Mistra Fellows Programme

Being a Mistra Fellow gives you a unique opportunity to stay abroad (outside Sweden) for a whole year. While helping to enhance your research programme's international presence, you develop your network and gain valuable experience for your career and personal development.

A Fellow’s research visit is intended primarily to be to a think tank, international organisation, institute or similar stakeholder in proximity to policy processes with a major bearing on sustainable development. It is important for the receiving organisation also to see value in developing contacts with the research programme you represent.

Typical host organisations are the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels and the OECD in Paris, but we have also had Fellows in the US. In principle, there are no geographical restrictions, but the focus is on places that are global power centres.

The various steps involved in becoming a Mistra Fellow are described below. If you are interested in applying, it is highly advantageous to contact one of Mistra’s Programmes Directors personally at an early stage, to enable us to make an advance assessment.

The option of ‘reverse’ Fellowships is now also available. In other words, Mistra may decide to fund guests from abroad wishing to work in a Mistra programme in Sweden. The application procedure follows the same principles as for the regular Mistra Fellowships. Contact us for more information.

Ten steps to becoming a Mistra Fellow (outside Sweden)

1. Nomination
   The Mistra Fellows Programme caters for researchers working in Mistra’s research programmes and centres. Candidates are nominated by the programme management. If there are several internal candidates, the programme itself is responsible for selection and ranking, if any. The programme board must be kept informed.

2. Information
   A nomination, which is comparable to a preliminary application, must contain the following information: the candidate’s name and institution; the Mistra programme(s) concerned; the organisation where the candidate intends to be located (and the approximate period); and a brief description (up to half an A4 page long) of the purpose of the stay. It should be clear how the stay is expected to contribute to the research programme’s goals, and what the candidate's personal development goals are.

3. Assessment
   When Mistra has received the nomination, the candidate's prospects are assessed. Examples of factors that may be relevant to the assessment are the purpose of the stay, the receiving organisation’s suitability as a host, the research focus, scope for networking, and diversity and geographical spread in relation to other Fellowships.
4. **Application**

If Mistra approves the parameters, the candidate may submit a regular application. This should contain a project plan, including time frames and a budget overview, up to five A4 pages in length. Funding of up to SEK 1 million may be applied for. The amount sought must be in reasonable proportion to the length of stay and any additional costs.

5. **Certification**

Certification in the form of, for example, a letter of intent (LOI) or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), stating that the host organisation welcomes the candidate on defined terms, must be attached to the project plan. This clarifies how far the organisation will contribute to the exchange by, for example, providing a workplace, supervision and housing assistance. Before Mistra makes a final decision, both the home and the host organisation should formalise their mutual wishes in a bilateral agreement regulating such matters as 'staff on loan'. A copy of the agreement is sent to Mistra.

6. **Allowable costs**

Here, starting points are the home organisation's rules for foreign stays, the national URA Agreement (on overseas contracts and guidelines on employment conditions in service abroad) and the Swedish Tax Agency’s established compensation levels. Salary may be an allowable cost, depending on how the candidate's service rank and conditions are defined in the programme. Under certain circumstances, other forms of financial support may be considered. The intention is for the stay to essentially take place in another country, and only a small proportion of the period to be spent on repatriation and similar activities.

7. **Decision**

Decisions on Mistra Fellowships are made by Mistra's CEO. If all the necessary documents have been completed, decisions can normally be made at short notice.

8. **Agreement**

A simple agreement is established between Mistra and the applicant's home organisation (the organisation that sends the researcher).

9. **Application period**

There are no fixed application dates. Mistra welcomes applications on a continuous basis.

10. **Interested?**

Contact the person at Mistra who is primarily responsible for your programme. However, all the staff at Mistra's secretariat can answer questions of a general nature. Mistra can provide copies of the various documents required.

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