

CALL FOR NOMINATION AND GUIDELINES

The VREF invites **universities located in Sweden to nominate** candidates for The Håkan Frisinger Award for Excellence in Transportation Research (Håkan Frisingers pris till framstående transportforskare) and apply for a VREF Visiting Researcher Grant for the nominated candidate. The universities can nominate **researchers from any other university or research institute of academic standing in the five Nordic countries** (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) for the prize.

The invitation is open **until 22 April 2025 17.00 CEST**

The Award

The Håkan Frisinger Award for Excellence in Transportation Research is awarded annually to a distinguished researcher, active in the area of transportation, at a university or research institute of academic standing located in the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). The Award is coupled to a period as visiting researcher at a university located in Sweden. The Award thus consists of two integrated parts:

- (i) An individual prize of SEK 300 000 to the awardee
- (ii) A grant for a VREF Visiting Researcher Programme of SEK 500 000 to the university hosting the visiting researcher

It is not possible to only apply for one of the parts.

The objective of the Award is to promote and support research and development in the area of transportation, to the benefit of academia, industry and society in general, but not benefitting any specific private company or government.

Eligibility criteria and rules of the Award

The invitation to nominate candidates for the Award and apply for the Visiting Researcher Grant is only open to universities in Sweden. Nonetheless, the nominated candidates can be currently active in transportation research at a university or research institute of academic standing, within any of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden). Nominated candidates may not be, or have been affiliated to the Volvo Group or Volvo Cars over a period of five years before the nomination date,.

The individual prize amount may be used by the awardee as she/he decides. The prize amount will not be subject to taxation, according to Swedish law.

The Visiting Researcher Grant should be used exclusively to cover costs for the visiting scholar.

Review and decision process

All eligible nominations will be reviewed by a review panel appointed for this matter. Based on the report from the review panel, the VREF Scientific Council will make the final review and issue an opinion to the VREF Board. The VREF Board takes the final decision on the award and the Visiting Researcher Grant.

Review criteria

The following criteria will guide both the appointed review panel, the SC and the Board:

- A. The nominated candidate
 - Scientific record of accomplishment of the nominated candidate (scientific publication, contribution to scientific advancement in the area, etc.)
 - Scientific relevance to transportation research and contribution to academic research in the Nordic countries
 - Contribution to society and industry: Implementation of research findings/products, and impact on progress in policymaking and practice
- B. The VREF Visiting Researcher programme
 - Scientific quality and relevance of the programme
 - Feasibility of the programme
 - Clarity of the plan for the visit
 - Contribution to the host university (research and/or education)
 - Contribution to transportation research/education in general

VREF and transportation research

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. The VREF inspires, initiates and supports research and educational activities through the Future Urban Transport Programme – How to deal with the complexity of urban transport? Our vision is sustainable transport for equitable access in urban areas.

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.

For the Håkan Frisinger Award, VREF is using a broad understanding of the transportation research area, encompassing technology and engineering, natural, social and behavioural sciences, and humanities, with a diversity of thematic profiles, such as – but not limited to: vehicle and fuel technologies, transportation systems and planning, user/consumer needs, perspectives and behaviour, environment and climate change, transport economy and efficiency. We encourage multidisciplinary research approaches and cooperation between scientific disciplines.

For further information about VREF, please visit www.vref.se

Guidelines for the nomination and the grant application

The nomination shall be undersigned and submitted by an entitled person at the nominating university. A letter of acceptance¹ by the nominated researcher shall be attached to the nomination.

The submission of the nomination 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 nomination will be structured as follows:

Section A: Nomination for the award

A1 Basic information for the nominated candidate:

Name of the applicant, title, home affiliation, university,
Home address, Work address, phone number and email

A2 A nomination letter of no more than 500 words, including a summary of the nominated candidate's merits and track record (max 300 words) and a motivation for the nomination (max 200 words), see review criteria A.

A3 A CV of the nominated candidate

A4 A letter of acceptance by the nominated researcher

N.B. All universities located in Sweden are invited to nominate candidates. Nominated candidates should be currently active in transportation research at a university or research institute of academic standing, within any of the five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden).

Section B: Application for the Visiting Scholar Award

B1 Basic information for the university applying for the grant:

Name of the university

Address, Contact person, Phone number and email to contact person

B2 Summary of the scientific programme for the visiting researcher period (max. 1000 words), see review criteria B.²

¹ A brief letter stating (i) "I accept to be nominated for the Håkan Frisinger Award", and (ii) "I am willing to perform a visiting researcher period at //the nominating university// in accordance with the grant application".

² A detailed budget is not required but please bear in mind that a VREF Visiting Scholar Grant should be used exclusively to cover costs for the visiting scholar.
