

Call for the Wallenberg Academy Fellows program

Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (the Foundation) has set up a long-term program for young researchers: Wallenberg Academy Fellows.

The Foundations has decided to announce the program in 2019, and thereafter most likely every second year. During the first six years of the program, 174 Wallenberg Academy Fellows was appointed. In close cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Swedish Academy, the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation has created a program that will provide resources for Sweden's most promising researchers to develop their work. The program addresses young researchers in medicine, natural sciences, engineering and technology, humanities and social sciences.

The purpose of the Wallenberg Academy Fellows program is to give young researchers working conditions that enables them to focus on research and tackle difficult, long-term research questions.

The Swedish Academies will evaluate and select the most promising researchers and the universities will then take long-term responsibility for these individuals.

Swedish universities are invited to nominate candidates for the program.

The application period starts on the 7th of January 2019

A complete nomination/application must be registered at the Foundation at the latest by the **15th of February 2019**.

Decision will be announced in December 2019.

Nominations for the program

From 2017, nomination quotas were reinstated, whereby each institution is allowed to nominate a maximum number of applicants as listed below:

University

Lund University
Karolinska Institutet

Uppsala University
Stockholm University
of Gothenburg
Chalmers University of Technology
KTH Royal Institute of Technology
Linköping University
Umeå University
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Luleå University of Technology
Others

Number of nominations

16
16
16
12
12
12
12
12
12
12
6
4

The university should strive for 40 % of the nominations to be from the underrepresented sex. Only one internal candidate can be nominated for each international nomination (within the above maximum number of nominations per university).

Who can be nominated?

The program is open to researchers in all academic disciplines: medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities/religion, and also in the interfaces between them.

Candidates nominated in 2019 must have obtained their PhDs after 1 January 2010. An exception may be made for nominees whose PhD date back to before 2010 and who on request can document a leave of absence due to parental leave, military service or extended sick leave that has taken place since the PhD exam.

Researchers who received a recruitment package as part of the Foundation's molecular medicine initiative (Lund University, University of Gothenburg, Linköping University and Umeå University) or the Wallenberg Autonomous Systems Program (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology, Lund University, Linköping University and Umeå University) cannot be nominated for a Wallenberg Academy Fellows grant.

Nomination procedure

A candidate cannot be nominated by more than one university. A candidate must, when nominated by a specific university, approve the nomination.

Documents attached to the nomination, all in English except for the Brief popular scientific summary in Swedish, must include the following (1A4 page = 3500 characters including blanks):

- The person's research qualifications, i.e. CV (max two A4 pages) covering positions held, awards won and postdoctoral research stays, if any.
- A list of all publications in peer-reviewed journals, with the ten most important publications marked. If relevant, an H-index (Web of Science, Scopus or Google Scholar) together with number of publications and number of quotes the H-index is based on, is attached. Google Scholars preferably use Harzing's Publish or Perish. For nominations in the field of humanities, a complete list of published articles should be enclosed
- A short (max two A4 pages) account of the person's career, i.e. primarily his or her academic achievements together with information of present support from Universities or other financial support.
- A project proposal (max six A4 pages).
- Each nomination must contain a brief presentation of the reasons why the nominee's activities are considered a key component of the research profile of the university and a description of the nomination process, i.e. the arguments, evaluations and processes on which the nomination was based (max two A4 pages).
- A brief popular scientific summary in Swedish (max one A4 page).
- External candidates attach a motivation stating the reasons why he/she wants to establish his/her research at the nominating university (max 1 A4 page).

The nominations and applications must be registered electronically on the Foundation's website.

The financing of the Foundation will include:

- Grants of SEK 1,000,000/year for five years for researchers within theoretical disciplines.
- Grants of SEK 1,500,000/year for five years for researchers within theoretical disciplines, who at the time of nomination are working abroad*.
- Grants of SEK 1,500,000/year for five years for researchers within experimental disciplines.
- Grants of SEK 2,000,000/year for five years for researchers within experimental disciplines who at the time of the nomination are working abroad*.
- Researchers, who at the time of nomination are working abroad, can apply for additional grants (startup grants) of SEK 1,500,000, 3,000,000 or 4,500,000. The level is decided by the nominating university and a co-financing with the same amount is required.
- Researchers, who at the time of the nomination are working abroad can also apply for moving expenses of SEK 100,000.

* Nominated within the category “Researcher working abroad at the time of the nomination”, have not been employed and not received salary or other financing in Sweden during the last four years.

The appointed researcher will be employed by the nominating university and a relevant position must be guaranteed.

The universities co-fund the initiative by guaranteeing that 50% of the researcher’s salary is covered by the university. A university may choose to fund the researcher’s entire salary, thereby helping to give him or her a larger unencumbered research grant. The university will also co-fund the initiative by contributing to indirect costs, and rent over and above the potential contribution from the foundation for indirect cost and rent.

After five years, the universities will be invited to nominate their appointed researchers to compete for another five years funding. Normally up to 40 % of the originally appointed fellows can receive extension. If the support is prolonged, SEK 1,750,000 will be granted per year for five years.

Evaluation process

All assessment of nominations is handled under strict confidentiality. That is, information about the evaluation process in addition to the information below must not be disclosed to any third party.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, in cooperation with the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences, the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities and the Swedish Academy, will be responsible for the evaluation process.

The selection process will be implemented in five different evaluation panels: medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities/religion.

The panel members are appointed by the Academies and have broad academic expertise.

One of the five subject areas above must be specified in the nomination. Only one area can be specified for each nomination.

The five panels will evaluate and rank incoming nominations. The five ranking lists will then be submitted to the Foundation, which will decide on the number of grants in each area.

[Assessment criteria](#)

Closing date for nominations and applications

Complete nominations and applications must be received by the Foundation at the latest by the **15th of February 2019**.

Full documentation for each nominee must be submitted electronically, by the universities, to the Foundation in accordance with the routines for grant applications. The complete budget form is not required with the nomination, only submit a brief description of the amount applied for.

Decision

The Wallenberg Academy Fellows will be appointed by the Board of the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation in November 2019 and the decision will be announced in December 2019.

Assessment criteria for Wallenberg Academy Fellows

Background

The programme is open to researchers in all academic disciplines; medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities/religion, and also in the interfaces between them. The target group is researchers early in their careers with the potential to develop into the researchers and research leaders of tomorrow.

The objective of this programme is to support basic science at the highest level.

Those who are nominated in 2019 must have received their PhDs after 1 January 2010.

The assessment is handled under strict confidentiality. This means that information regarding the processing work other than the below information may not be shared with any external party.

Assessment of the nominees will be carried out by review panels (medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences and humanities/religion) comprising 6-7 members each, and with particular consideration of the interfaces between the above areas. Each review panel is responsible for dividing the nominees into groups according to their assessed quality.

A summarizing score will be submitted for each applicant according to the ERC five-grade assessment-scale, i.e.:

0 = insufficient, 1 = Good, 2 = Very good, 3 = Excellent, 4 = Outstanding

The work will include, in addition to the evaluation of the written documentation that is submitted as part of the nominations, for example individual interviews, and consultations with external, international reviewers.

Implementation

Four overall criteria will be applied to the nominee assessment. Emphasis will be placed upon *academic quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research programme*. Evaluated thereafter are *academic results attained previously followed*, in turn, by *assessment of the nominee’s potential as an independent researcher* and *assessment of the nominee’s potential as a research leader*.

In their assessment of *scientific quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed research programme*, the review panels must take into account the following subsidiary criteria (with no internal ranking):

- The quality of the research programme, its degree of innovativeness and its significance in terms of the development of the research field.
- Feasibility: Can the research be carried out by the nominating university? Do the right infrastructure, resources and context exist?
- Documented academic quality of research carried out by the nominee to date.

Under the criterion *academic results previously attained*, the review panels will (again without internal ranking) consider the following subsidiary criteria:

- Publications: quality from an international perspective and quantity.
- National and international awards.
- Documented academic breakthroughs.
- Positions held.
- A postdoctoral research stay (or equivalent) is expected for all nominees in medicine, engineering and technology, natural sciences and social sciences.

Assessment of the nominee’s potential as an independent researcher consists in appraising, as far as possible, the nominee’s potential for development as a researcher, mainly based on the criteria and subsidiary criteria presented above and also on a personal interview. *The nominee’s potential as a research leader* is assessed, for the areas where this is relevant, on the basis of the following subsidiary criteria (without internal ranking):

- Professional positions and positions of trust held
- Leadership training courses attended and appraised leadership capacity.
- Communicative ability.