



ÖSTERSJÖSTIFTELSEN

THE FOUNDATION FOR BALTIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Welcome to the information meeting!  
The meeting will start at 9:00 am

Please mute your microphone.

After the presentation there will be time for questions. Register your question in the chat.

We will **not** answer the questions directly in the chat.

The meeting is **not** recorded.

The presentation will be available at [www.ostersjostiftelsen.se](http://www.ostersjostiftelsen.se) after the meeting.

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THE FOUNDATION FOR BALTIC AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Information meeting

30 November 2022



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ÖSTERSJÖSTIFTELSEN

The Foundation for Baltic  
and East European Studies

Please note, this presentation is only an  
additional material to the instructions  
for applications.



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# The Foundation, some facts

- Founded in 1994 by the Swedish Government
- Supports research, doctoral studies and scientific infrastructure related to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe at Södertörn University
- Two application types:
  1. researchers apply for funding directly to the Foundation,
  2. Södertörn University applies for funding

# Overview forms of support 2023

Form of support	Two- and three-year projects	Postdoctoral projects	Grand projects	Research networks	Conference grants	Publication grants
Funding for	research			networking	a conference	a publication
Eligible to apply by	an individual researcher or small group of researchers	an individual researcher up to 3 years after a doctorate, PhD student with doctorate before 2024	a group of at least four researchers, with strong international element in the research group	a group of researchers, with a great majority coming from outside Sweden	an individual researcher	a former project manager up to 3 years after final reporting
Project period	2 or 3 years	2 years	4 or 5 years	1 year		
Project start	1 January 2024			1 September 2023	date of decision	
Amount of the grant	max. SEK 2 million per year	salary funding may cover 80–100% of a full-time annual position	max. SEK 5 million per year	max. SEK 150,000	only costs in connection with a conference	only costs in connection with a publication
Grant administrator	Södertörn University			higher education institution in Sweden	Södertörn University	higher education institution in Sweden
Stages in the process	2			1		

# Two- and three- year projects

*Support for:* conducting a well-defined research task within a limited period, applicants themselves formulate the research problem and decide on the method and implementation

*Eligible to apply:* an individual researcher or a small group of researchers, all the researchers must have obtained doctorates by the date of application

*Project period:* two or three years

*Amount of grant:* a maximum of SEK 2 million a year

*Grant administrator:* Södertörn University

# Postdoctoral projects

*Support for:* conducting a well-defined research task within a limited period

*Eligible to apply:*

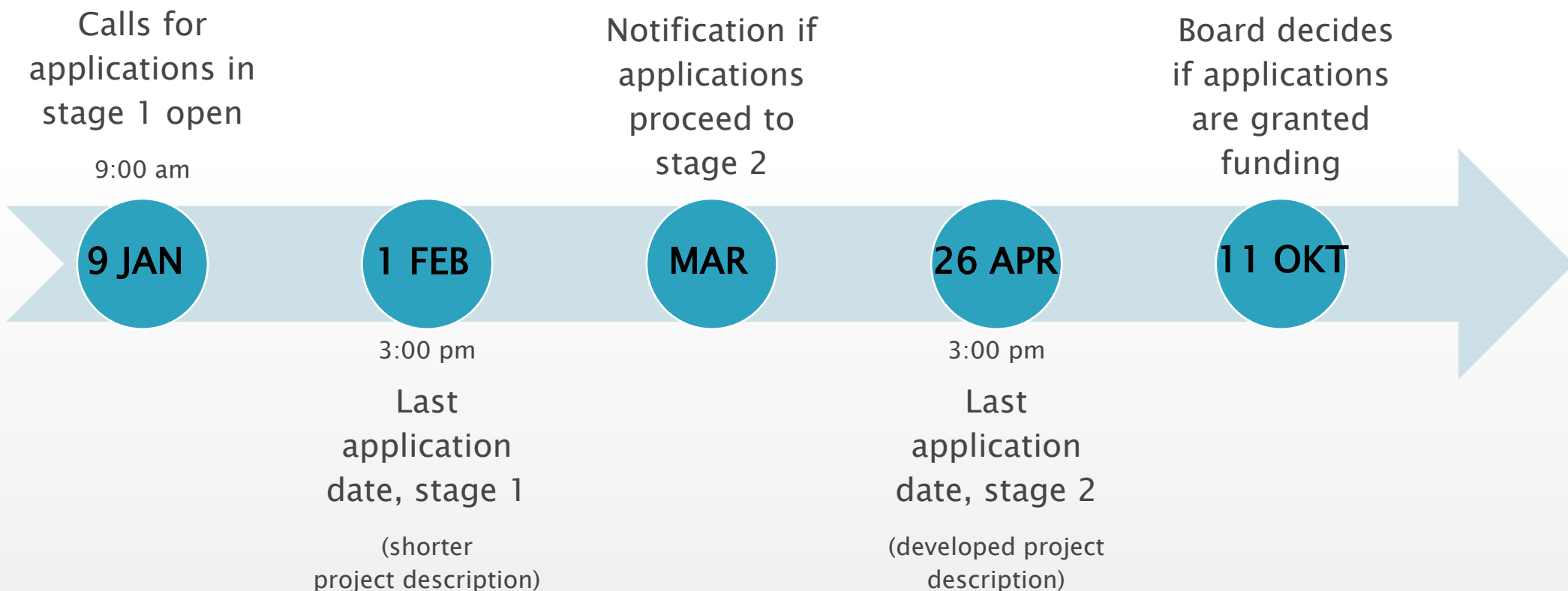
- an individual researcher with a doctorate, who may apply up to three years after obtaining it
- NEW • a PhD student due to obtain the doctorate before the start of the grant period (not later than 31 December 2023)

*Project period:* two years

*Amount of grant:* salary funding may cover 80–100% of a full-time annual position

*Grant administrator:* Södertörn University

# Key dates two- and three-year projects and postdoctoral projects 2023



# Grand projects 2023

## *Support for:*

- a challenging, joint and coherent research task
- excellence in the various parts of the application, and as a whole
- collaborations across subject and institutional boundaries and national borders
- to form a group that is active in the long term
- advanced research environment or advanced research network
- a strong international element in the research group

*Eligible to apply:* a group of at least four researchers, who may also seek funding for postdoctoral researchers and doctoral students

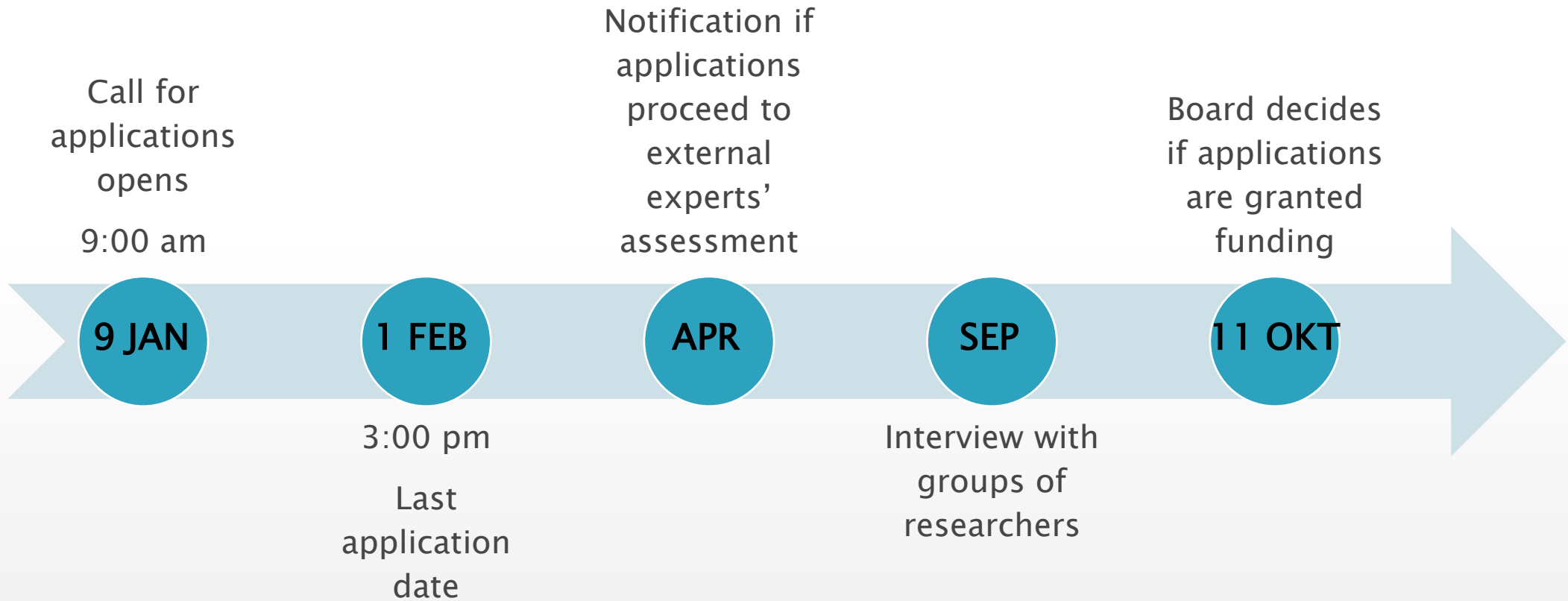
*Project period:* four to five years

*Amount of grant:* a maximum of SEK 5 million a year

*Grant administrator:* Södertörn University



# Key dates grand projects 2023



NEW

*From 2023 the calls for grand projects will be announced every second year, meaning that in 2024 the call will be suspended.*



# Research networks

## *Support for:*

- creating new networks of researchers or maintaining already established ones
- research initiation
- contribution to future research through academic meetings and contacts that may eventually culminate in applications for research funds

## *Eligible to apply:*

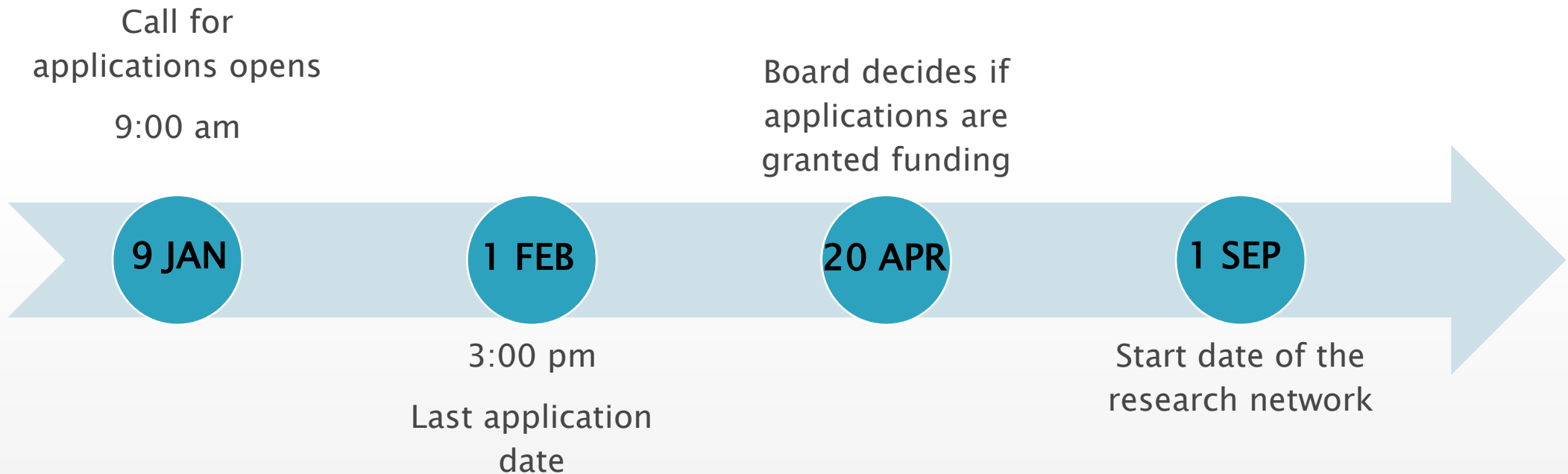
- group of researchers
- project manager may be a researcher at a higher education institution in Sweden
- the network must include researchers at Södertörn University
- the majority of participants must come from research environments outside Sweden
- doctoral students may be included

*Project period:* 1 year

*Amount of grant:* Maximum SEK 150,000

*Grant administrator:* Swedish Higher Education Institution

# Key dates research networks 2023



NEW

# Conference grants

*Support for:* arranging a conference with clear relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

*Purpose:*

- promoting internationalisation and knowledge exchange among Swedish and foreign researchers
- dissemination of research on the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

*Eligible to apply:* an individual researcher with a doctorate

*Grant availability period:* 1 year

*Amount of grant:* costs of the conference (no salary funding)

*Grant administrator:* Södertörn University

# Publication grants NEW

*Support for:* publishing research results from either a former research project or in connection to an approved conference grant, in both cases with funding from the Foundation

*Eligible to apply:*

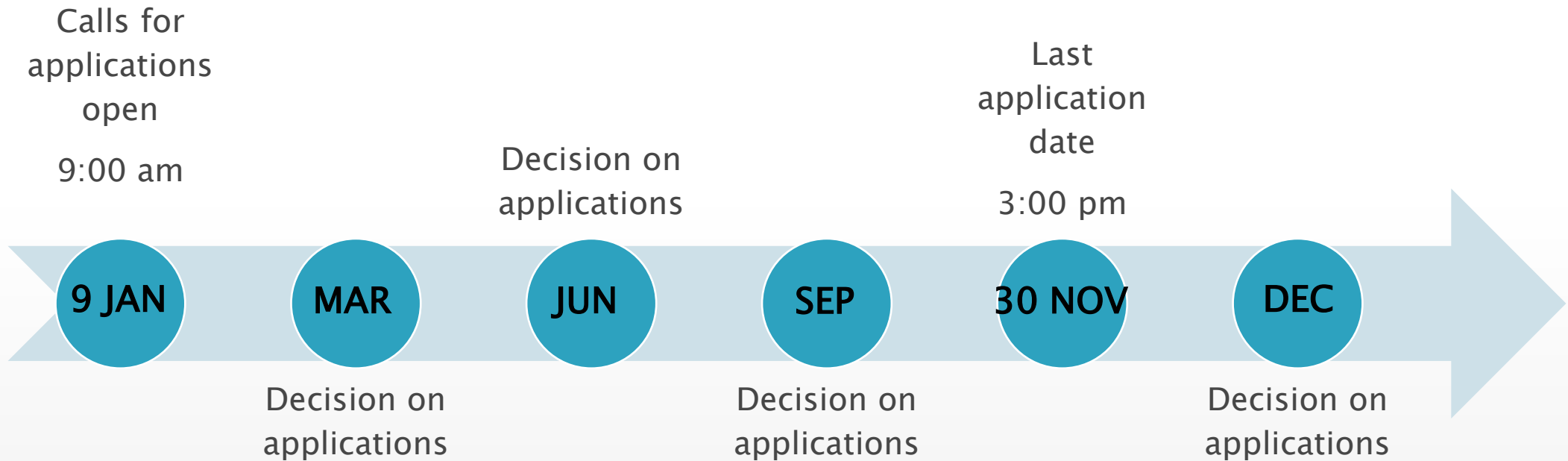
- a former project manager for a research project on which the final report has been submitted, up to three years after the project
- a project manager for a conference grant

*Grant availability period:* 1 year

*Amount of grant:* costs of a publication (no salary funding)

*Grant administrator:* Swedish Higher Education Institution

# Key dates conference and publication grants 2023



# Which grants may be applied for simultaneously?

- A researcher can participate in maximum of one application.
- Exceptions: research networks, conference and publication grants

Applying for		Two- and three-year projects		Postdoctoral project	Grand project		Research network		Conference grant	Publication grant
		project manager	participant	project manager	project manager	participant	project manager	participant	project manager	project manager
Can apply also for										
Two- and three-year projects	project manager	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	See a.
	participant	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Postdoctoral project	project manager	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Grand project	project manager	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	See a.
	participant	no	no	no	no	no	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Research network	project manager	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	See a.
	participant	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	yes	See a.
Conference grant	project manager	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Publication grant	project manager	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.

a. Publication grants can be applied for only by former project managers for research projects funded by the Foundation. Grants can be applied for up to three years after final reporting of the project. This form of support may also be applied for by project managers awarded conference grants. If these criteria are met, publication grants can be applied for at the same time as other forms of support.

# What are the rules if a researcher has an ongoing project?

- Project manager for an ongoing research project must submit a final report for the project before applying for a new research project.
- Exceptions: research networks, conference and publication grants

Applying for		Two- and three-year projects		Post-doctoral project	Grand project		Research network		Conference grant	Publication grant
		project manager	participant	project manager	project manager	participant	project manager	participant	project manager	project manager
Ongoing project	project manager	no	See b.	no	no	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
	participant	See b.	See b.	See b.	See b.	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Two- and three-year projects	project manager	no	See b.	no	no	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
	participant	See b.	See b.	See b.	See b.	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Postdoctoral project	project manager	no	See b.	no	no	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Grand project	project manager	no	See b.	no	no	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
	participant	See b.	See b.	See b.	See b.	See b.	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Research network	project manager	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	See a.
	participant	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Conference grant	project manager	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	See a.
Publication grant	project manager	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.	See a.

An ongoing project is a project for which no final report has been submitted.

- Publication grants can be applied for only by former project managers for research projects funded by the Foundation. Grants can be applied for up to three years after final reporting of the project. This form of support may also be applied for by project managers awarded conference grants. If these criteria are met, publication grants can be applied for at the same time as other forms of support.
- Yes, but see maximal working time in instructions for respective form of support.



# Grant administrator

- Applicants may be researchers from or outside Sweden
- Södertörn University must be grant administrator for:
  - Two- and three-year projects
  - Postdoctoral projects
  - Grand projects
  - Conference grants
- Project manager must be employed at Södertörn University **during the project period**
- Other participants should spend some time at Södertörn University
- HEI in Sweden may be grant administrator for:
  - Research networks (networks must include researchers at Södertörn University)
  - Publication grants (please note the conditions for publication grants)

# Before submitting an application

Contact the head of department at Södertörn University

- Secure approval for hosting your potential project by the Södertörn University
- Discuss employment conditions and how to engage other project participants, including salary levels
- Discuss budget details
- Signature form needs to be signed by the project manager and the head of department

For research networks and publication grants any Swedish HEI may be a grant administrator.

# Budget – research projects

*All the costs must be specified and motivated.*

## Budget items

- **Salaries**

- Specify monthly salary and percentage of employment
- Agreed upon with the grant administrator (head of department)
- Project manager must have a min. 20% employment in the project
- For researchers that do not apply for salary funding specify 0 as monthly salary and percentage of work time in the project

- **Social security contributions (*LKP, lönekostnadspålägg*)**

- Payroll overhead automatically added by the application system, for calls in 2023: 56%

- **Overhead costs (indirect costs)**

- Specify percentage, depends on the department that will host the project
- Overhead costs concern administrative costs for the grant administrator – obligatory to specify

# Budget – research projects

- **Costs of premises**

- Usually costs of the office at Södertörn University, may include laboratory costs, etc.

- **Investigation costs**

- E.g. access to archives, surveys, research excursion costs

- **Costs for conferences and travel**

- Costs related to meetings, smaller workshops and participation in conferences

- **Other costs**

- Non-research staff (e.g. assistants, translators, technical personnel), ethical review, equipment, etc.

- **Dissemination of project results**

- Flat-rate automatically added by the application system
- Covers OA publication, language editing, translation, etc.

Co-funding with other research funders is not allowed.

# Assessment process

two- and three-year projects and postdoctoral projects

**Stage 1** Applicants send in a short version of their project

Research committee

- Assesses applications (all members read all applications)
- Rejects applications and approves those applications which proceed to stage 2
- All applicants receive general feedback from the research committee

**Stage 2** Applicants send in a developed application

Research committee

- Selects external experts (usually two experts per application are recruited)
- Assesses applications and reviews the external experts' assessments
- Prioritises applications and makes a recommendation to the Board
- The Board makes the decision on applications
- The applicants receive a notification of decision and external experts' assessments

# Assessment criteria

two- and three-year projects and postdoctoral projects

- Scientific quality
- Research relevance for Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe



# Geographical area



- The research must have relevance to **the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe**
- The ‘Baltic Sea Region’ is the Baltic Sea itself and the surrounding areas. The ‘Eastern Europe’ part comprises post–communist Central, South and East Europe.
- *A list of countries is provided on the website.*

# How do we define relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe

- Not funding research relating exclusively to Sweden or Swedish conditions
- Sweden or countries entirely outside this area may be included in comparative studies
- Research must make a concrete contribution to our knowledge of this area
- The relevance for the area must be motivated by the research problem
- Collaboration with actors from the region is particularly relevant



# Some tips along the way (1)

- Focus on the research question
- In the case of larger projects, the overall question must be of high scientific quality, the different parts must support each other
- Write for a panel with broad competence
- Choose competence that is needed to address the research question
- Clearly articulate and motivate relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe
- Position the project in relation to existing research

# Some tips along the way (2)

- In case of comparative studies, justify the choice of case studies clearly
- Clearly present and specify design, material, data collection, method(s) and analysis
- Assess potential risks, limitations and challenges
- Clearly present time schedule and design, clarify project members' functions and competencies
- Costs must be specified and motivated

# Do you have questions?

- [www.ostersjostiftelsen.se](http://www.ostersjostiftelsen.se)
- Available in Swedish and English:
  - Overview of forms of support
  - Instructions for applications
  - Questions and answers
  - Information on which funds may be applied for at the same time
  - Description of the criterion 'relevance to the Baltic Sea Region and Eastern Europe' with a list of countries concerned
- Email the secretariat, contacts available on the website