

# Visby Programme scholarships

**Apply for a prestigious scholarship for PhD studies or research in Sweden and contribute to the development of your home country.**

The Swedish Institute (SI) Visby Programme is pleased to offer scholarships for the year 2017/2018 for highly qualified PhD students and postdoctoral researchers from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

This scholarship is aimed at young talented professionals who are creative, curious and motivated, and show expertise and excellence in their academic fields. SI intends to build a strong global network of talented people willing to contribute and take an active role in the development of leadership for a sustainable future.

## PhD studies, postdoctoral and senior research

About 40 scholarships will be offered for the academic year 2017/2018. The scholarships cover living expenses and insurance.

### Eligible countries

The call is open to candidates from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine.

### Scholarship offer

PhD students and postdoctoral researchers are provided with an excellent opportunity to conduct research at Swedish universities within all academic disciplines:

- PhD students – up to 12 months
- postdoctoral researchers – 6, 9 or 12 months
- senior scientists – up to 6 months

The scholarship amounts to SEK 15,000 per month for PhD students and SEK 18,000 per month for postdoctoral researchers and senior scientists.



Tina Ståfen/imagebank.sweden.se

# SI.

Read more at  
**[www.si.se](http://www.si.se)**

Swedish Institute  
[www.si.se](http://www.si.se)  
[www.sweden.se](http://www.sweden.se)

The Swedish Institute (SI) is a public agency that promotes interest and confidence in Sweden around the world. SI seeks to establish cooperation and lasting relations with other countries through strategic communication and exchange in the fields of culture, education, science and business.



# Towards a successful scholarship application

Your application is evaluated based on your academic background and personal motivation, the research environment and expertise of the host department, and the strength of your research proposal – its scientific quality, originality, methodological approach and relevance.

## 4 steps to acquiring an invitation

A Letter of Invitation from a Swedish university department willing to accept you as a visiting scholar is a mandatory part of the application.

1. Find a potential Swedish supervisor. Some tips:

- search for university departments/research groups that work within the scientific fields of your interest via [studyinsweden.se/universities](http://studyinsweden.se/universities), [en.academicpositions.se](http://en.academicpositions.se) or [universitypositions.eu](http://universitypositions.eu);
- when searching for a potential host department, send your email inquiries to someone who knows your discipline and research area, and not at random to general, administrative functions and international offices at the university;

- make use of your home department's contacts, networks and agreements. Also, SI has a large alumni network, well represented at universities, companies and organisations in your home country. Ask former scholarship holders for ideas and contacts; and
- approach Swedish professors and researchers you have met on scientific conferences and symposiums.

2. Introduce yourself and a draft research proposal to the potential supervisor well ahead of applying for the scholarship. Start with an email.

3. If well received, be prepared to discuss the existing research environment, cooperation perspectives and agree on a research timescale.

4. Ask the head of the chosen department to complete and sign the Letter of Invitation using the mandatory SI template.

Detailed information on how to apply along with detailed instructions and eligibility requirements can be found at [www.si.se](http://www.si.se).

## Be motivated – think big

The aim of the Visby Programme is to facilitate for increased contacts and collaboration between Sweden and countries in the EU Eastern Partnership, and the Russian Federation.

Place yourself, your accomplishments and ambitions against this context. Be convinced in your own scientific and leadership potential, yet concrete and realistic in your motivation.

## Application details to keep in mind:

- check the eligibility criteria and available scholarship periods. Note a special 'Sandwich' model of several shorter visits offered to PhD students;
- get familiar with existing strategies and policies relevant for cooperation in the Baltic Sea region. You will need it for your personal motivation;
- follow the SI instructions in terms of mandatory templates and number of pages/characters/publications. Even supervisors' CVs will be evaluated, and are therefore also subject to SI rules;
- sort your publications according to the required order;
- do not insert any photo of yourself in your CV;
- be aware of the deadline. Late documents will not be considered; and
- be patient. Results will be announced by email in late May 2017.



Photo: Sofia Sabal/magebank.sweden.se