

The view from beredningsgruppen

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Beredningsgruppen

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Overview

Typical budget

Main givers

VR Structure

NT

Bg NT-3 and
earlier
incarnations

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A typical faculty budget

- Lund faculty of science: 1060 MSEK (2016)
 - GU: 145 MSEK
 - Research: 915 MSEK
- 963 employees
 - 137 professors
 - 659 other teachers, researchers, PhD students
 - 167 technical and administrative personnel
- Students
 - GU: 1800 students (helårsstudenter)
 - FU: 307
- Lund university as a whole
 - Total: 7500 MSEK (GU 1/3, Research/FU 2/3)
 - students: 28000 (GU), 1800 (FU)
 - Central allocation 53%
 - External: 37 %
 - Other: 10%

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- GU: 145 MSEK
- Research: 915 MSEK
- The central allocation:
 - Bachelor/Master: 130 MSEK (planned 2016)
 - Research/PhD education: 453 MSEK (planned 2016)
- The 45% extern is (essentially) all research
- Yes, (undergraduate) teaching is not our major occupation (despite what the extended family thinks)
- This is for Lund, similar for the others

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Main grant providers

- Swedish government
 - Vetenskapsrådet = Swedish Research Council
 - Vinnova: Innovation: (very) applied research
 - Rymdstyrelsen: Space research
- Swedish private
 - Wallenberg
 - SKB (via nuclear power programs)
 - Nobel
 - Göran Gustafsson
 - Crafoord
 - Strategiska stiftelsen
- EU via framework programs and ERC
- Many more small players

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- Board and general director
- Main areas and subboards:
 - **NT**: Science and technology
 - **M**: Medicine and health
 - **HS**: Humanities and social science
 - **RFI**: Research infrastructure
 - Educational science
 - Development research
 - Artistic research (konstnärlig forskning)
 - Clinical therapy research
 - National coordination of clinical studies

Covered in detail in the talks by
Henrik Cederquist and Björn Halleröd

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These officially take the decisions on grants (all professors)

- Per Persson (Chair), molecular geochemistry, Lund
- Henrik Cederquist, Atomfysik, Stockholms universitet
- Nils Dencker, mathematics, Lunds univeristet
- Dan Henningson, fluidmekanik, KTH
- Kerstin Johannesson, marin ekologi, Göteborgs universitet
- Kristina Luthman, läkemedelskemi, Göteborgs universitet
- David Sands, data- och informationsteknik, Chalmers tekniska högskola
- Maria Selmer, biologi, Uppsala universitet
- Kajsa Uvdal, molekylär fysik, Linköpings universitet
- normally present but not member:
Lars Kloo, Secretary general, oorganisk kemi, KTH

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(check vr.se to be sure, changes often)

- NT alone:
 - Project grants (4 years 0.3-1.5 MSEK/year)
 - Project grants, starting grants (earlier young researchers) (2-7 years after PhD)
- Together with others:
 - International postdoc (twice a year, PhD less than two years)
 - Consolidator (Distinguished young researchers) (6 years, 2 MSEK/year, PhD 7-12 years ago)
 - Conference grant (to organize)
 - Research environments

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Time frame (2016)

- early: Nominations of panel members finished
- 5 April : Closing date, Natural and Engineering Sciences
- 11 April: Meeting of the Scientific Council (Decision about evaluation panel members)
- 19 May : Meeting of the chairs of the evaluation panels
- 30 May : Last day to nominate applications to the interdisciplinary panel (Tvärgruppen)
- 31 May : Deadline for placing applications in evaluation panels and for moving applications
- 6 June : Last day for reports of conflict of interest
- 13 June : Deadline for allocation of applications to reviewers (internal)
- June : Dispatch of applications to reviewers

Time frame (2014)

- 22 August-15 September: Panel meetings
- 5 October Redistribution Group
- 25 oktober: NT-rådsmöte (Grants official decision)
- 2 November: publication of results (barring unexpected delays)

- Reorganized every 5-6 years
- 19 Different ones
- Remember NT projects/young is about 1050 MSEK

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1. Matematiska vetenskaper
2. Datavetenskap
3. **Subatomär fysik, rymdfysik och astronomi**
4. Atom- + molekylfysik, optik + kondenserade materiens fysik
5. Analytisk, fysikalisk och teoretisk kemi
6. Organisk och oorganisk kemi
7. Geologi och geofysik
8. Processer i mark, luft och vatten
9. Biokemi och strukturbiologi
10. Cell- och molekylärbiologi
11. Organismbiologi
12. Ekologi, systematik och evolution
13. Elektronik, elektroteknik,
14. Signaler och system
15. Tillämpad fysik
16. Teknisk mekanik
17. Bioprosessteknik, kemiteknik, miljöteknik
18. Materialvetenskap
19. Medicinsk teknik

Note: all cover a **very wide area**

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- 3. Subatomär fysik, rymdfysik och astronomi:
Acceleratorfysik; Astrofysik; Astronomi; Astropartikelfysik;
Fusion; Kosmologi; Matematisk fysik; Plasmafysik;
Relativitetsteori; Rymdfysik; Strålningsfysik
(icke-medicinska aspekter); Subatomär fysik
- MN: Subatomär fysik, astrofysik, rymdfysik och fusion
(2008-2013)
- M: Subatomär fysik och astrofysik (until 2008)
- Until 2000: NFR subatomär var en kommitté
- Notes for next page:
 - What is counted changes often
 - % even more difficult, what is total changes
 - Money spent in the area, not all in the beredningsgrupp
(postdocs, . . .)

Beredningsgrupp 3, MN, M

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
M	59 881	55 245	58 021	55 462	52 675	52 521
%	6.09	7.14	7.44	6.61	6.03	5.56
	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
M/3	36 202				67445	71072
MN	19 588	66 914	67 456	69 160		
%	5.59	6.73	6.59	6.69	6.47	6.81

- We had fairly small average grants/high degree of granting
- We have very much salary support (Friköp)
- VR considers all these a problem
- Consequence: “our” share has problems in redistribution
- Our argument: “VR is all we can get: so getting no is a very big problem” is probably understood (but ignored) by NT but not at higher levels (including politicians)
- Argument: universities should take care of small groups

The process

- Grants that run out + some inflation correction + possibly other inputs: determine total budget in area
- Part to redistribution, 2016: 30 MSEK (all 19 groups)
- Remainder the group has free disposal over
- Bg 3: 2013: 8.5 MSEK + 2.8 MSEK (young) + LHC
- Bg 3: 2014: 9.4 MSEK + 2.2 MSEK (young) + LHC
- Bg 3: 2015: 16.3*MSEK + 2.6*MSEK (young) (incl LHC)
- Bg 3: 2016: 13.9 MSEK + 2.1 MSEK (young) (incl LHC)
- All groups 2013: 156 MSEK + 53 MSEK (young)
- All groups 2014: 183 MSEK + 40 MSEK (young)
- All groups 2015: 230*MSEK + 59*MSEK (young)
- All groups 2016: 210 MSEK + 36 MSEK (young)
- Average grant: wanted over 800 kSEK
Bg 3 2015 about 824k (865k young)
- VR: before was 3 year, since 2014 100% 4 year

* includes redistribution, subtract about 15% to compare

We were: (area is my note and not trustable)

- Hannu Koskinen, Helsingfors, (chair), space/plasma
- Svetlana Ratynskaya, KTH, (vice chair) Fusion
- Alan Aylward, UCL London, Storbritannien, astro
- Ian Bearden, NBI Copenhagen, nuclear (exp heavy ion)
- Johan Bijmens, Lunds universitet, particle/nuclear theory
- Freya Blekman, VUB (Brussels), particle experiment
- Marcella Carollo, ETH, astro/plasma
- Peter Johansson, Helsinki, astro
- Kirsten Kraiberg Knudsen, Chalmers, plasma/fusion
- Ulf Lindström, Uppsala universitet, string/particle
- Mervi Mantsinen, Barcelona, plasma
- Jouni Suhonen, Jyväskylä, Finland, nuclear theory
- Lárus Thorlacius, University of Iceland, string/particle
- Henrik Cederquist, ämnesrådet NT, observatör
- Emma Olsson, Annika Johansen, Vetenskapsrådet

What we had

- 111 applications in total
- each read by (at least) three members, final report is from whole group
- 42 starting grants (2.1 MSEK + omfördelning)
- 68 Project (13.9 MSEK + omfördelning)
- 1 energy
- Each reads 20-35 applications, so that's why there are page limits and a font size prescribed

- 7: Outstanding
- 6: Excellent
- 5: Very good to excellent
- 4: Very good
- 3: Good
- 2: Weak
- 1: Insufficient
- Typically only very few are 1. or 2.
- Grades for: Novelty and originality, scientific quality of the proposed research, merits of the (main) applicant and an overall grade
- In addition: feasibility: 1, 2 or 3

Grade distribution (overall only)

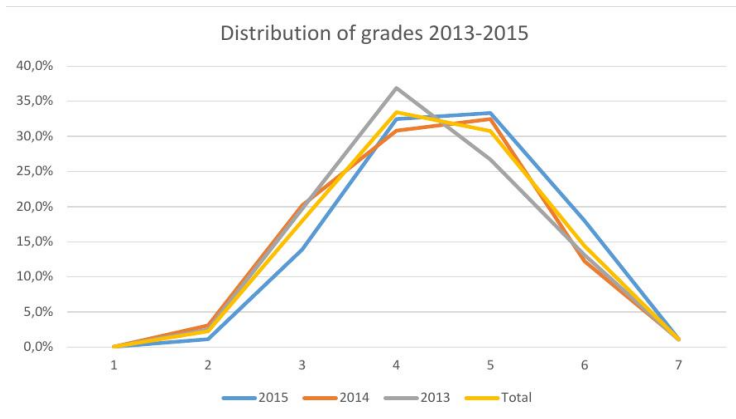


Fig.1 Distribution of the overall grade for all applications for Project Grants and Project Grants for Junior Researchers in the calls for proposals in Natural and Engineering Sciences 2013-2015.

- Instructions for grading: beredningshandboken (is public)
- Rank the applications, till for sure no chance for money
In frame: directly yes; Remainder to redistribution process
Ranking is NOT public, only the grades and whether or not money
- 40% lowest graded/ranked not discussed, unless someone asks

Statistics Bg 3: Projects only

	Applications			Granted			"Frame"
	F	M	Total	F	M	total	
2010	11	56	67	3	19	22 (32.8%)	11.6 MSEK
2011	10	63	73	4	27	31 (42.5%)	13.3 MSEK
2012	6	55	61	2	25	27 (44.3%)	12.7 MSEK
2013	7	52	59	0	15	15 (25.4%)	8.5 MSEK
2014	11	52	63	3	10	13 (20.6%)	9.2 MSEK
2015	14	62	76	5	16	21 (27.6%)	16.3 MSEK
2016	9	59	68	—	—	— (—.-%)	13.9 MSEK

- Can transfer money between projects and young/starting
- Projects young researchers/starting grants not included
- Starting grant, young researchers, Swedish postdoc, FoAss
- Some decreases: new grants type related to 'excellency' (spetsforskning) and 3 to 4 year shift ($9=3/4*12$)
- LHC-K + redistribution in "frame" some years

NT total

	Applications			Granted		
	F	M	Total	F	M	total
2011	229	945	1174	70	280	350 (30%)
2012	200	929	1129	49	242	292 (26%)
2013	204	1014	1218	38	190	228 (19%)
2014	256	1044	1300	55	202	257 (20%)
2015	242	1006	1248	54	233	287 (23%)

- A well written application helps **extremely** much
- Describe what you want to do, avoid being overly vague, but also an overview, how it fits in the field
- Not too detailed but sufficient detail that we can judge that you know what you are doing
- No recommendation letters, the application is the information we have.
- **Talk to some seniors when submitting an application**
- System is electronic: don't wait till the last day
- Many local requirements: must be satisfied before head of department can sign
- Ansökningar blir allmänna handlingar (can be important for patents)

What **NOT** to do

- **Do not submit late** the deadlines are strict
- **Do not brag or exaggerate** Be objective and realistic, list what you want the panel to know (prizes, referee, . . .), have an accurate research plan
- **Do not preach to the choir** accessible to a broad panel, avoid jargon and many acronyms, clean and concise language
- **Do not submit a sloppy budget** tell us what you want and have a reasonable budget
- **Do not be discouraged** Competition is strong, many good proposals do not get money, submit again, there are fluctuations from year to year

What you really **should** to do

- **Do follow the instructions:** they might have changed from last year and include all information asked for
- **Do seek out advice from colleagues and mentors:** ask them to read your application
- **Do learn the rules and regulations of your institution**
- **Do follow through on reviewer feedback**
(we try to write decent reports but short of time)
- **Do check your spelling and grammar**
Bad spelling = unconscious bad bias
- **Do submit a reasonable budget**
- be **CONCISE** and have a **CLEARLY STRUCTURED** application

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- Idea: give you some feeling how things go
- <http://www.vr.se>
- and remember: if you don't apply you also don't get it