

# Junior Investigator Award for projects at Karolinska Institutet aimed at achieving the UN sustainable development goals.

## Purpose of this call

This call aims to stimulate and support research and collaborations within KI related to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Background

The UN has developed **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to be achieved by 2030, representing some of the biggest challenges the world is facing today. KI is devoted to finding solutions to health challenges and to help fulfil these goals as described in Strategy 2030: *A deep global, national, and local commitment to human health shall characterize our education and research.*

The aim of this funding initiative, announced at the [Second conference on Sustainable Development on November 17, 2021](#), is to encourage junior KI-researchers to engage in SDG-related questions and to further develop research at KI aimed at fulfilling the SDGs.

**Funding amount:** KI intends to fund about five projects with a budget of 100 000 - 300 000 SEK per project, including departmental INDI, for a period of one year (total budget for the call is 1.000.000 SEK). At least one of the five projects shall be linked to SDG 13 Climate action to aid the fulfillment of the goals in our [climate strategy](#). Scholarships will not be funded under this grant. It is possible that the project will be awarded only partial funding.

### Application deadline:

- **Call opens:** November 16, 2021
- **Call closes:** January 18, 2022

## Scope

Projects that relate to emerging health threats with relation to more than one SDG will be given high priority. Projects shall be of high quality and feasible within a one-year budget period. Translational and interdisciplinary research will be given high priority. Single applicants as well as teams can apply for 100 000 - 300 000 SEK per project.

## Examples of possible research projects related to the SDGs

The research project should be of relevance for the broad field of education, practice, or research in medical science, as well as meeting the challenges of fulfilling the SDGs. The project

activities can be related to generation of preliminary data. Projects with the focus on network activities will not be given high priority.

Examples of possible research projects (list is not exclusive):

- Projects related to the SDG framework itself, for instance how to monitor and evaluate progress and how to systematically address interlinkages between the goals.
- Projects focusing on specific SDGs (more than one SDG should be addressed) with a main focus on major future health threats and challenges. This could relate to climate change and health (including climate-friendly healthcare, behavioral science, adaptation), sustainable cities, sustainable nutrition etc.
- Projects aiming at innovations to develop solutions on how to reach the goals.

### **Eligibility criteria:**

- The main applicant must have completed the doctoral degree *after* 1 January 2014 (or *after* 1 January 2012 in case of parental leave) and latest *before* the application deadline.
- The main applicant must be employed at KI, or [affiliated](#) to KI.
- The research question must be new and should be relevant to several SDGs.
- Research group leader must support the project.
- The head of department must sign the application in Prisma.

Collaboration with other researchers (KI, [Stockholm Trio](#), possibly other universities) is encouraged.

## **Evaluation procedure**

The evaluation committee will rank the proposals based on

1. **Relevance and Impact** in relation to SDGs
  - Projects that relate to emerging health threats with relation to more than one SDG will be given high priority.
2. **Quality** of the project in relation to the intentions of the call.
3. **Novelty** of the project
  - Is this line of research new to the researcher/the research team?
  - Does the project have potential to create new knowledge, novel technologies, or challenge current understanding or practice in its field?
  - Is the project built on a unique combination of ideas, preliminary data, and different methodologies?
4. **Feasibility** of the project with the framework of a one-year budget period.
5. **Justification and plan** for how the grant money will be used. Scholarships will not be funded under this grant.

## How to apply

Complete applications should be submitted electronically via Prisma latest **January 18, 2022**.

The application should contain:

- Support letter from the KI research group leader of the main applicant, including the confirmation that the main applicant is employed at or affiliated to KI at the time of application and throughout the project period (upload as pdf)
- Description of the project including the specific research questions and methods (max. three pages including references (12'000 character)).
- Description of the impact in relation to the SDGs (max one page (4000 character))
- CV (max. 2 A4 pages (8000 character)) and full publication list (highlight the 5-10 most relevant publications) of the applicant and possible co-applicants
- Description of applicant and possible co-applicant's contributions to the project including a short description of how the project is linked to SDGs and in which way the project is new to the applicant (e.g., scientifically or in applicant's scientific life). (max. one page (4000 character))
- Description and a budget for how the funding will be used (max one page (4000 character)).

**The funding must be used by December 2023. A presentation of the project and results is expected.**

## Contact details

For questions regarding Prisma contact: [fonder@ki.se](mailto:fonder@ki.se)

For questions specific to the scope of this call contact:

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## Further links for background info regarding SDGs and KIs Strategy 2030

<https://staff.ki.se/strategy-2030-creating-karolinska-institutets-future-together>

<https://ki.se/en/about/sustainable-development>