

Professional Development Series – Tips on Travel Grants

18/03/2026

We shared our tips regarding where to apply for travel grants, how to apply and calculate a good budget.

- **Potential travel grants within SLU (see links for more information)**

- [Mobility support from GS-VMAS](#)

Type of travel: doctoral courses within or outside Sweden and short research visits to other research laboratories.

When to apply: they look at applications as they come, before the start of the trip.

- [Travel grant for courses at other SLU courses or Nova courses](#)

Type of travel: doctoral courses.

When to apply: they look at applications as they come, before the start of the trip.

- [International travel grants for doctoral students \(outside of Sweden\)](#)

Type of travel: in order of priority, long-term study visits (>1 month), short-term study visits (<1 month), doctoral courses or multi-day workshops, conferences and associated short workshops, preparation for a postdoctoral stay.

When to apply: 2 calls per year, with respective deadlines in February-March and October.

- [Staff mobility through Erasmus+](#)

Type of travel: for courses, seminars or workshops (excluding conferences). It was mentioned during the PDS that this involves a bigger process than the other SLU-related grants with a lot of forms to report but might be easy to get.

When to apply: application to complete no later than 6 weeks before departure date.

- [At the department level:](#) some departments may have some funds to cover travel expenses (HBIO and THV were mentioned as examples).

Type of travel: see with your department for the requirements.

When to apply: see with your department.

- **Potential travel grants within SLU (see links for more information)**

- [KSLA](#)

Type of travel: can include doctoral courses and conferences but also short projects.

When to apply: 2 calls per year, around June and September. For example, the call NS2026 is now open until June 1st.

- [Funding through nations](#)

If you are a member of a nation in Uppsala, you can check if they offer scholarships that could be relevant to you.

- [Helge Ax:son Johnsons stiftelse](#)

Type of travel: this foundation was mentioned because of its wide scope including grants for research but no participant to the PDS had been awarded from this foundation.

When to apply: application open between Dec 1st and Feb 1st.

- [For agronomists members of Naturvetarna](#)

Type of travel: short study trips.

When to apply: applications until Oct 31st.

- [Sveriges Gris Företagare](#)

Type of travel: for travels or research related to pig research.

When to apply: not specified on the website.

To find other potential grants, SLU has a subscription to [Pivot-RP](#), a database for funding opportunities.

Participants recommended the PhD course [“How to apply for your first grant application”](#) usually held in the spring during 4 days.

- **General tips related to applying for grants:**

Plan ahead! Even if you don't know yet if your abstract is going to be accepted, you might need to apply to a travel grant. It can be awarded even if your abstract hasn't been accepted yet.

Keep track of the application dates: put them in your calendar and make sure to have every document ready on time. You might for example need an invitation letter from your host institution and/or have your supervisor and head of department sign a support letter, which can take some time to get.

Keep your ISP updated and approved with potential conferences and courses: certain funders like SLU will ask for your ISP, so it is good to have the course or conference you are applying for in your ISP.

Make sure that your grant application shows a strong connection to your research purpose: keep the application short but with good and reasonable motivations. Show the reviewers of the application how this trip can improve your work.

Apply to a foundation even it is not directly aimed at your field: you never know, maybe it is close enough for them to award your application!

Check the requirements for the report to the founders before your trip: it is good to know in advance what you will need to report on and when, so that you get all the information that you need during the trip.

- **Tips related to calculating your budget**

Make an exhaustive list of items to budget for, including all the small expenses: accommodation, transport (including single bus tickets for example), conference fee, poster and visa if relevant.

Always apply for more than you need: you might have to calculate your budget months in advance, and prices are likely to increase. You should account for that in your budget, with a 10% increase from the calculated costs for example.

Do your budget using Stureplans: the costs are higher than in other platforms and are more likely to be closer to the final costs.

You can include official social events and tours in your budget for a conference (and specify what you include in your budget clarification). You can also discuss with your supervisors whether the project can pay for it if the grant doesn't. It is usually considered networking and part of the conference experience, so in most cases you won't have to pay for it yourself, but you should discuss it first with your supervisors.

- **Good to know!**

If the grant is awarded, you will get the money after the trip: someone will have to pay for the first costs. It might be your project, or your department depending on the rules. You can ask your department for more specific information.

SLU can pay the invoice of the conference fee for you if you make the organisers invoice for it. If you pay for the registration fee yourself, you can report it on Primula to get the money back as soon as possible.

It used to be possible to order a credit card (the Eurocard) linked to your own bank account to pay for the expenses and get the invoice one month later, so that you had time to be reimbursed via Primula. No information was found regarding this on the SLU website, so you can ask your department if it is still available for you or not.

If the grant is awarded and your plans changed, it might be possible to use the money to do something else related to your PhD project. However, it might depend on the financier of the grant, so make sure that you know the rules before making a decision.

Even if you get the grant, you might not get as much money as applied for.

Having a conference or a course in your ISP doesn't necessarily mean that your project has the budget for it. You might need to discuss with your supervisors to know if you need to apply for a grant or not.

Traktamente / Subsistence allowance: most grants usually don't pay for it, SLU will cover it. It includes an allowance for the meals that you will have to pay for yourself.