

VOLVO RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS (VREF)

STUDY VISIT GRANTS

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR GRANTS 2023

SUMMARY

- VREF invites PhD students and researchers at early stages of their careers (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 open to:
 - (i) Research teams which are supported by the VREF Future Urban Transport (FUT) Program (see appendix 1: List of VREF supported programs and projects),
 - (ii) PhD students and early-stage researchers from a Swedish University, University College or Research Institute,
 - (iii) Recipients of the Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship, and
 - (iv) participants in the SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport Program,
- The grant must be used to visit a research team supported by the VREF FUT Program, or to visit a Swedish university. Participation at a major international conference can be included in the program of the study visit
- The invitation to apply for grants 2023 will be open until October 31, 2023. The VREF Secretariat will handle applications on a monthly basis, and the applicant will be informed of the VREF decision within 6 weeks after the application has been registered at VREF.
- An application should be submitted at latest 3 months in advance of the starting date for the study visit period.
- The invitation includes guidelines for the application and information on VREF and the FUT Program.

VREF AND THE FUTURE URBAN TRANSPORT (FUT) PROGRAM

VREF, the Volvo Research and Educational Foundations, is the collective name under which four foundations collaborate to finance research and education in the areas of transportation, environment and energy. Since the turn of the Century, these foundations – through VREF – have focused on the area Future Urban Transport (FUT) with the subtitle, “How to deal with complexity.” The overriding goal is to strengthen accessibility for all groups while at the same time radically reduce negative local and global environmental impacts of transportation. VREF invests in the development of new knowledge as well as educational activities and communication.

VREF is tax-exempt in accordance with the Swedish law, which means that the foundations aim to serve the public good. VREF’s processes for funding research and educational activities are transparent and allocated grants cannot be used for the benefit of private companies.

VREF invest in programs and projects with the following 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 overarching aim of the program is to nurture processes of change and transformative capacity in cities as well as in businesses. Relevant target groups are university researchers, practitioners, decision makers and other relevant urban transport stakeholders.

Since 2001 the FUT program has created ten Centres of Excellence (CoE) and a number of projects and events worldwide. The research teams are based at universities and research institutes in many parts of the world, see annex 1 for more information.

VREF is currently supporting projects and programs in the following thematic areas:

- Mobility and Access in African Cities
- Walking as a Mode of Transport
- Informal and Shared Mobility in low- and middle-income countries
- Urban freight
- Bus Rapid Transit

For further information on VREF and the FUT program, see 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 open until October 31, 2023, and the study visit period should be started before February 15, 2024. The VREF wishes to have a broad distribution of grants between universities, thus in the first half of 2023 (up to June 30, 2023) 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 open to:

- (i) Research teams which are supported by the VREF Future Urban Transport (FUT) Program (see appendix 1: List of VREF supported programs and projects),
- (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,
- (iii) Recipients of the Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship, and
- (iv) participants in the SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport Program, to visit a research team supported by the VREF FUT Program.

The SVG must be used for a study visit to a research team supported by the VREF FUT Program, or to visit a Swedish university. Participation at a major international conference can be included in the program of the study visit, however the conference days should only be a minor part of the study visit period.

The study visit should be related to the work program for the VREF supported project carried out at the host institution. Both the home university and the host university for the visit should confirm the arrangement, and an online preparatory meeting for the study visit is strongly recommended. Within four weeks after the study visit, a summarizing Study Visit Report should be submitted to VREF. VREF strongly recommends the parties involved in a study visit (i.e., 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 costs 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 previously received a VREF SVG.

The VREF Secretariat will handle applications on a monthly basis, and the applicant will be informed of the VREF decision within 6 weeks after the application has been registered at VREF.

GUIDELINES FOR THE APPLICATION

The application should be undersigned and submitted by the leader of the home research project/university (where the applicant is affiliated), as well as confirmed by the project leader of the host CoE/project/university for the visit. The submission of the application shall be done in the 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 six weeks after the submission of the application.

The application will be structured as follows:

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

- A1. Name of the visiting PhD student/early-stage researcher, home affiliation, research project /university
- A2. Name of the regular supervisor/project leader (at home institution)
- A3. Host 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
- A4. Confirmation from the host project/university, which can be copied from e.g., an e-mail stating that the host accepts the arrangement.
- A5. Dates of the study visit
- A6. Budget: estimated expenses (maximum grant is 30 000 SEK¹)
 - 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 B1 – B5 max. 600 words)

- B1. Purpose(s) and goal(s) of the study visit (max. 100 words)
- B2. Overview of the planned activities during the study visit (max. 300 words)
- B3. Expected output (deliverable(s)) of the study visit (max. 50 words)
- B4. 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 research project at the home institution, and
 - c) for the host institution/research project
- B5. 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 summarizing 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.

¹The 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 CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE (COE) AND RESEARCH PROJECTS SUPPORTED BY THE FUT PROGRAM**

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

RESEARCH PROJECTS	HOST ORGANIZATION	RESEARCH PROJECT LEADERS
CoE BUS RAPID TRANSIT + (BRT+) STARTED 2010, EXTENDED 2017	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile	Ricardo GIESEN
CoE METROFREIGHT STARTED 2012	METRANS Transportation Center University of Southern California, USA	Tom O'BRIEN
CoE SUFS, SUSTAINABLE URBAN FREIGHT SYSTEMS STARTED 2012	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, USA	José HOLGUIN-VERAS
GOTHENBURG URBAN FREIGHT PLATFORM STARTED 2014	Chalmers University of Technology Gothenburg, Sweden	Michael BROWNE
TOWARDS COMPARATIVE, HISTORICALLY INFORMED RESEARCH ON CONTEMPORARY AFRICAN URBAN TRANSPORT ISSUES: A PROPOSAL FOR A RESEARCH NETWORK STARTED 2020	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	Morgan, Njogu (South Africa)
THE CAPABILITIES APPROACH AS A NEEDS ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK FOR VULNERABLE NON-MOTORISED TRANSPORT USERS IN AFRICAN CITIES STARTED 2020	University of Cape Town, South Africa	Zuidgeest, Mark (South Africa)
MICRO-DYNAMICS AND MACRO-PROCESSES: A MAPUTO-JOHANNESBURG COMPARATIVE STUDY OF INTRA-HOUSEHOLD DECISION-MAKING AND STATE-INVESTMENT IN TRANSIT STARTED 2020	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	Charlton, Sarah (South Africa)
EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF MINIBUS ELECTRIFICATION IN THREE AFRICAN CITIES STARTED 2020	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Odhiambo, Edna (Kenya)
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COMBINED EFFECTS OF TRANSPORT AND URBAN MORPHOLOGY ON PUBLIC HEALTH IN TWO AFRICAN CAPITALS STARTED 2020	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi, Ghana	Adams, Charles (Ghana)
URBAN SPACES DESIGN, MOBILITY AND TRANSPORT SAFETY OF CHILDREN: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF NAIROBI AND KUMASI CITIES STARTED 2020	University of Nairobi, Kenya	Kamau, Anne W. (Kenya)
WHEELS OF CHANGE: ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICES IN THE URBAN MOTORCYCLE TAXI SECTOR IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA	Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Kenya	Owino, Frederick Hayombe, Patrick O. (Kenya)
COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE E-HAILING MOBILITY SERVICES IN SELECTED CITIES IN WEST, EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA STARTED 2020	Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria	Odewumi, Samuel (Nigeria)

TOWARDS A DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE URBAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM IN ACCRA AND NAIROBI: A POLICY PRACTICE AGENDA (SITUATE) STARTED 2021	Faculty of Social Sciences Education, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana	Sam, Enoch F. (Ghana)
PLATFORM POLITICS AND SILICON SAVANNAHS: HOW NEW DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES SHAPE MOBILITY GOVERNANCE IN AFRICAN CITIES	African Centre for Cities and University of the Western Cape, Centre for Humanities Research, University of Cape Town	Sitas, Rike (South Africa)
INSTITUTIONAL TRANSFORMATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITIES: AN EXPLORATION OF CHANGES IN ADDIS ABABA AND KAMPALA STARTED 2021	University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa	Morgan, Njogu (South Africa)
TRANSPORT PLANNING BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF JUSTICE IN AFRICA: PILOTING A PROOF OF CONCEPT IN KIGALI AND BLANTYRE STARTED 2021	CoE in Transport Planning, Engineering & Logistics, College of Science and Technology, University of Rwanda, Kigali, Rwanda	Nkurunziza, Alphonse (Rwanda)
NEGOTIATING THE CONTROL OVER TRANSPORTATION AT THE URBAN MARGINS: DYNAMICS IN GOVERNANCE COPRODUCTION IN INFORMAL MOBILITY IN ABIDJAN (COTE D'IVOIRE) AND DOUALA (CAMEROON) STARTED 2021	University of Dschang-Cameroon	Vivien, Meli Meli (Cameroon)
MAINSTREAMING INCLUSIVITY IN URBAN MOBILITY REL. PROJECTS IN THE CITIES OF LUSAKA & NAIROBI STARTED 2021	University of Zambia	Nchito, Wilma S. (Zambia)
TOWARDS THE EMPOWERED COMMUTER: EXPLORING INFORMATION BEHAVIOUR IN INFORMAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS IN UGANDA AND SOUTH AFRICA STARTED 2022	Centre for Transport Development, U. of Pretoria	Venter, Christo (South Africa)
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF POLICE HARASSMENT OF INFORMAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT OPERATORS IN 2 AFRICAN CITIES STARTED 2022	SARChI Chair for Inclusive Cities University of KwaZuluNatal, Durban	Popoola, Ayobami Abayomi (South Africa)
MAPPING UNEQUAL ACCESSIBILITY TO SOCIOECONOMIC AND CULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES IN INFORMAL URBAN SETTLEMENTS ACROSS TWO SUB-SAHARA AFRICAN CITIES STARTED 2022	Dept of Geography, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) Kumasi	Dumedah, Gift (Ghana)
CHARACTERIZING USER NEEDS AND PRACTICES IN SECONDARY CITIES: INSIGHTS INTO THE ROLE OF BICYCLES IN MITIGATING MOBILITY EXCLUSION IN MALAWI AND KENYA STARTED 2022	Institute for Social Development (ISD), University of the Western Cape, Cape Town	Dinbabo, Mulugeta F. (South Africa)
PLATFORM POLITICS AND SILICON SAVANNAHS (PP&SS) 2.0: MOBILITY APPS AND FINTECH STARTED 2022	African Centre for Cities and University of the Western Cape, Centre for Humanities Research, University of Cape Town	Sitas, Rike (South Africa)
MEETING THE MOBILITY NEEDS OF THE ELDERLY IN SELECTED CITIES IN NIGERIA AND UGANDA STARTED 2022	Federal University of Technology Owerri (FUTO)	Uzondu, Chinebuli (Nigeria)
WHOSE CITY IS IT ANYWAY? INTERROGATION OF SOCIALLY JUST PUBLIC TRANSPORT PRINCIPLE IN URBAN MOBILITY PLANS/PROJECTS OF SECONDARY CITIES IN KENYA (NAKURU CITY) AND ZAMBIA STARTED 2022	Kenyatta University, Kenya	Gateri, Catherine Waithera (Kenya)

A COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE QUALITY OF WALKING AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE IN NAKURU (KENYA) AND JINJA (UGANDA) STARTED 2022	Sociology Multimedia University of Kenya	Nyachieo, Gladys (Kenya)
A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF GOVERNANCE PROCESS IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN MOBILITY PLANNING IN KENYA AND MALAWI STARTED 2023	Sociology Multimedia University of Kenya	Nyachieo, Gladys M. M. (Kenya)
ASSESSING STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES FOR EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF PARATRANSIT TOWARDS MITIGATING UNEQUAL ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN CITIES STARTED 2023	Regional Transport Research and Education Centre Kumasi (TRECK), KNUST, Ghana	Dumedah, Gift (Ghana)
INCLUSIVE MOBILITY PLANNING FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN IBADAN (NIGERIA) AND KAMPALA (UGANDA) STARTED 2023	Dept of Urban and Regional Planning, Faculty of Environmental Design and Management, University of Ibadan, Nigeria	Adewumi, Adedotun J. (Nigeria)
CO-DESIGN LABORATORIES FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT INFORMATION IN AFRICAN CITIES STARTED 2023	Centre for Transport Development, U. of Pretoria	Venter, Christo (Sth Africa)
REMOVING BARRIERS TO DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE URBAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM (POLICIES AND REGULATIONS) IN ACCRA AND NAIROBI (SITUATE-2) STARTED 2023	Faculty of Social Sciences Education, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana	Sam, Enoch F. (Ghana)
EXPLORING STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING POOR WOMEN'S MOBILITY AND ACCESS TO BODA BODA (MOTORCYCLE) TAXI SERVICES IN NAIROBI AND DAR-SALAAM STARTED 2023	Kenyatta University, School of Education, Nairobi, Kenya	Wawire, Violet K. (Kenya)
MODELLING PARATRANSIT IN LOW DATA ENVIRONMENTS IN AFRICA STARTED 2023	University of Cape Town, South Africa	Zuidgeest, Mark (Sth Africa)
COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WATER AND ROAD TRAFFIC CRASHES IN SELECTED CITIES IN NIGERIA, GHANA AND KENYA STARTED 2023	Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos, Nigeria	Odewumi, Samuel (Nigeria)
INVESTIGATING YOUNG MEN'S EXPERIENCES OF WALKING TO THE 'BUS' IN LOW-INCOME NEIGHBOURHOODS OF CAPE TOWN AND LONDON: A COMPARATIVE STUDY BUILT ROUND A COMMUNITY PEER RESEARCH METHODOLOGY STARTED 2023	Dept of Anthropology, Durham University, Durham, UK	Porter, Gina (UK)
BIOSOCIAL WALKING: INVESTIGATING THE EMOTIONS OF URBAN WALKING FOR MIGRANTS FROM THE GLOBAL SOUTH STARTED 2023	Human Geography, Dept of Geography, Geology and the Environment, U. of Leicester, UK	Osborne, Tess (UK)
DEVELOPING AN INTERSECTIONAL EQUITY FRAMEWORK TO SUPPORT WALKABILITY TRANSITIONS STARTED 2023	The University of Melbourne, Urban Planning, Diversity and Inclusion, Melbourne School of Design, Australia	Mateo-Babiano, Iderlina (Australia)
URBAN ROADS: ENABLERS OR BARRIERS TO WALKING? STARTED 2023	Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel	Martens, Karel (Israel)
MOBILE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AS A TOOL TO STUDY WALKABILITY TO ADVANCE THEORY,	Centre for Transport & Society, University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, UK	Bozovic, Tamara (UK)

POLICY, AND PRACTICE OF WALKING FOR TRANSPORT STARTED 2023		
CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS' EVERYDAY WALKING: EXPERIENCES AND PRACTICES FROM AN INTERSECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE. STARTED 2023	NGO La Reconquista Peatonal, University of Chile, Chile	Cuevas, Karen S. (Chile)
TRANSFORMING THE UNWALKABLE CITY: KNOWLEDGE, PRACTICES, AND INTERVENTIONS FOR A MORE INCLUSIVE FUTURE OF WALKING IN AFRICA STARTED 2023	Development Planning Unit (DPU), University College London (UCL), London, UK	Oviedo, Daniel (UK)
WALKING AS A MODE OF TRANSPORT IN 'UNWALKABLE' CONTEXTS: CROSS-CITY EXPERIENCES FROM GHANA AND NIGERIA STARTED 2023	Dept of Geography Education, University of Education, Winneba, Ghana	Sam, Enoch F. (Ghana)