

Guidelines for grants to translators of Swedish literature and drama

*Adopted by the Director General of the Swedish Arts Council on 20 April 2021.
Guidelines are in effect from the same date and until further notice. The guidelines replace the directive Adm 2008/158. Head of Swedish Literature Exchange Susanne Bergström Larsson is the document manager.*

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1. Introduction

Guidelines for grants to translators of Swedish literature and drama is an internal policy that specifies how we interpret regulatory frameworks to distribute and monitor government grants for translation of Swedish literature and drama. The purpose is to facilitate processing and achieve legal certainty in our assessments and decisions. This document shall also be available on the Swedish Arts Council's website to provide a clear picture of how we distribute and follow up government grants.

2. Regulatory framework: Purpose and definitions

Grants to translators of Swedish literature and drama aim to strengthen the quality of translations from Swedish into other languages. The grant is aimed at professional translators. In this context, professional translator means translator who work professionally with literary translation.

In this context, Swedish literature means literature written in Swedish or in one of the national minority languages and published in Sweden. Swedish drama means drama written in Swedish or one of the national minority languages and performed in Sweden.

In this context, the term Swedish literature encompasses the genres prose, poetry, essays, non-fiction, picture books, comics and graphic novels, as well as drama published in book form or for stage performance, for children, young people and adults.

The core regulatory framework for this grant can be found in the Regulation (SFS 2007:1435) on government grants for international exchange and cooperation in the field of literature.

These guidelines are also based on the Ordinance (SFS 2012:515) with instructions for the Swedish Arts Council, the Government Authority Ordinance (SFS 2007:515), the Administrative Procedure Act (SFS 2017:900), and the General binding rules (2013:2) for the Swedish Arts Council's grant-making, the Swedish Arts Council's rules of procedure, the Swedish Arts Council's appropriation directions, and the national cultural policy objectives adopted by the Riksdag in December 2009.

The Swedish Arts Council's general terms and conditions state that grant recipients shall conduct their activities in accordance with Swedish law. Applicants shall conduct their activities with respect for human rights and the equal value of all human beings, regardless of sexual orientation, gender, skin colour, nationality, or ethnicity, linguistic or religious affiliation, disability, or age.

2.1 Who is eligible to apply for the grant?

Based on Regulation (SFS 2007:1435) on government grants for international exchange and cooperation in the field of literature, the Swedish Arts Council awards grants for translators of Swedish literature and drama into other languages.

Grants can be applied for by professional translators of Swedish literature and drama.

2.1.1 Who is not eligible to apply for the grant?

Translators of literature from other languages into Swedish, as well as organisations, publishers, or networks cannot apply for the grant.

2.2 What is eligible for a grant?

Grants can be used to cover costs in connection with work-related activities that aim to strengthen the quality of translations of Swedish literature and drama. This may involve participation in projects or events such as festivals, conferences, seminars, fairs, workshops, or travel in connection with the work on a particular translation. Mentorship collaboration between an established translator and a mentee is also eligible, where the established translator applies for the grant. Sample translations meant for publishers or theatres for consideration of publication or performance of the work are also eligible for grants.

One prerequisite for support is that the translator's project relates to works published in Sweden, are written in Swedish or in one of the national minority languages, and that the translator does not translate via any other language.

2.3 What is not eligible for a grant?

It is not possible to apply for grants for work with textbooks, Festschrifts, homage volumes, publishing of sheet music, study materials, specialised scholarly works, reference books, hobby books, yearbooks, books of local interest, exhibition catalogues, craft books, handbooks, cookbooks, and travel guides.

Translations already under contract are not eligible for sample translation grants. The grant shall not reimburse a fee for a translation contracted for publication.

Travel, events, and activities that have already taken place are not eligible for a grant.

2.4 What types of costs are eligible for a grant?

Travel and accommodation costs, conference or course fees, or, where applicable, mentoring fees are eligible for grants. Sample translation grants are applied for the estimated cost of the work on producing a suitable material to enable publishers or theatres to make decisions on buying the rights for a full translation.

2.5 How do you apply?

The application is made using a special form in the Swedish Arts Council's online portal. It is possible to apply for the grant throughout the year, but there are four deadlines per year, when the applications received by each respective deadline are gathered for assessment and decision.

The application shall be made well in advance of the planned activity. It is not possible to apply when the activity has already been performed.

2.5.1 Which appendices shall be attached to the application?

In the application, the applicant shall provide the information requested by the Swedish Arts Council on the application form.

Compulsory appendix for all applications is a current CV with a list of published works that the applicant has translated from Swedish.

For a **sample translation**, a certificate from the right holder shall also be submitted, stating that the translator has the right to work on the translation. The translator shall also enter information, with short justifications, on which publishers or theatres the work shall be presented to.

For **mentorship projects**, the applicant, the mentor, should enclose their own and the mentee's CV, a jointly signed project plan, and the mentee's motivation letter.

2.5.2 What happens if the application is incomplete or submitted too late?

If an application is received after the application deadline, it cannot be processed in the current application round. Provided that the project can be implemented in time, the application is moved to the next application round. The same applies if an application is incomplete and the applicant does not complete it within the time communicated by the Swedish Arts Council.

2.5.3 What amounts can you apply for?

A maximum of SEK 12,000 can be awarded for sample translation and mentorship respectively. For other projects, you apply for a grant to cover the actual costs of the project.

2.6 How does the Swedish Arts Council assess the application?

A group of expert senior advisors at the Swedish Arts Council's office assess the applications.

When the application deadline has passed, all applications are gathered into one aggregate case. The assessment team assess each individual application in relation to other applications and discuss the distribution of the support in its entirety and then propose a decision. The Department Head of the Department for Literature and Libraries decides on the final distribution of the grant.

If someone in the assessment team is disqualified with respect to any applicant, meaning biased due to kinship, friendship, or otherwise, this person may not be involved in the processing of that application. If someone in the team did not participate due to disqualification, this will be noted in the decision.

2.6.1 Basis for assessment

When the Swedish Arts Council assesses applications, the primary criterion is the relevance of the application in relation to the purpose of the grant. In addition, each application is assessed based on the following criteria:

Travel and conferences:

- the project's relevance to the professional development of the translator
- in what way the project ensures the quality of an ongoing or planned translation
- the relevance of the networks that the translator plans to establish or maintain during a trip

Mentorship:

- the mentor's documented experience
- the mentor's and the mentee's project plan and motivations for the mentorship
- the quality and relevance of the work within the relevant language area

Sample translation:

- the translator's justifications for the project
- the quality and relevance of the work

2.6.2 Basis for prioritisation

When the total amount applied for exceeds the available funds for the application round, the assessment is based on the following priorities:

The age of the work: The Swedish Arts Council prioritises the translation of contemporary literature but can also award grants for work with older works that may be considered important for the international dissemination of Swedish literature and drama.

Language: The Swedish Arts Council prioritises the introduction of authors in a new language area. Language area means that a language can be spoken in several countries, for example Spanish and English.

Number of applications: The Swedish Arts Council may limit the number of approved applications to a certain number per applicant.

Diversity: The effort to spread projects across a number of geographical areas and literary genres can also guide the priorities during an application round.

2.6.3 How much can you receive?

All applications are assessed in relation to the costs and the applicant's work input, as well as in relation to available funds for the application round. A maximum of SEK 12,000 can be awarded for sample translation and mentorship. For other projects, there is no cap. An amount deemed relevant for the implementation of the project is awarded in relation to available funds.

2.7 When does the Swedish Arts Council make a decision and how is the applicant notified?

The Swedish Arts Council decides on how to distribute the grant approximately 5 weeks after the application deadline. Decisions are announced by e-mail to the e-mail address specified in the application.

2.8 What happens if a grant is awarded?

Following a decision, the Swedish Arts Council pays the grant to the bank account belonging to the legal person specified in the application.

2.9 What conditions apply to awarded grants?

For this grant, general and special terms and conditions apply, which are set out in a conditional annex attached to the grant decision.

The decision, including the terms and conditions that apply, is communicated by the Swedish Arts Council to everyone who has applied for the grant.

If the project is postponed and the applicant is unable to report on time, the applicant shall notify the Swedish Arts Council hereof in good time. The Swedish Arts Council will then decide whether to grant an extension of the reporting period.

3.0 How does the reporting work?

Reporting is done in accordance with what is stated in the terms and conditions referred to in section 2.9, no later than on the date specified in the decision and the conditional annex.