
CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Industrial Graduate Schools 21

The Knowledge Foundation invites Sweden's university colleges and new universities to apply for funding for Industrial Graduate Schools. The programme aims to strengthen research environments at the university and develop expertise in the business sector and strengthen long-term competitiveness.

Linda Assbring, Programme Manager
linda.assbring@kks.se, 073-712 81 17

We require your application no
later than 3 p.m (15:00) on
September 8, 2021.

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About the Knowledge Foundation

The Knowledge Foundation finances research and competence development at Sweden's university colleges and new universities¹ with the purpose of strengthening Sweden's competitiveness. We provide funding when research and education activities are conducted in collaboration between academia and business partners. The aim is to build strong and profiled knowledge environments that co-produce research and education with the business sector. The Knowledge Foundation does not identify specific research areas, and calls are open for all scientific and artistic research fields.

Purpose and objective

The programme aims to provide the university with the opportunity to establish graduate training programmes that. Thus, the programme can contribute to meeting the business sector's needs for research expertise in relevant and well-defined areas via co-produced PhD training programmes as well as to increased exchange between universities and companies.

The objective of the programme is to provide the Swedish business sector with qualified personnel with a doctoral education. It should also contribute to strong research and education environments that can profile the university.

Who may apply?

Sweden's university colleges and new universities authorised to award doctoral degrees in the field addressed by the graduate school are eligible to apply for funding.

A graduate school may be operated in collaboration with other universities. Only doctoral students admitted at universities that are in the Knowledge Foundation's target group can be financed within this programme.

The Knowledge Foundation welcomes applications within all scientific and artistic research fields. When the application concerns an artistic field of research, the concept *scientific* is replaced by *artistic* in the call.

Programme design

The Industrial Graduate School is implemented in co-production with business partners. Participating companies are to be actively involved and well-integrated in the graduate school's implementation.

The Industrial Graduate School should be implemented as a unified graduate school, and the admission of doctoral students must be consolidated within a reasonably short period after funding is granted. Admission, registration and examination of doctoral students should comply with the university's existing rules. The doctoral students are to

¹ Blekinge Institute of Technology, Swedish Defence University, The Swedish School of Sport and Health Sciences GIH, Dalarna University, University of Borås, University of Gävle, University of Halmstad, Jönköping University, Kristianstad University, University of Skövde, University West, Karlstad University, Konstfack University College of Arts, Crafts and Design, Linnaeus University, Malmö University, Mid Sweden University, Mälardalen University, Royal Institute of Art, Royal College of Music, Stockholm University of the Arts, Södertörn University and Örebro University.

be employed by the company/research institute. Only in exceptional cases may the doctoral student be employed by the university, and in these cases the reasons behind this must be accounted for along with a description of how the company affiliation is to be secured. However, every doctoral student must be connected with a company and should conduct their research activities at the university and at the company.

The application can comprise the equivalent to min. 6 doctoral students and max. 15 doctoral degrees. Note the difference between doctoral students and doctoral degrees. An example of how many doctoral students an application may comprise: 12 doctoral students with the ambition to complete a doctoral degree and 6 doctoral students with the ambition to complete a licentiate degree, i.e. a total of 18 doctoral students. In total this corresponds to the study time of 15 doctoral degrees.

Each doctoral student must have a supervisor from the university and a supervisor and/or mentor from the company.

The objectives of a graduate school cannot be achieved unless it builds on, and is integrated with, one or more developed academic environments at the university and operates in close collaboration with other graduate education. It is important for a graduate school to have a unified and focused direction to enable close collaboration between the academic and business partners.

It is possible to develop an Industrial Graduate School in two stages, with two separate admission periods for doctoral students. In Stage 1, the equivalent to min. 6 doctoral students and max. 15 doctoral degrees can be admitted. After approx. two years, and under the condition that the graduate school is found to be well established, the university has the opportunity to apply for funding for a group of at least four additional doctoral students in Stage 2. For the two stages combined, applicants may request funding for the equivalent to max. 20 doctoral degrees.

Funding from the Knowledge Foundation is disbursed over a 6-year period (for Stage 1). The study time of each doctoral student should be planned to a maximum of 5 years.

How should the funds be used?

The Knowledge Foundation contributes towards the financing of the Industrial Graduate School by covering costs of each doctoral student who is awarded a degree from the graduate school with a maximum of SEK 1.8 million for a doctoral degree and SEK 900 000 for a licentiate degree.

The Knowledge Foundation's funds should be used to finance doctoral students and their work in the Industrial Graduate School and to cover certain operational costs, e.g. management and administrative functions, course development and shared activities within the framework of the graduate school. It is possible to transfer part of the Foundation's funding to the participating companies to contribute towards covering the salaries of doctoral students. Costs for the operation of the graduate school should amount to 25-30 percent of the funds requested from the Knowledge Foundation. However, it need not only be the funds from the Knowledge Foundation that are used for operational costs, this may also be part of the co-funding from the university. The remaining funds should be used for doctoral student salaries, for supervisors, and to cover other direct costs for doctoral students.

Budgeting of funds must comply with the instructions presented in the document *General Terms and Conditions*, see www.kks.se.

The funds applied for should not include overhead costs. This will be calculated and included in the proposed contract upon approval of the application.

University involvement

Engagement from the applicant university is essential, which is why the Knowledge Foundation requires the university to co-finance the Graduate School. This contribution should appear in both project plan and budget.

The project manager is responsible for the implementation of the project. The university should also appoint a project owner. The project owner, who should have staff and budget responsibility at a senior level, has the overall responsibility for ensuring proper conditions for implementing and monitoring the project. The project owner may be a department head or another appropriate person, in accordance with the institution's internal organization and delegation. In this case, the vice-chancellor may be project owner.

Business sector involvement

Projects must be co-produced with business partners which means that the academic and business actors, from their respective perspectives, together formulate and address a scientific question. For more about co-production, see www.kks.se.

The business sector's total commitments of in-kind contributions and/or direct financing should at least match the sum contributed by the Knowledge Foundation. Contributions by companies may include salary costs for doctoral students. In addition to that, the in-kind contributions from the company may include e.g. mentoring/supervision costs, reimbursement for educational contributions to course programmes, and other inputs which are anticipated to be of value to the doctoral students and the development of the Graduate School.

The companies' contribution should be described and motivated in the application. Companies/research institutes that have confirmed their participation in the Graduate School must confirm this with a letter of intent (LoI). The letter of intent must describe the company's commitment (incl. financial commitment), role and contribution as well as the company's motives and value for participation in the project. The application must include letters of intent from companies corresponding to at least 60 percent of the doctoral students for the planned Graduate School.

By business sector, the Knowledge Foundation refers primarily to private companies. The concept, however, may include companies under public ownership that are active in competitive markets and where the company finances its operations in the same manner as private companies. This means that public subsidies or fees may not constitute a significant part of the company's revenues. None of the organisations may be solely administrative enterprises. Primarily they must produce goods or services. The companies must operate in Sweden to the extent that their input provides value for co-production and they have the potential to integrate the results from co-production into their organisation here.

The application must describe and explain the contributions from the business sector. For companies with fewer than 10 employees or less than SEK 10 million in annual turnover (based on the most recent annual report), the potential for co-production in the project must be very clearly described.

If any economic or personal links exist between the involved companies, between any company and the university, or between any company and individual researcher(s), this must be disclosed. The project plan must clearly indicate any personal conflicts of interest, and the individual's various roles in the company or the university must be fully described.

Formal requirements

The application must meet the following requirements before the Knowledge Foundation will consider it for evaluation. If the application does not meet the following requirements, it will be rejected without further evaluation.

- The project must be in line with the purpose and objective of the call.
- The application shall include parts and appendices according to the call instructions.
- The applicant university must be authorized to award postgraduate degrees in the field addressed by the Graduate School.
- Funding from the Knowledge Foundation is disbursed over a 6-year period (for Stage 1). The study time of each doctoral student should be planned to a maximum of 5 years.
- The business sector's total commitments of in-kind contributions and/or direct financing must at least match the sum contributed by the Knowledge Foundation.
- Business partners who are co-financers must fall within the Knowledge Foundation's definition of business sector.
- The application should include letters of intent from companies corresponding to at least 60 percent of the doctoral students for the planned Graduate School.
- Costs for the operation of the graduate school should amount to 25-30 percent of the funds requested from the Knowledge Foundation. However, it need not only be the funds from the Knowledge Foundation that are used for operational costs, this may also be part of the co-funding from the university.
- Any economic or personal conflicts of interest among the partners in the project must be disclosed (see above).
- Budgeting of funds must comply with the instructions presented in the document *General Terms and Conditions*, see www.kks.se.
- The earliest starting date for the project is 2022-03-01. The latest starting date for the project is 2022-10-01.

- The application must be signed by the vice-chancellor, the project owner and the project manager.

Evaluation²

The secretariat of the Knowledge Foundation will review the applications to determine if the application complies with the formal requirements.

International peers will review the scientific quality of the graduate school in question. An external evaluation panel will meet representatives of the proposed Graduate School at a hearing. After the meeting the panel will submit its recommendation to the Foundation's General Manager. Funding decisions are made by the board of the Knowledge Foundation.

No additions or modifications to the application will be approved after submission of the application.

Evaluation criteria

Scientific quality

- What is the scientific level of the research and education environment at the university within the area that the graduate school is addressing?
- To what extent is the proposed research agenda for the graduate school realistic, clear, and relevant in relation to the state of the art?

Benefits to the business partners

- To what extent does the proposed graduate school relate to the needs for development of knowledge in the business sector?
- How well described is the business partners' reasons for participating?

Expected results and effects

- To what extent is the direction and implementation of the graduate school important to the university?

In relation to the building of integrated environments:

- To what extent is the graduate school expected to contribute towards advancement of the research environment?
- To what extent is the graduate school expected to contribute towards advancement of the education environment
- To what extent is the graduate school expected to promote closer collaboration between the research and education environment and the business sector?

² When the application concerns an artistic field of research, the concept *scientific* is replaced by *artistic* in the call.

Implementation

- To what extent do participating companies actively contribute to the implementation of the Industrial Graduate School (e.g. supervising, course development, teaching)?
- Is the management and organization of the Graduate School well described?
- Is the operational plan for the Graduate School realistic in relation to available resources?

Application³

Applications are submitted via the Knowledge Foundation's website, www.kks.se, by the project manager. This is important as the applicant's account is connected to the project and reporting of the project.

Signatures from the project manager, the project owner and the vice chancellor are required. The project manager's signature implies responsibility for described implementation. The project owner and the vice chancellor assure through their signatures that the university approves the project and will be involved according to the project description.

Applications should be written in English to enable international peer review.

The applicant is requested to suggest two international peers in the application form who are qualified to evaluate the application and assessed as free from conflict of interest.

In the application form, enter the city and zip code for the locality where each company will carry out the co-production (that is, not necessarily the locality of the company headquarters).

The project budget is filled out in the application form. Note that the application should not cover overhead costs.

The following appendixes (as pdf-files) should be attached to the application and in the same order as below:

1. The graduate school's host academic environment (may not exceed 2 pages)

To be uploaded under 'Host research and education environment'.

Describe the academic environment and its research and education activities so the current position and future plans are shown. What is the environment's development needs, strategies and ambitions regarding research and education in collaboration?

The description should include the following headings (each heading refers to both education and research):

- current position and development needs,
- strategies and ambitions,

³ When the application concerns an artistic field of research, the concept *scientific* is replaced by *artistic* in the call.

- main results of the past few years,
- staff composition,
- funding,
- collaboration partners (academic and non-academic).

2. The graduate school's expected contribution to the research and education environment (may not exceed 1 page)

To be uploaded under "Host research and education environment"

Describe the strategic value of the proposed project by demonstrating how the project will support the development of the academic environment in line with the university's aspirations for collaborative research and education.

3. Project plan (may not exceed 30 pages)

To be uploaded under "Project plan"

1. *The focus of the Graduate School and the addressed needs, scientific as well as industry-related*
 - 1.1. Describe the research field that the graduate school is addressing and the applicant university's position within the field from a national and international perspective.
 - 1.2. Describe and motivate the research questions addressed in the project and how these relate to state-of-the-art.
 - 1.3. Describe the Graduate School's significance for the university's development of research and doctoral education.
 - 1.4. Describe the relevance of the Graduate School and its focus to the business sector.
 - 1.5. Describe the participants' contribution to the project and how these are complementary in terms of competence.
2. *Expected results and effects*
 - 2.1. Describe the university's goals for the graduate school, if possible, time-specific and quantitative. The objectives should be based on the following perspectives: the doctoral students; the development of research and education environments and the contribution to scientific development and positioning; co-production; other.
 - 2.2. Describe overarching goals for the business sector.

8. *Project staffing*

Describe and motivate the staffing of the project. It should appear how much time key personnel are to participate in the project. The supervision capacity of the Graduate School should also be made clear.

9. *Project budget*

Describe and motivate the estimated costs in the budget. Work efforts from persons accounted for in the budget should be described. Specify how large part of the budget that is allocated for the operation of the Graduate School. Describe the co-financing from the companies

4. Qualifications (*may not exceed 2 pages per person*)

To be uploaded under “Attachments in accordance with the call and in the same order as stated in the call.”

CVs from key individuals from both the university (project manager and researchers) and the business partners. CVs exceeding 2 pages will not be considered in the evaluation.

5. Letter of intent from participating companies

To be uploaded under “Attachments in accordance with the call and in the same order as stated in the call.”

Companies/research institutes that have confirmed their participation in the Graduate School must document this with a letter of intent (LoI). The letter must describe the company’s commitment (incl. financial commitment), role and contribution as well as the company’s motives and value for participation in the project. The application must include LoIs for at least 60 percent of the doctoral students.

6. Signatures from the university (appendix form).

To be uploaded under “Attachments in accordance with the call and in the same order as stated in the call.”

The application must be signed by the vice-chancellor, the project owner and the project manager. Appendix template is downloaded from the Foundation’s website, www.kks.se. Applications without signatures will not be considered.

Timetable and decisions

- A university that plans to apply for funding is advised to contact the programme manager well before the application deadline to discuss the conditions for an application.
- The Knowledge Foundation must receive the application no later than 3 p.m. (15:00) on 2021-09-08.
- Applications will be reviewed for compliance with formal requirements. The General Manager of the Knowledge Foundation will determine whether an application should be rejected due to non-compliance with formal requirements no later than 2021-10-01.
- International peers will review the scientific quality of applications during October 2021.
- A hearing with the applicants will be held in November 2021.
- The external evaluation panel will after the hearing and evaluation meeting submit its recommendation to the Knowledge Foundation.
- Funding decisions are made by the board of the Knowledge Foundation and applicants will be notified in December 2021.
- Granted projects may commence after agreement signing, earliest 2022-03-01 and latest at 2022-10-01.