

Finding a Potential Host in Sweden

All U.S. Fulbright applicants must have an affiliation with a Swedish institution to be accepted into the Fulbright Program. Applicants are responsible for seeking out their own affiliation. Host affiliations that are acceptable are: universities, laboratories, libraries, nongovernmental organizations, and so on. In some cases, particularly in the arts, the affiliation may be a person, such as a writer, musician, or artist or an arts organization or foundation. To locate a suitable research advisor, research group or study program in Sweden the tips and advice given below may be helpful.

First you can explore what university courses are given in your subject. You do this through www.universityadmissions.se. This homepage allows you to search different courses and study programs for example by field and level of study and institution. In a few clicks you can normally find contact information to the department and they are usually happy to help you from there.

Second you can search research publications in your subject. DiVA is Sweden's most used system for registration and dissemination of scholarly publication data: www.diva-portal.org. A search in DiVA can generate names and their respective organizations. A search on the university website will usually generate contact details. Studyinsweden.se is also an excellent source for general information about universities.

You may also wish to find out at which Swedish universities the previous U.S. Fulbright grantees have spent their Fulbright period. For information on the current grantees, their field of study, project title and host institution, please visit the Fulbright grantee lists. You can also take a look at a society or association that represents your specific discipline in Sweden. They may be able to point you to the direction of a suitable institution.

How to approach a potential host?

In terms of connecting with a potential host, here are a few important tips from the alumni:

1. **It is ok to 'cold call'.** You don't need to have a pre-existing relationship with an academic in Sweden in order to secure a host. If you already know someone with whom you want to work, that obviously makes the process a bit simpler, but if you don't, it's not a problem. The key is to find someone whose work is compatible with your research interests.
2. **Be prepared and clear about expectations.** When you contact a prospective host, you need to be as clear as possible about your research aims (this will help to ensure a good fit) and also to try to be clear about what kind of support you would like to have from your host. Some students may not really want or need much from their hosts (in terms of research or logistical support) while others may want or need more. The key is to try to articulate these expectations and aims as clearly as possible to ensure a good fit. If you would like to work closely with your host in the formulation of your research strategy, it is better to state that clearly and allow your host to evaluate whether or not he or she can provide that kind of support.
3. **Provide your prospective host with resources if needed.** There is a description of the role and expectations of the host on the Fulbright Sweden website. This may be helpful in answering prospective hosts' questions if they arise. See Information sheet for a prospective host.

Maximizing your host relationship

Once you have secured a host and been selected for a Fulbright Scholarship, the really important work begins! Here are a few important tips from the alumni.

1. **Once you have received the grant, reread your research statement.** By the time you arrive in Sweden in the fall, a year will have passed since you submitted your research statement. It is possible that your research plans have changed over that period. Even if you think you have not amended your plans, reread your research statement to familiarize yourself with the specifics you proposed. Then, if there have been any changes (subtle or significant) make sure you communicate these with your host.

2. **Begin communicating with your host early and often.** Make sure your plans for your Fulbright term are concrete and detailed already before your arrival to Sweden. Discuss your plans with your host. The key at this stage is to not make any assumptions!
3. **Continue the conversation upon arrival.** The key to making the most of your grant period and to maintaining a productive relationship with your host will be to communicate clearly about expectations.

Students intending to pursue a graduate degree program in Sweden will need to provide a letter of acceptance/admission to their proposed degree program prior to the start of their Fulbright grant. This institutional affiliation should be more straightforward.