STINT
Stiftelsen för internationalisering av
högre utbildning och forskning

The Swedish Foundation for International
Cooperation in Research and Higher Education

Initiation grants

The purpose of STINT's activity is to strengthen the competitiveness of Swedish universities and colleges through the development of international relationships. The internationalisation of higher education and research is mainly based on concerted, long-term efforts. Sometimes however, it is important to be able to act quickly when the opportunity arises. STINT offers an Initiation grant for this purpose.

Initiation grants are given for the implementation of short-term projects targeting the building of new and strategically interesting international relationships.

Call dates

Applications may be submitted continuously throughout the year. Assessment of received applications starts on the following dates in 2017: February 14, May 9, September 5, and November 7. Complete applications should be made via STINT's electronic application system. Applications shall be written in English.

Candidates shall be active at a university or college in Sweden and have defended their doctorates. Please note that, although the applicant must have defended their doctorate, the project may equally well include one or more doctoral students and undergraduates.

The principal collaborating party shall be outside the EU/EFTA area. The proposed activities within the project shall be completed within twelve months from present closing date of the call.

Budget requirements:

- STINT's funds may only be used for internationalisation activities, i.e. short or long stays abroad for those parties involved in the cooperation and for organisers of workshops and conferences to strengthen and further develop the cooperation. The funds may not be used for salaries. However, remuneration in lieu of salary is permitted for up to six months' stay abroad for doctoral students and postdocs.
- The applied amount shall not exceed 150,000 SEK. Overheads may only be approved when remuneration in lieu of salary is paid to a doctoral student or postdoc. In this case overheads of SEK 100,000 pro rata per annum are permitted (the amount will be proportionately reduced for shorter periods and part-time posts. Example: if the project budget covers remuneration in lieu of salary for a one month stay abroad for a postdoc, the accepted overhead is $1/12 * 100,000 = 8,333$).

The proposed project must be well established with the applicant parties. All applicant parties must have read and approved the final version of the application. The application should include a report by a head of department (or equivalent) at the home institution plus that of the principal collaborating institution, describing the value of the proposed partnership.

The application should include a CV of up to two pages per person for a minimum of one and a maximum of two key people per project party. Amongst other things, this should give a clear account of scientific results for the last five years.

Assessment criteria

Initiation grants are intended for starting international partnerships. The following two main criteria guide the selection of projects. As the purpose of the programme to a large extent relates to the creation of conditions for rewarding international collaborations, some questions below predominantly relate to results expected after the termination of the initiation project. These questions are written in *italics*.

Criterion	Sample questions linking to each criterion
A. Contribution to the educational establishments' activity	• Why is the partnership necessary? • How do the competences and resources of the respective parties relate to each other? • How is the project linked to any internationalisation strategies on the part of the institution and educational establishment? • How will the project lead to new and broader international partnerships? • *How does the project contribute to the educational establishments' activities on various levels (e.g. individual, research group and institutional)?* • *How do the planned activities strengthen ongoing research and education?* • *What are the long-term goals and visions for the partnership?*
B. Project organisation and quality	• Is the project plan clear, specific and realistic? • Is it apparent what roles various named individuals will have in the project? • To what extent and in what way are applicants and other key people involved in the project? • Does the project involve both new and well-established researchers? • Is the project design cost efficient? • What experiences are there of any previous STINT projects?

Project implementation and final report

A decision on the results of the assessment will be given within about two months of the respective closing date. Grants are paid after the contract has been signed and returned to STINT.

Given the programme's aim to facilitate relatively limited start-up activities over short periods, requests for extensions will be handled restrictively.

A final report is to be submitted to STINT within a month upon completion of the project. The final report is submitted through the application and report system.

Application

The application must be submitted using STINT's application and reporting system (https://ansok.stint.se/sbs/stint/minsida/login). The application consists basically of the following parts.

1. Involved higher education institutions and key persons [addresses, contact data and CV's for key persons (pdf)]
2. General information [title, abstract, classification and reports from the head of department (pdf)]
3. Project description: Please enclose a project description in pdf-format (max. 5 pages, min. font size 10, max 5 MB), describing, as a minimum:
    a. Objectives in relation to research and higher education
    b. Contribution to and from each project partner
    c. Project plan
    d. Available resources, including existing funding of the key persons' in the project.
4. Activities and costs [specification of stays and events with participants, dates, locations and costs].

Please make sure that the project description and the activities in terms of stays and events described in the application system together provide information covering all review criteria (see call text).