



UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

GRANTS FOR RHEUMATOLOGICAL RESEARCH (for 2024-2026)

General Information

The Faculty of Medicine announces grants for research in rheumatological diseases from the *Foundation Arne and Kerstin Sandströms Research fund for reumatological research*. Maximum of three grants of up to 900 000 SEK per year for three years are announced.

The grant can be used to finance the applicant's research time/salary (not applicable for research time for those with combined employment) or as co-financing of a doctoral student or a postdoc, operating costs or for infrastructure.

Eligible to Apply

Prospective applicants must have a doctoral degree, or a degree from abroad that is adjudged to be equivalent. The applicant must have a permanent position¹ at Umeå University, or a permanent position² within the Northern Healthcare Regions, and conduct research associated with Umeå University.

At least 50 % employment is required during the entire grant-disposition (three years).

The grant will be paid to the department at the Faculty of Medicine the applicant is employed at or affiliated to, and require therefore the Head of Departments attestation. If the application concerns funds covering own salary/research time for employees of the Regions, should the concerned Head of Office also attest the application.

Assessment and Decision

Applications will be assessed by a review panel from the Faculty of Medicine. The Faculty Board of Medicine makes a final decision on allocation within three months of the application deadline.

The applications are assessed per the criteria below:

1. Scientific quality of the proposed research (1-7)
1. Novelty and originality (1-7)
2. Merits of the applicant (1-7)
3. Feasibility (1-3)

With any questions regarding the call, contact the Faculty Office of Medicine via:

research.med@umu.se.

¹ Assistant professors are exempt from the requirement of permanent position.

² *AT-läkare* are exempt from the requirement of permanent position.

This document has been translated from Swedish to English. In case of divergence of meaning, the Swedish version takes precedence.



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Application

The application should be in English.

Your CV and Publication list will be added to the application from your ResearchWeb profile. Ensure therefore that your profile is updated.

Appendix A, Selection of Publications

List up to 10 publications that are most important to your application. For each publication you must state your contribution and state in which context the publication contributes to this intended project (this must not exceed four publications per project).

Mark your name in bold in the authors list. Include the number of citations and the Impact Factor for the journal for the year of the publication.

Appendix B Research Plan

The Research Plan in its entirety must not exceed 6 A4-pages (font Arial 11, single-spaced) and must be prospective and structured according to that of VR/MH:

- **Project Title**
- **Purpose and Aims:** State the overall purpose and specific goals of the research project. If you have specified that gender perspectives are relevant to the application, describe in what way they will be applied in relation to purpose, aim and questions of the research project.
- **State-of-the-Art:** Summarize the current research frontier within the field/area. Indicate key references.
- **Significance and Scientific Novelty:** Describe briefly how the project relates to previous research within the area, and its importance in the short and long term. Describe also how the project moves forward and innovates the current research frontier. Please include sex and gender perspectives when relevant.
- **Preliminary and Previous Results:** Briefly describe your previous research and pilot studies within the research area that make it probable that the project will be feasible. State also if no preliminary results exist.
- **Project Description:** Describe the project, including the following items:
 - *Theory and methods.* Describe the underlying theory and the methods that will be applied to reach the project's goals. When applicable, describe how sex and gender perspectives relate to the choice of design, questions, method and materials, population/study participants and data processing and analysis, for example statistics and presentation of results divided by gender.
 - *Time plan and implementation.* Describe summarily the time plan for the project during the grant period, and how the project will be implemented.
 - *Project organisation.* Clarify the contributions of yourself and any participating researchers to the implementation of the project. Describe and explain the competences and roles of the participating researchers in the project, and any other researchers or corresponding who are important for the implementation of the project.
 - *Ethical considerations.* Describe the ethical issues raised by your project or corresponding. You must also describe how you plan to address ethical dilemmas



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that may arise. Please justify why the research should be carried out against the background of the ethical issues you have identified. How do your research questions and expected results measure up in relation to the ethical issues? Please also state whether the research involves any handling of personal data, or experiments on animals or human subjects. If no ethical issues are raised, please justify this.

- *Sex and gender perspective.* State whether sex and gender perspectives are applicable in your planned research, and justify your decision. Please note that we are not asking for information about the composition of the research team (men/women).

The following applies:

If you answer 'Yes': Justify your answer and describe also how you take sex and gender perspectives into account in the research plan (see further instructions under "Research plan"). If you have stated that sex and gender perspectives are applicable, but still choose not to include them in your research plan, you will need to justify this here.

- If you answer 'No': Please justify your answer.

- **International and National Collaboration:** Describe your and the team's collaboration with foreign and Swedish researchers and research teams and its role in the project. State whether you contribute to or refer to international collaboration in your research.

Please also provide the following information. If a heading is not relevant to your application, leave it blank.

- **Data Analysis and Statistics:** Modern methods often generate complex data. Describe how you plan to analyze data collected in the project, and the statistical methods used. If the project covers clinical studies, please include a power analysis.
- **Equipment:** Describe the basic equipment you and your team have at your disposal for the project.
- **Need for Infrastructure:** Specify the project's need for international and national infrastructure. Also specify the need for local infrastructure, and if depreciation costs for this are included in the application.
- **Independent Line of Research:** If you are working or will be working in a larger group, please clarify how your project relates to the other projects in the group. If you are continuing a project that was wholly or partly started during your doctoral or postdoctoral studies, you must also describe the relationship between your project and the research of your former supervisor.
- **Clinical Significance:** Explain if the results of the project may be transferred into clinical use within the area medicine and health. If so, explain then how.
- **Relevance to the grant's aim:** Explain how the project fulfills the grant's aim – *Rheumatological research.*

Appendix C Abstract

Maximum of 1 A4-page (font Aril 11, single-spaced)



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- Summary of the research goals and aims as well as how the research will be conducted. And it should be written so that those with different scientific background can understand the information.

Appendix D Popular Science Description

Maximum of 2 A4-Pages (font Arial 11, single-spaced).

- Describe the project in such a way that a person who is not familiar with the subject can understand it. Describe what is to be done and why, and explain why the new knowledge may be important.

Appendix E Budget and Research Resources

The maximum grant amount is 900 KSEK per year for three years.

- Briefly describe the personnel costs (for yourself, a doctoral student, or a postdoc), other costs and any other financing for the project for year 1 – year 3.
- Briefly justify each cost in the budget stated. The description may cover a maximum of 2 A4 pages (font Arial 11, single-spaced).
- Please state any funding for the project (whole or part) received by you or another researcher, more than the amount in this application. Please state rounded amounts in SEK.

Appendix F Attestation from the Head of Department (and where applicable from the head of office)

Attach a certificate from your Head of Department certifying:

- that the application is supported
- that the application has undergone a peer-review and also describing how.

If the application concerns covering for salary or research time for those from the regions, the concerned head of office also must attest.

Applications that aren't complete or don't follow the instructions are not valid and will therefore not be assessed.

The application must be completed in the faculty's portal in ResearchWeb (<https://researchweb.org/is/umu>) **latest by 2 January 2024, 14.00 CET.**