decision on research support, and to retract granted funds in the event of substantial or repeated breaches of these instructions or other terms governing research support.

In cases of the inclusion of incorrect, misleading, or manifestly deficient information in the application, engaging in scientific misconduct, violating established ethical principles in the research area, financial irregularities, contravening laws, ordinances, regulations, or ethical conditions, or any other conduct or circumstance deemed by The Swedish Heart Lung foundation to deviate from its focus or render the applicant unfit for funding, may lead to reconsideration and adjustment of the foundation's decision on research support. In such cases, immediate suspension of the payment of granted funds may be implemented.

In the event of suspected research misconduct, it is the responsibility of the department to which the applicant is affiliated to promptly notify The Swedish Heart Lung foundation.

5.1 Appeals

Being a private organization, decisions rendered by the Board of Directors of the Swedish Heart Lung Foundation are not subject to appeal.

5.2 Indirect costs

Indirect costs must not surpass 18% of the granted amount. For instance, if the granted amount is SEK 500,000, a maximum of SEK 90,000 can be allocated towards indirect costs.

5.3 Requisition and the payment of granted funds

The granted funds are to be administered by the higher educational institution or the hospital affiliated with the applicant. However, scholarships for research abroad and travel/conference allowances are exceptions and are directly disbursed to the applicant upon submission of a requisition form. Funds are requisitioned by returning the requisition form. In most cases, the requisition must be signed both by the applicant and the head of the department or clinic. If the applicant is the head of the department or clinic, the requisition shall be signed by someone with an equivalent role or a superior. Requisition forms are also available on the research website of The Swedish Heart Lung foundation. It is also possible to submit an invoice for the granted amount, but in such an instance, a signed requisition form must be attached.

For grants distributed over multiple years, requisitions are processed on an annual basis. As such, a new requisition form must be submitted each year. For most grants, this is done after an annual report has been submitted and approved, see "Annual report", page 34.

Where applicable, the research project must be approved by an ethical review board or ethical committee for animal experiments before funds can be requisitioned.

No requisitions will be paid out in the month of July.

5.4 Disposition period

The funds granted must be disposed of by the main applicant specified in the application during the year for which the funds have been granted and in the following year. Funds that have not been requisitioned within the disposition period will be returned to The Swedish Heart Lung foundation without prior notice.

Upon completion of a project, any unused funds must be reported by the end of the disposition period and refunded to The Swedish Heart Lung foundation.

If the main applicant relocates or is unable to exercise authority over the project for any reason, The Swedish Heart Lung foundation must be promptly notified. Decisions on the disposition of funds are taken on a case-by-case basis.

5.5 Reporting of granted funds

The main applicant bears responsibility for the appropriate utilization of the granted funds as well as for both the scientific and financial reporting associated with the project. The rules for this vary between the different forms of support; see the "Guidelines for the scientific and financial reporting of grants" table below.

5.6 Guidelines for the scientific and financial reporting of grants

Type of grant	Scientific and financial reporting
Jubilee grant	Annual report for year 2 and year 3, as well as a final report
Large research grant	Annual report for year 2 and year 3, as well as a final report
Prince Daniel's Research Grant for Promising Young Researchers	Annual report for year 2 and year 3, as well as a final report
National collaboration projects	Annual report for year 2 and year 3, as well as a final report
Project grants	Annual report for year 2 and year 3 for multi-year project grants and final report for all grants (including single-year grants)
Research fellowships	Three-year research fellowship: Annual report for year 2 and year 3, as well as a final report. Six-year research fellowship: Annual reports for years 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, as well as a final report. A half-time report shall also be submitted after half of the grant period.
Postdoctoral fellowships	Final report
Research months	In the event of a renewed application for research months, and upon request by the foundation
Postdoctoral scholarship abroad	Final report
Returning postdoc grants	A report is expected in the subsequent project application from the researcher or their research group and upon request by the foundation
Travel grant/conference grant	Upon request by the foundation
Scientific meetings	Upon request by the foundation
Networking support	Upon request by the foundation
Additional grant 19 for COVID-19-related research	Final report
Norhedsstiftelsen's (the "Norhed Foundation's") prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's prevention grant	Annual report for year 2 and year 3, as well as a final report

5.7 Annual report

Applicants awarded multi-year grants, including multi-year project grants, research fellowships, large research grants national collaboration projects, Prince Daniel's Research Grant for Promising Young Researchers, and Norhedsstiftelsen's (the

“Norhed Foundation's”) prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's prevention grant, are required to furnish an annual progress report before the commencement of each financial year. This report should be submitted through the applicant's account on the research website of The Swedish Heart Lung foundation.

The form is available from 15 November of the year before the report is due. The annual report must be completed no later than 20 January of the new financial year. **Failure to submit the report or neglecting to do so within the deadline will result in the forfeiture of the grant.**

The heading “Publication” should highlight **this year's** relevant publications associated with the ongoing project. For each publication, furnish details such as all authors, the work's title, the journal title, the volume, and the page numbers.

The annual report undergoes scrutiny by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Research Council, who decide whether to approve it. The main applicant will receive notification of their decision via email around mid-February. Following this decision, a new requisition can be forwarded to The Swedish Heart Lung foundation.

5.8 Final report

The Swedish Heart Lung foundation has introduced requirements for final reporting for the following grants: large research grants, national collaboration projects, Prince Daniel's Research Grant for Promising Young Researchers, project grants, Norhedsstiftelsen's (the “Norhed Foundation's”) prevention grant via The Swedish Heart Lung foundation's prevention grant, research fellowships and postdoctoral fellowships. Applicants granted a scholarship to conduct research abroad and additional funding for COVID-19 research were already required to submit a final report. The report is submitted via the applicant's account on The Swedish Heart Lung foundation research website.

The reporting form is accessible between March 1 and March 31 of the year following the grant period.

The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Research Council review the final report and decide whether to approve it. The main applicant will be notified of their decision by e-mail in mid-April.

5.9 Indication of financial support from the Heart-Lung Foundation

When publishing or otherwise presenting research results, it must be stated that funding has been received from The Swedish Heart Lung foundation. The name of the foundation shall be stated as Hjert-Lungfonden (The Swedish Heart Lung foundation). The same rules apply to grants from the King Oscar II Jubilee Foundation (Konung Oscar II:s Jubileumsfond).