

Invitation to apply for VREF Next Gen study visit grant

VREF invites Next Generation Scholars to apply for grants for short-term study visits at other (non-home) universities. The invitation is open on an ongoing basis until 31 October 2024, and the study visit should be carried out before 31 December 2024. VREF wishes to have a broad distribution of grants among universities, thus in the first half of 2024 (up to 30 June 2024), a maximum of one (1) grant will be awarded to the same home university. See detailed information, criteria and guidelines for applications below.

BACKGROUND – VREF’S MISSION AND PROGRAMS

The Volvo Research and Educational Foundations (VREF) supports research and educational activities at universities and research institutes of academic standing that contribute to achieving its overall mission:

- To support the development of new knowledge on ideas, approaches and solutions that can contribute to equitable access and sustainable urban mobility;
- To support educational and outreach programs within the area of urban transport and mobility, broadly defined;
- To contribute to the dissemination and uptake of research results among university researchers, practitioners, decision makers and other relevant stakeholders;
- To support research, demonstration projects and other initiatives that can contribute to processes of change within urban transport.

At present VREF’s initiatives include the following programs, centers and platforms, see annex 1 for lists of centers, programs and projects:

- Mobility & Access in African Cities (MAC)
- Walking as a Mode of Transport (WALKING)
- Informal and Shared Mobility in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (ISM)
- Center of Excellence Bus Rapid Transport+ (BRT+)
- Center of Excellence MetroFreight
- Center of Excellence Sustainable Urban Freight Systems (SUFS)
- Gothenburg Urban Freight Platform (UFP)

See www.vref.se for more information about VREF and its programs.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES OF THE VREF NEXT GEN STUDY VISIT GRANTS

The objectives of VREF's Next Gen Study Visit Grants are:

1. To strengthen VREF-funded research projects and programs;
2. To more generally strengthen research, educational activities and the exchange of research approaches or results within VREF's community of researchers and students;
3. To strengthen research skills and support professional development among promising Next Generation scholars within VREF's programs, centers and platforms;
4. To provide opportunities for Next Generation Scholars within VREF's programs, centers and platforms to strengthen the quality of their thesis work or early career scholarship through collaborations with researchers at other universities;
5. To provide opportunities for researchers at host universities or centers to strengthen their research and academic capacity through exchanges with scholars at other universities within the VREF community;
6. To provide opportunities for NextGen scholars at Swedish universities or research institutes of academic standing to strengthen their scientific work through collaborations with researchers within VREF's programs, centers or platforms;
7. To enable NextGen scholars to receive added value of being part of the VREF community.

WHAT TYPES OF WORK CAN BE FUNDED BY A VREF NEXT GEN STUDY VISIT GRANT?

A VREF Next Gen Study Visit Grant (SVG) should primarily be used for carrying out comparative field work or other locally situated work which can contribute to ongoing VREF-funded research and particularly the applicant's ongoing studies, including thesis work.

In addition, an SVG can also be used for the following types of activities as part of the study visit; the grant cannot, however, be used solely or primarily for such activities:

- To participate in short courses or other educational offerings at another university;
- To plan and carry out seminars/seminar series, short courses or other educational activities in cooperation with researchers at another university;
- To build or further develop academic collaboration and networks between research teams or environments within VREF's programs, centers or platforms (e.g. through co-authorships, planning of future research projects, institutional exchanges, or other forms of scientific cooperation);
- To participate in a conference or workshop.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

This invitation is open to:

- NextGen scholars (advanced master students, Ph.D. candidates, early career researchers within five years of Ph.D. degree) who are based in research teams or environments that are funded (or otherwise actively engaged in) VREF's programs, centers or platforms as indicated above;
- Ph.D. candidates and early career researchers who are based at a Swedish university, university or research institute who wish to visit research teams or environments within a program, center or platform supported by VREF;
- Recipients of the Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship or participants in the SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport program.

WHAT THE GRANT COVERS, EXPECTATIONS, AND REPORTING

Each SVG is limited to a maximum of 35 000 Swedish crowns (SEK). The grant should be used to cover costs that are directly related to the study visit, i.e. travel costs, accommodation, and other direct costs (e.g. costs for materials or supplies). Salary costs, meals and/or per diem will not be covered by the grant.

An SVG typically encompasses a period of 2 – 6 weeks, depending upon the volume and direction of the proposed work. Each applicant can only be awarded one study visit grant per year. Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously received VREF funding for a study visit grant.

Each study visit is expected to result in tangible research results (e.g. a jointly written paper, draft paper or text for inclusion in the Next Gen scholar's thesis or project, see also examples below). VREF strongly recommends that the involved parties produce a collaborative output of the visit.

When the study visit is completed, the NextGen scholar is expected to submit a final report to VREF which summarizes the work that has been carried out during the study visit, with particular emphasis on tangible results of the work (information on e.g. draft papers, thesis chapters, other texts, fieldwork results), as well as reflections on the value (or limitations) of the visit in receiving the NextGen scholar's broader academic goals.

The final report should be submitted to VREF within one week after the study visit.

HOW TO APPLY

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 receipt by giving a registration number. The secretary will inform each applicant of VREF's decision within six weeks after the submission of the application.

If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at secretariat@vref.se.

The application should 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 program/project/university

A4. Confirmation from the host project/university (which can be a copy of e.g. an e-mail from the host university) which confirms that the Next Gen scholar will be well received and provided with necessary support or resources (staff time, other support) for the duration of the planned study visit. The invitation should also include information about any general fees for visiting scholars and students that the host university claims.

A5. Dates of the study visit

A6. Budget: estimated expenses (maximum grant is 35 000 SEK)

Travel cost

Accommodation cost

Other costs (e.g. extra material supply costs directly related to the study visit)

Section B: The Study Visit Program (ca 2-4 pages)

B1. Work Plan for the Study Visit: A plan for the Next Gen scholar's scientific and/or educational work which will be carried out during the study visit. This work plan should include purpose and goals for the study visit, as well as concrete plans for collaboration through e.g. comparative field work, educational activities and expected tangible outcomes/results.

B2. Plan for presentation: The work plan should also include a plan for a presentation (e.g. through a lecture, seminar or roundtable discussion) by the visiting NextGen scholar of her/his ongoing work, to be held in an appropriate forum at the host department. To help the scholar to gain visibility at the host department early on, it is recommended that this presentation takes place at the start of the study visit.

B3. Motivation and benefit: The Next Gen scholar's supervisor or project leader should also describe the anticipated benefit or relevance of the planned study visit for the current VREF-funded project, and/or for the scholar's current work, as well as the broader value of the visit for e.g. future cooperation with the host team or department.

ANNEX 1

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

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE COES, THE IRP-ISM 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	Zuidegeest, 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 STARTED 2021	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 (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)	Uzongdu, 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 Waithe (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, POLICY, AND PRACTICE OF WALKING FOR TRANSPORT STARTED 2023	Centre for Transport & Society, University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol, UK	Bozovic, Tamara (UK)
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)
INVESTIGATING YOUNG MEN'S EXPERIENCES OF WALKING IN SECONDARY CITIES: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF WALKING IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM STARTED 2024	Dept of Anthropology, Durham University, South Road, Durham	Porter, Gina (UK)
USING A PEER RESEARCH METHODOLOGY TO INVESTIGATE CHILDREN'S MOBILITY CHALLENGES IN SECONDARY CITIES IN GHANA AND LIBERIA: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF CAPE COAST AND GANTA STARTED 2024	Dept of Anthropology, Durham University, South Road, Durham	Jenkins, Jack (UK)
INEQUALITY IN WALKING THE 24 HOUR CITY: TEMPORALITY, INTERSECTIONALITY AND THE	Spatial Planning, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University	Rubin, Margot (UK)

EMBODIED EXPERIENCE IN DAR ES SALAAM, TSHWANE AND CARDIFF STARTED 2024		
FROM ACCESSIBILITY MEASURES TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF WALKABILITY STARTED 2024	Area of Territories and Cities Director of Research in Spatial Economics (RiSE-EAFIT) School of Applied Sciences and Engineering Universidad EAFIT	Ospina Zapata, Juan Pablo (Colombia)
WALKING AND FREIGHT DELIVERY OPERATIONS. CONTRASTING SPACE-SHARING CONFLICTS IN TWO CITIES WITHIN THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND NORTH STARTED 2024	Kenyatta University	Gateri, Catherine Waitthera (Kenya)
WORK-WALKS AND WALKSCAPES: WOMEN DOMESTIC WORKERS' LIVED EXPERIENCES AND CONTEXTS OF MOBILITY IN LIMA AND MUMBAI STARTED 2024	Centre for Urban Science and Engineering (CUSE) Indian Institute of Technology (IIT-B) Powai, Mumbai	Burte, Himanshu (India)
LONG-DISTANCE WALKING: A WILDCARD OF MOBILITY FUTURES? STARTED 2024	Urban Design and Mobility Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen	Bahrami, Farzaneh (The NL)
WALKING ACROSS BORDERS: EXPLORING CHALLENGES TO WALKABILITY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH STARTED 2024	Dept of Urban Studies and Planning, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Ma	Ferreira, Joseph (USA)
EXPLORING THE PERSONAL BURDEN AND VALUE OF PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN FROM LOW INCOME BACKGROUNDS IN NAIROBI AND DAR-SALAAM STARTED 2024	Kenyatta University, School of Education	Wawire, Violet (Kenya)
WALKING TO SCHOOL IN LATIN AMERICA STARTED 2024	School of Architecture, Art and Design, Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey State of Mexico	Krstikj, Alexandra (Mexico)
CRIME, PERCEIVED INSECURITY AND THE WALKING BEHAVIOURS OF OLDER PEOPLE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY IN CHILE AND MEXICO STARTED 2024	Instituto de Estudios Urbanos y Territoriales, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	Vecchio, Giovanni (Chile)
MEASURING WALKABILITY: A COMPREHENSIVE INDEX FOR ENHANCING PEDESTRIAN-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENTS IN LATIN AMERICAN CITIES STARTED 2024	Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, School of Engineering Laboratory of Transport Systems (LASTRAN) Porto Alegre	Larranaga Uriarte, Ana Margarita (Brazil)
IRP-ISM: AN EQUITY, ECOSYSTEMS AND ENGAGED APPROACH TO INFORMAL TRANSPORT AND SHARED MOBILITY STARTED 2024	Center for Sustainable Urban Development, Columbia Climate School/ Earth Institute	Jackie Klopp (USA)