

## VOLVO RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS (VREF)

### STUDY VISIT GRANTS

### INVITATION TO APPLY FOR GRANTS 2017

#### SUMMARY

- VREF invites PhD students and early stage researchers (max 5 years after PhD exam) to apply for a VREF Study Visit Grant (SVG) to support a study visit with up to SEK 30 000.
- The invitation is restricted to: (i) Research teams, which are supported by the VREF Future Urban Transport (FUT) Program, (ii) PhD students and early stage researchers from a Swedish University, University College or Research Institute to visit a research team supported by the VREF FUT Program, and (iii) Recipients of the Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship if recommended by the Lee Schipper Scholarship Board, to visit a research team supported by the VREF FUT Program.
- The invitation to apply for grants 2017 will be open until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The VREF Secretariat will deal with applications continuously, and the applicant will be informed of the VREF decision within 4 weeks after the application has been registered at VREF.
- The invitation includes guidelines for the application, and information on VREF and the FUT Program.

#### VREF AND THE FUTURE URBAN TRANSPORT (FUT) PROGRAM

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations, VREF inspires, initiates and supports research and educational activities promoting sustainable transport for fair access in urban areas. Through the Future Urban Transport Program - How to deal with the complexity of urban transport (FUT), VREF invests in the development of new knowledge as well as communication and demonstrative examples.

VREF invests in programs and projects with the mission:

- To support the development of new knowledge on ideas and solutions that can contribute to equitable access and sustainable urban transport;
- To support the development of educational and outreach programs in the area of equitable access and sustainable urban transport;
- To contribute to the dissemination and implementation of research findings among both university researchers, practitioners, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders;
- To support demonstrative examples and change processes.

The aim is to nurture change processes in cities and businesses by disseminating and implementing research findings. Our target groups are university researchers, practitioners, decision makers and other relevant urban transport stakeholders.

The FUT Program started in 2001 and has so far created ten Centers of Excellence (CoE) globally, and a number of projects and events. In recent years, VREF has developed a stronger thematic focus, with CoEs and projects clustering under thematic areas such as *Urban Freight for Livable Cities*, *Mobility and Access in Cities* and *Change Processes for Sustainable Urban Transport*. At the beginning of 2017, the FUT Program supports a handful of CoEs and larger projects, and around 10 research projects (see annex 1).

Further information on VREF and the FUT program: [www.vref.se](http://www.vref.se).

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR VREF STUDY VISIT GRANTS (SVG)

The VREF invites PhD students and researchers in early stages of their career (max 5 years after PhD exam) to apply for grants for short-term study visits. The invitation is continuously open until October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017, and the study visit should be carried out before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. The VREF wishes to have wide distribution of grants between universities, thus in the first half of 2017 (up to 30 June 2017) a maximum of one grant will be awarded to the same home university.

The overall objectives of the SVG are:

- to strengthen interaction within the VREF FUT Program Network;
- to strengthen interaction between the VREF network and Swedish universities, and
- to provide an opportunity for PhD students and early stage researchers to get an added value of being part of the VREF FUT Program Network

The invitation is restricted to:

- PhD students and early stage researchers working at a CoE, which is supported by the VREF Future Urban Transport (FUT) Program;
- PhD students and early stage researchers working in a research project, which is supported by the VREF Future Urban Transport (FUT) Program;
- PhD students and early stage researchers at a Swedish University, University College or Research Institute, and
- Recipients of the Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship, <http://leeschipper.embarq.org/>, if recommended by the Lee Schipper Scholarship Board

The SVG should be used for a study visit to:

- a CoE, which is supported by the VREF FUT Program, or
- a research project team, which is supported by the VREF FUT Program, or
- a Swedish university (with the exception of PhD students and early stage researchers at a Swedish University, University College or Research Institute).

The study visit should be related to the work program for the VREF supported CoE/project or Lee Schipper Scholarship. Both the home university and the host university for the visit should confirm the arrangement. Within four weeks of the study visit, a summary Study Visit Report should be submitted to VREF. VREF strongly recommends the parties involved in a study visit (the home institution, the host institution and the applicant) to produce a tangible output of the study visit, e.g. a jointly written conference paper.

Each individual grant is limited to maximum of 30 000 SEK. The grant should be used to cover costs in direct relation to the study visit, i.e. travel costs, accommodation cost and other direct costs, e.g. material supply costs. Salary cost, meals and/or per diem will not be covered by the grant. Each applicant can only be awarded one SVG in the same year, and priority will be given to applicants who have not received a VREF SVG before.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION

The application should be undersigned and submitted by the leader of the home CoE/research project/university, and also confirmed by the project leader of the host CoE/project/university 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](mailto:secretariat@vref.se)) who will confirm the reception by giving a registration number. The application will be then forwarded for review. The secretary will then inform each applicant and the involved CoEs/projects/universities of the VREF decision within four weeks after the submission of the application.

The application should be structured as follows below:

### **Section A: Basic Information (incl. contact details under item 1-3)**

1. Name of the visiting PhD student/early stage researcher, home affiliation, CoE/research project/university
2. Name of the regular supervisor / project leader (at home institution)
3. Host CoE/project/university, which will be visited by the PhD student/early stage researcher) and name of the supervisor / contact person at the host CoE/project/university
4. Confirmation from the host CoE/project/university, which can be copied from e.g. an e-mail stating that the host accepts the arrangement.
5. Dates of the study visit
6. Budget: estimated expenses (maximum grant is 30 000 SEK<sup>1</sup>)
  - a) Travel cost
  - b) Accommodation cost
  - c) Other costs (e.g. extra material supply costs directly related to the study visit)

### **Section B: The Study Visit Program (items 7-11 totally max. 600 words)**

7. Purpose(s) and goal(s) of the study visit (max. 100 words)
8. Overview of the planned activities during the study visit (max. 200 words, no details required))
9. Expected output (deliverable(s)) of the study visit (max. 50 words)
10. Expected outcome(s) of the study 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.
11. Other relevant information

## GUIDELINES FOR THE POST-VISIT REPORTING TO THE VREF

Each PhD student/early stage researcher receiving a grant for a study visit should prepare a summary report to VREF. The report should typically be 2-3 pages and include the following items:

- **Basic data:** Name and affiliation of the PhD Student/early stage researcher, host of the visit (CoE/project/university and responsible person), dates and place(s) of the visit
- **Activity report:** activities, people and organizations met during your 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 study 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 PhD student/early stage researcher, value for the CoE/project and value for the interaction and collaboration within VREF Network or between Swedish universities and the VREF Network.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## ANNEX 1

## LIST OF CURRENT CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (COE) AND RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FUT PROGRAM

(PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COES AND MANY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECTS HAVE SEVERAL PARTNERS AT DIFFERENT UNIVERSITIES. MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS CAN BE FOUND AT THEIR RESPECTIVE WEB SITES)

CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH PROJECTS	HOST ORGANIZATION WEB SITE	CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH PROJECT LEADERS CONTACT MAIL
<b>CoE ALC-BRT, ACROSS LATITUDES AND CULTURES - BUS RAPID TRANSIT</b> STARTED 2010	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile <a href="http://www.uc.cl">www.uc.cl</a>	Juan Carlos MUÑOZ <a href="mailto:jcm@ing.puc.cl">jcm@ing.puc.cl</a>
<b>CoE METROFREIGHT</b> STARTED 2012	METRANS Transportation Center University of Southern California, USA <a href="http://www.metrotrans.org">www.metrotrans.org</a>	Genevieve GIULIANO <a href="mailto:giuliano@price.usc.edu">giuliano@price.usc.edu</a>
<b>CoE SUFS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN FREIGHT SYSTEMS</b> STARTED 2012	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA <a href="http://www.rpi.edu">www.rpi.edu</a>	José HOLGUIN-VERAS <a href="mailto:jhv@rpi.edu">jhv@rpi.edu</a>
<b>TRANSFORMING URBAN TRANSPORTATION – THE ROLE OF POLITICAL LEADERSHIP</b> STARTED 2012	Harvard University, USA <a href="http://www.harvard.edu">www.harvard.edu</a>	Diane DAVIS <a href="mailto:ddavis@gsd.harvard.edu">ddavis@gsd.harvard.edu</a>
<b>PEDESTRIAN SAFE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS</b> STARTED 2014	TRIPP, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India <a href="http://www.iitd.ac.in">www.iitd.ac.in</a>	Geetam TIWARI <a href="mailto:geetamt@civil.iitd.ac.in">geetamt@civil.iitd.ac.in</a>
<b>INTEGRATING PARATRANSIT AND BRT IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD</b> STARTED 2014	Transportation Center University of California, USA <a href="http://www.its.berkeley.edu/volvo-center">www.its.berkeley.edu/volvo-center</a>	Daniel CHATMAN <a href="mailto:dgc@berkeley.edu">dgc@berkeley.edu</a>
<b>REIMAGINING NAIROBI</b> STARTED 2014	CSUD, Columbia University, USA <a href="http://www.csud.ei.columbia.edu">www.csud.ei.columbia.edu</a>	Jacqueline KLOPP <a href="mailto:jk2002@columbia.edu">jk2002@columbia.edu</a>
<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT &amp; IMPLEMENTATION OF NMT INFRASTRUCTURE ON THIKA SUPERHIGHWAY</b> STARTED 2014	University of Nairobi Nairobi, Kenya <a href="http://ids.uonbi.ac.ke">ids.uonbi.ac.ke</a>	Winnie V. MITULLAH <a href="mailto:mitulla@uonbi.ac.ke">mitulla@uonbi.ac.ke</a>
<b>DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF PARATRANSIT REGULATORY &amp; OPERATIONAL ALTERNATIVES</b> STARTED 2014	University of Cape Town Cape Town, South Africa <a href="http://www.acet-uct.org">www.acet-uct.org</a>	Roger BEHRENS <a href="mailto:roger.behrens@uct.ac.za">roger.behrens@uct.ac.za</a>
<b>STUDIES &amp; CAPACITY BUILDING OF BUS RAPID TRANSIT IN CHINA</b> STARTED 2014	China Academy of Transportation Sciences, Beijing, China <a href="http://www.urbansustrans.cn">www.urbansustrans.cn</a>	Xumei CHEN <a href="mailto:keyer@263.net">keyer@263.net</a>
<b>MONITORING &amp; EVALUATING SYSTEMS FOR URBAN PUBLIC TRANSPORT</b> STARTED 2014	China Academy of Transportation Sciences, Beijing, China <a href="http://www.urbansustrans.cn">www.urbansustrans.cn</a>	Xumei CHEN <a href="mailto:keyer@263.net">keyer@263.net</a>
<b>GOTHENBURG URBAN FREIGHT PLATFORM</b> STARTED 2014	Chalmers University of Technology Gothenburg, Sweden <a href="http://www.chalmers.se/en/centres/UFP">www.chalmers.se/en/centres/UFP</a>	Michael Browne <a href="mailto:michael.browne@handels.gu.se">michael.browne@handels.gu.se</a>
<b>MOVING TO ACCESS: IMPLICATIONS OF AN URBAN ACCESSIBILITY APPROACH TO TRANSPORTATION POLICY, URBAN MANAGEMENT, FUNDING AND FINANCE</b> STARTED 2015	Brookings Institution, <a href="http://www.brookings.edu">www.brookings.edu</a>	Jeffrey Gutman <a href="mailto:JGutman@brookings.edu">JGutman@brookings.edu</a>