

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 2025, and the study visit should be carried out before 31 December 2025. VREF wishes to have a broad distribution of grants among universities, thus in the first half of 2025 (up to 30 June 2025), 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.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE VREF NEXT GEN STUDY VISIT GRANTS

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

1. To strengthen VREF-funded research projects and programs and more generally strengthen research, educational activities and the exchange of research approaches or results within VREF's community of researchers and students;
2. To support professional development and provide opportunities for Next Generation Scholars within VREF's programs, projects or centers to strengthen their research skills and academic capacity through collaborations with researchers at other universities within the VREF community.;
3. ;
4. 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 VREFs programs, centers or platforms;

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.

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:

- Locally situated work and collaboration with researchers at the host university that contributes to the applicant's ongoing studies, including thesis work.
- 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 organised within the VREF's network.

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, projects or centers as indicated above;

- Ph.D. candidates and early career researchers who are based at a Swedish university or research institute who wish to visit research teams or environments within a program, project or center 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 that contributes to ongoing VREF funded research, and/or for inclusion in the Next Gen scholar's thesis or project. 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. For participants in the SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport Programme the application should be undersigned by the program leader at SLOCAT. 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. Applicant: Name and home affiliation of the visiting PhD student/early-stage researcher/SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders program participant, complete home address telephone and email

A2. VREF project / program / center: Title and VREF project number of the ongoing VREF funded research program / project / center that the study visit will be connected and/or contribute to. The program / project /center can be hosted either by the applicant's home institution (as indicated under A1 and A2) or by the host project/university for the study visit (as indicated under A3). Participants in the SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport Programme should write "SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders" here. Lee Schipper Memorial Scholarship awardees should write "LSMS awardee" here.

A3. Name of the regular supervisor/project leader (at home institution). Participants in the SLOCAT-VREF Young Leaders in Sustainable Transport Programme should write the name of the program leader at SLOCAT here.

A4. Host project/university, which will be visited by the applicant, 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 in details

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

The budget shall clearly be detailed by post in SEK and local currency.

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

B1. Motivation, purpose and benefit: The Next Gen scholar's supervisor or project leader should describe how the planned work during the study visit is anticipated to contribute to the current VREF-funded project / program / center, as well as the broader value of the visit for e.g. future cooperation with the host team or department.

B2. 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 concrete 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.

B3. 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.

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
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 Waithera (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 IN SECURITY 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)
MAINSTREAMING WALKING AS A MODE OF TRANSPORT IN URBAN DECISION-MAKING FROM AN INTERSECTIONAL GENDER PERSPECTIVE: A CROSS-REGIONAL CASE STUDY OF BRAZIL AND MOZAMBIQUE	The Bartlett Development Planning Unit University College London	Maria José Nieto-Combariza (UK)

TOWARDS WALKABILITY TRANSITIONS IN LATIN AMERICA: DISENTANGLING POLICY RATIONALITIES, INSTITUTIONAL PATH DEPENDENCIES AND TECHNICAL SOLUTIONIST PROJECTS.	Dept of Social Sciences, CISEPA, Pontifical Catholic University of Peru PUCP	Manuel Dammert Guardia (Peru)
BECOMING A CITIZEN: UNDERSTANDING ADOLESCENTS' WALKING PRACTICES FOR BETTER PUBLIC POLICIES	Dept de Planificación y Ordenamiento Territorial, Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana (UTEM) & Centro de Desarrollo Urbano Sustentable (CEDEUS)	Cristhian Figueroa (Chile)
PEDESTRIAN EXPERTISE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE: THE SCIENCE-POLICY NEXUS AROUND WALKING IN SWEDEN AND THE UK	Division of Urban and Regional Studies, KTH Royal Institute of Technology,	Martin Emanuel (Sweden)
ENTANGLED PATHWAYS: POLICY LESSONS FROM STREET VENDING, WALKING AND FOOTPATHS IN KOLKATA AND BANGKOK	Department of Architecture and Planning, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology	Premjeet Das Gupta (India)
EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES AND URBAN POLICY INITIATIVES FOR LOW-INCOME WOMEN WALKING TO WORK IN ABUJA AND DODOMA	Dept of Urban and Regional Planning, Nasarawa State University Keffi-Nigeria	Daniel Adamu (Nigeria)
UNLOCKING ROBUST GOVERNANCE SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES FOR SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY FUTURES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN CITIES	Dept of Sociology, Faculty of Social Sciences and Technology, Multimedia University of Kenya	Gladys Nyachieo (Kenya)
POPULAR TO POPULAR TRANSPORT INTEGRATION IN SUB SAHARAN AFRICA: CASE OF RWANDA AND GHANA (POINT)	School of Architecture and the Built Environment College of Science and Technology, University of Rwanda	Josephine Malonza (Rwanda)