



MOBILITY GRANTS 2021

ADDENDUM REGARDING THE CURRENT COVID19 PANDEMIC

VREF will respect existing rules and regulations regarding travel restrictions (particularly regarding international travel) due to the current COVID19 pandemic.

Based on these restrictions, VREF will reserve its right to approve travel applications during the pandemic. In 2021, and with reference to current international travel restrictions, VREF is willing to waive the requirement that mobility grants will only be awarded for visits to universities in countries outside the country in which the applicant is based.

VREF will thus consider applications for mobility grants to visit other universities *within the same country* in which the applicant is based.

The VREF inspires, initiates and supports research and educational activities promoting sustainable transport for equitable access in urban areas.

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR MAC MOBILITY GRANTS

The VREF invites junior and senior researchers, Ph.D. students and advanced (last year) master students who are based at universities in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to apply for short-term (4-8 weeks) visits at universities in other SSA-countries.

The study visits must focus on research or educational activities concerning issues of urban mobility and access that are relevant to the MAC programme, particularly the six core themes indicated below.

The invitation is open until October 31, 2021, and the university visit should be carried out before December 31, 2021. The VREF wishes to have a broad distribution of grants between universities, thus in 2021 a maximum of two grants will be awarded to the same home university (that is, the university at which the researcher or student is based).

ABOUT THE MAC PROGRAMME

Through the MAC programme, VREF invests in the development of new knowledge as well as educational activities and communication.

The purpose of MAC is to increase the knowledge and capacity base on equitable and sustainable mobility and access in cities in sub-Saharan Africa in order to contribute to medium and long-term structural innovation and change. The intended outcomes of the programme are:

- › Increased capacity for research and education in urban access and mobility at SSA universities
- › Locally situated and cross-disciplinary knowledge that can provide solutions and innovation for urban access and mobility in SSA cities
- › Knowledge that is generated in the programme is communicated so that it reaches through to public decision-makers, business managers, students, media and other change agents.

The MAC Programme was formally launched in 2019 and is currently organised around six core themes:

- › User Needs and Practices; Equity Issues
- › Governance, Politics, Institutions and Finance
- › Emerging Business Models and Service Options
- › Safety, Health and the Urban Environment
- › System Design and Modal Integration
- › Analytical Tools

For further information on VREF and the MAC programme, see www.vref.se.



OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE MOBILITY GRANTS:

- › to strengthen interaction within the MAC programme's network of researchers and students in research or education on issues related to urban mobility and access;
- › to strengthen interaction between researchers, Ph.D. candidates and advanced master students at universities in different countries in SSA;
- › to provide an opportunity for researchers, Ph.D. candidates and advanced master students to get an added value of being part of VREF's MAC programme network

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

This invitation is open to applicants who meet the following criteria:

- › The applicant is a junior or senior researcher, Ph.D. candidate or advanced (last year) master student based at a university (or the equivalent) in SSA
- › The applicant conducts research or educational activities on issues related to urban mobility and access in SSA
- › The proposed study visit will be carried out at a university in SSA (other than the applicant's home university)
- › Priority will be given to the following:
 - › Applicants who are based in research environments that are funded (or otherwise actively engaged in) the MAC programme
 - › Applicants who wish to visit a research environment within the MAC programme
 - › Study visits which focus on research and educational activities that are relevant for at least one of the six core themes of the MAC programme (see above)
- › In specific cases, a mobility grant can also be awarded to applicants whose areas of interest and competence are relevant in other ways to the MAC programme



MOBILITY GRANTS CAN BE USED FOR THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF WORK:

- › to carry out comparative field work or other locally situated work that can contribute to the applicant's ongoing research or studies;
- › to hold seminars/seminar series in cooperation with researchers at another university in order to e.g. discuss research approaches or exchange research results;
- › to contribute to short courses or other educational offerings at another university (junior and senior researchers) or to participate in such courses (Ph.D. students and advanced master students);
- › to build or further develop academic contacts and networks between research environments in SSA, particularly in relation to the six core themes indicated above;
- › Participation in an event (conference, workshop, etc) can be part of a 2-4 week visit at a university, however the grant cannot be used primarily for the purpose of participation in the event.

The host university for the visit should confirm the arrangement, for example in the form of an e-mail from the responsible supervisor/research leader/department at the host university. Within four weeks after the study visit, a summarising Mobility Grant Report should be submitted to VREF. VREF strongly recommends the parties involved in a visit (i.e. the home institution, the host institution and the applicant) to produce a tangible output of the visit, e.g. a jointly written conference paper.

Each individual grant is limited to maximum of **25 000 SEK**. The grant should be used to cover costs in direct relation to the study visit, i.e. travel costs, accommodation costs and other direct costs such as material supply costs. Salary costs, meals and/or per diem will not be covered by the grant. Each applicant can only be awarded one Mobility Grant in the same year, and the Mobility Grant cannot be combined with other visit grants issued by the VREF. Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received VREF funding for a visit to another university.

GUIDELINES



FOR THE APPLICATION

The application should be undersigned and submitted by the leader of the home research project/team/supervisor/department, as well as confirmed by the leader of the host project/team/department for the visit.

The submission of the application shall be done in form of one (1) pdf-file attached in an e-mail sent to the VREF Secretary, Ms. Fabienne Niklasson (email: secretariat@vref.se) who will confirm the reception by giving a registration number.

The secretary will inform each applicant and the involved CoEs/projects/universities of the VREF decision within two weeks after each closing date for applications as indicated above (**January 31, May 15, August 15 and October 31**).

The application should be structured as follows:

SECTION A: Basic Information (incl. contact details under item A1-A3)

- **A1.** Name of the visiting researcher/Ph.D. student/advanced master student, home affiliation, project/university, address, phone number and email
- **A2.** Name of the project leader/supervisor (at home institution), address, phone number and email
- **A3.** Host project/university, which will be visited by the researcher/Ph.D. student/advanced master student and name of the contact person/supervisor at the host project/university, address, phone number and email
- **A4.** Confirmation from the host project/team/university, which can be copied from e.g. an e-mail stating that the host accepts the arrangement.
- **A5.** Dates of the visit
- **A6.** Budget: estimated expenses (maximum grant is 25 000 SEK²)
 - a. Travel cost
 - b. Accommodation cost
 - c. Other costs (e.g. extra material supply costs directly related to the study visit)

² The grant can be matched by other funding, e.g. to facilitate a longer study visit. If this is the case, please estimate the total cost, and give information on other sources of funding, external to the VREF.

SECTION B: The Programme for the Mobility Grant (items B1 – B5 max. 600 words)

- **B1.** Purpose(s) and goal(s) of the visit (max. 100 words)
- **B2.** Overview of the planned activities during the visit (max. 200 words, no details required)
- **B3.** Expected output (deliverable(s)) of the visit (max. 50 words)
- **B4.** Expected outcome(s) of the visit in terms of (max. 200 words)
 - a. for the PhD student/early stage researcher personally,
 - b. for the home institution and the contribution to the CoE/research project, and
 - c. for the host institution.
- **B5.** Other relevant information

**FOR THE POST-VISIT REPORTING TO THE VREF**

Each researcher/Ph.D. student/advanced master student receiving a grant for a visit should prepare a summarising report to VREF. The report should typically be 2-3 pages and include the following items:

- **Basic data:** Name and affiliation of the researcher/Ph.D. student/advanced master student, host of the visit, dates and place(s) of the visit
- **Activity report:** activities, people and organisations met during the visit, attended seminars or other conferences. We recommend that you also give dates here of the main events during your stay.
- **Deliverables and outcomes** of the visit, e.g. field studies conducted, analysis, papers, etc. We recommend that you give details on submitted conference papers (conference, approved abstract, etc.) and attach the abstract to your report.
- **Feed-back in relation to the objectives** in terms of value for the researcher/Ph.D. student/advanced master student, value for the MAC thematic research area and value for the interaction and collaboration within MAC network or between the network and other university environments.