



KAW Projects 2024 – nomination process at Umeå University

The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation announces funding for research projects of high scientific potential. This refers to research primarily ***within science, technology and medicine***, with a duration of 3-5 years and a budget of a total of 15-40 million SEK. High-priority projects include new research areas and research that is interdisciplinary in nature. The deadline for applications is February 1, 2024. According to instructions from KAW, the Vice-Chancellor must certify that project applications submitted have undergone internal prioritization. Therefore, Umeå University has a nomination process that is explained below.

Who can be nominated?

A project group consists of two to five researchers who collaborate on a coherent scientific issue. Projects are prioritized where the researchers' complementary competencies make it possible to address hypotheses and issues in new research areas, especially of a cross-border nature, where Swedish researchers occupy an international position, and where each individual researcher would have difficulty in addressing the issue himself. A project must have an independent objective and not only constitute additional funding for already started operations.

Read more about the call for proposals on the foundations' website:

<https://kaw.wallenberg.org/en/calls/2024-research-projects-high-scientific-potential>

Note that an individual researcher can participate in maximum two ongoing projects, but only in one as the main applicant. When an application isn't approved for granting, the application cannot be submitted again based on the same scientific question within three years. Note that it is the project that has been rejected, so the researcher is welcome to submit another application for another project.

Since 2020, KAW has aimed to significantly increase the number of women leading projects. For the call with a deadline of 1 of February 2024, Wallenberg's goal is at least 40% of the granted projects must have female main applicants. Females are not given priority in the international evaluation. KAW expects to finance 20 projects, which the ambition that at least 8 projects have a female PI.

Umeå University will nominate projects with at least 40% being led by a woman. The Wallenberg assesses the project group's overall competence. Consider the composition of the entire group and promote competent female PIs.



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Nomination process at Umeå University

At Umeå University, the nomination process goes as follows:

Step 1. Departments and work units nominate high quality projects to respective faculty, according to rules formulated by the faculties. Each nomination must be written in English and include:

- Name and CV for the researchers in the project. Note that a very strong CV within the research area is required, but it is the project group's overall competence that is assessed.
The nomination must clearly state the main applicant and co-applicant's top competencies and the synergy effects achieved in the given group constellation.
- The project plan – the design is determined by the faculty, but it must not exceed 10 pages.
- An overall budget (estimate of the total amount applied for including room costs and overhead and each partner share of the budget).
- Certificate from each department involved that the head of department supports the application and thus accounts for the department's part of the co-financing.

Step 2. The faculties together ranks the proposals received and could nominate up to 10 research projects. Note that Umeå University will nominate projects so that at least 40% of them are led by women. The faculties send their nominations, including supporting documents, to Research Support Office (RSO), rso@umu.se no later than 2024-10-27. RSO will distribute the nominated applications to the faculty group responsible for the final ranking in step 3. The nomination proposal shall contain the following:

- Motivation (approx. 1 page) in English describing:
 - The high scientific potential where the novelty of the project is clear.
 - In what way the researchers take an international position, focus on main applicants.
 - Selection of PI.
 - How the project fits into the research at UmU.
- Certificate from each institution concerned that the head of department supports the application and thus accounts for the department's part of the co-financing.
- If an application/Researcher has previously been rejected by the Wallenberg Foundations, a clarification on how the new question differs from the previous application is needed. This applies to



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projects that are submitted within the waiting period of 3 years from the rejection message.

- A publication and citation analysis for the nominated projects.

Step 3. The final ranking of the nominated projects is done by the Pro Vice-Chancellor in consultation with the faculties. The Vice-Chancellor then decides which projects will be nominated for KAW. Research Support Office informs the faculties of the decision.

Step 4. Research Support Office offers a personal meeting to the nominated researchers to inform about KAW's instructions, internal deadlines and the support Research Support Office offers.

Step 5. The nominated researchers submit a first draft of the application in accordance with KAW's instructions by 8 January 2024 to Research Support Office, rso@umu.se. Applications received after this date may be removed.

Step 6. The Research Support Office offers feedback to each application based on the needs of each researcher. They also help to arrange the Vice-Chancellors letter of support in collaboration with the university management, the faculty and the researchers. Please note that before a letter of support will be signed and the application can be sent to KAW the:

- Budget must be approved by Research Support Office.
- Application has been approved by the Vice-Chancellor.

Step 7. The nominees are responsible for submitting the application to the foundation.

Contact:

For questions regarding the call, please contact: Research Support Office, rso@umu.se

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