WWSC
WALLENBERG WOOD SCIENCE CENTER

WWSC Industrial postdoctoral program 2026

Application deadline: ~~July 15, 2026~~ Extended to Thursday Aug 13, 2026.

What is an Industrial postdoc?

An industrial postdoc conducts advanced research for two years while employed by a company, in either the private or public sector.

Conditions for Industrial postdoc projects

The industrial postdoc is employed by the company. The application must be prepared according to the "Proposal structure" as outlined in this call text and should clearly state, among other things, the scientific research question being addressed, how the collaboration will be carried out, the rationale for why the research leader and the company have chosen to collaborate, as well as an account of how the proposed project contributes to increased sustainability.

Funding conditions for Industrial postdocs within WWSC

The industrial postdoc is employed by the company and is expected to spend at least 20% of their working time at the university. For each approved project, a smaller financial contribution is also provided to the host university.

Evaluation process

The management of WWSC handles the applications. After an internal review, selected applications are sent to a group of experts who rank them based on content and quality. The final granting decision is made by the WWSC board.

Timeline

Application deadline: Thursday Aug 13, 2026 at 18:00 *(new deadline)*.
Applications should be submitted as a single pdf-file uploaded on this link. Send an e-mail to lindafo@kth.se and mavem@kth.se when you upload the application.

Decision: WWSC Board meeting in September; applicants will be notified no later than October 1, 2026

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Call for WWSC Industrial postdoctoral program 2026

Eligibility

This call is open for partnerships between academic and industrial researchers, where each proposal must include a main academic PI as well as a main industry PI.

The main industry PI must be employed by a Swedish company or company with substantial activity in Sweden and hold a PhD degree.

The academic PI must be a WWSC member.

If the academic PI currently has or has had WWSC-funded activities during the last three years, the proposal should demonstrate significant novelty in comparison to previous activities.

Evaluation

The project proposals will be handled by a select part of WWSC management and will be evaluated by a panel of experts appointed by the Board of WWSC. The final decisions will be taken by the Board of WWSC.

The proposals will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Project

- Relevance to WWSC
- Scientific excellence and novelty of the proposed research
- Feasibility
- Potential to collaborate with other WWSC-funded projects
- Relevance and significance of how the proposed project contributes to sustainability

Postdoc

- Scientific merits, considering academic age and relevant industrial experience.
- The application must include an identified candidate. The candidate must hold a permanent position by the applying industry at the time of application.

Industry and industrial PI

- Industrial partner's financial and operational conditions to actively participate in the project. This includes:
    - Number of employees (both total people and full-time-equivalents).
    - Number of employees who could reasonably act as industrial co-PI (in cases where main industry PI is not available).
    - Assurance that the proposed WWSC-funded postdoc is not also the CEO, CTO, or equivalent during the project period.
- The industrial partner should have considerable activity in Sweden.
- Merits of the industrial PI (publications, patents, management/ leadership experience, etc.), experience with collaborations with academia.

Academic PI

- Scientific merits taking into account academic age
- International research experience
- Pedagogical skills and merits
- Ability and experience to collaborate with academia and industry
- Postdoc–supervisor teams with representation from underrepresented genders are encouraged.

Proposal structure

The proposal should be composed in Times New Roman font, 12 pt, single-spaced text, and be structured as follows:

- Project description (max. 4 pages, excluding references)
    - Motivation, significance, and scientific challenges
        - Include a clear description of the visions and goals, the distinguishing features, and foci
        - Include a motivation for why a postdoc is most appropriate for the proposed project
- State of the art
- Scientific approach, methodology, and novelty
    - Describe the research contribution
- Preliminary and previous results
    - Include results from previous related projects, if applicable
- Research environment and supervision (time should be spent at both university and in industry)
    - Description of research environment and infrastructure (demonstrating feasibility of the proposed project)
    - Career development plan for the postdoc
    - List of key collaborators and their roles for the project. If applicable, describe the potential to collaborate with other WWSC projects
    - Brief description of the financial status of the participating industry during the project period (i.e., over a 2-year range for postdoc) (max. ~200 words)
- If you currently have or have had WWSC-funded activities during the last three years, your proposal should demonstrate significant novelty in comparison to your previous activities. Describe the proposal's relation to, and possible overlap with, existing activities. (max. 1 page)

Relevance and significance of sustainability aspects (max. 2 pages)

- Relevance to WWSC.
- Sustainability aspects
    - Description of how the project relates to UN's Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs)
    - Description should include advances/advantages as well as potential sustainability-related drawbacks or conflicts with other SDGs
- Sustainability significance/impact aspects
    - Description should include quantified impact or advances/advantages on sustainability.

    - Below are some <u>examples to consider, if applicable</u>, but not limited to:
      Life cycle analysis
      Input to the process in terms of recycled or upcycled material, biobased materials, and industrial symbiosis
      The use of persistent or hazardous chemicals that can cause harm or accumulate in a circular flow
      Impact on land-use and biodiversity
      Efficient manufacturing and energy use in manufacturing

Efficient water use
Output in terms of waste from production
Emissions to water or air, e.g., hazardous chemicals or noise
Energy and material efficiency
Efficient recycling

CV of the postdoc candidate, max 2 pages including:

- PhD year, and degree-awarding university
- Periods of leave (parental, health-related, etc.), if applicable
- List of past and ongoing projects in industry and academia if applicable
- Short descriptions of utilization, commercialization, outreach, pedagogical, or other activities of relevance (optional)
- List of publications (5-10 selected publications)
- Link to Google Scholar profile or similar

Letter of intent from the company, if applicable.

The postdoc candidate must be identified, but at time of proposal submission not necessarily employed at the applying industry. In case the candidate is not yet employed, include a letter of intent from the industrial partner to support the intention and timeline to employ the candidate.

CV of the industrial PI (main applicant), max 2 pages[1] including:

- Name, title, position, and affiliation
- Education
- Brief overview of projects, responsibilities, and previous interactions with academia
- Brief statement of management/leadership/supervision experience
- If applicable, describe any conflicts of interest
- Appendix may include:
- List of max 10 publications of relevance (no time limit, optional)
- List of patents (optional)
- Link to Google Scholar profile or similar (optional)

CV of the academic PI, max 2 pages[1] including:

- Name, title, and affiliation
- PhD year and degree-awarding university
- Previous positions (and relevant supervisors)
- Periods of leave (parental, health-related, etc.), if applicable
- List of ongoing grants/projects
- Short descriptions of utilization, commercialization, outreach, pedagogical, or other activities of relevance (optional)
- Number (not name list) of current and number of former PhD students, postdocs, and master students
- List of 10 publications including:
    - 5 most important publications (during past 15 active years)
    - 5 recent publications most relevant for the proposed project (during the past 7 active years)

[1] Excl references

- The PI should provide relevant bibliometric data and additional excellence markers of relevance to the proposed project.
- Link to Google Scholar profile or similar
- If applicable, describe any conflicts of interest

Responsibilities for principal investigators (industrial and academic)

Academic recipients of awarded proposals (i.e., applicant/ supervisor) are anticipated to engage in the WWSC program, including, e.g., attendance at WWSC Workshops and events, and to use WWSC affiliation and acknowledge KAW in publications (according to instructions on wwsc.se), conference presentations and in relevant communication channels, as well as to submit requested reports to WWSC's management.

Industry recipients of awarded proposals (i.e., applicant/ supervisor) will also be invited to WWSC Workshops and are expected to submit requested reports to WWSC's management.

Funding

Participating parties are expected to co-finance the project to the extent necessary for implementation. As WWSC is keen to know the extent of the industry's co-financing, this information will be requested during financial reporting.

Postdoc project (2 yrs full-time)

To the applying industry:

- Payment will be made after cost reporting. The total funding amounts to 1.9 MSEK per postdoc, disbursed in two annual payments of 950 kSEK. For SMEs, the total funding amounts to 2.4 MSEK, disbursed in two annual payments of 1,200 kSEK.

To the host university:

- Payment will be made after cost reporting. Up to 300 kSEK in total (during two years) to cover salary cost for one host, travel costs for the host, and consumables.
- The costs include a maximum compensation of up to 50% for social fees (LKP) and a maximum of 3.5% surcharge for premises and a maximum of 18.45% surcharge for indirect costs.