

New call - The Swedish Interdisciplinary Graduate School in Register-Based Research (SINGS)

The call will open on 23 February 2026 and close on 23 March 2026 at 14:00. Apply via [Prisma](#)

Context and aim

Swedish registers constitute a unique and powerful resource for research, enabling efficient and cost-effective investigations across a range of disciplines and thereby making a substantial contribution to improving public health and welfare. Structured graduate training is therefore essential for developing the next generation of researchers capable of leveraging these data. The Swedish Interdisciplinary Graduate School in Register-Based Research (SINGS) is a two-year programme designed to strengthen methodological, practical, ethical, and legal competencies in register-based research. Established in 2010, SINGS has played a key role in training emerging researchers, with continuous funding support from the Swedish Research Council.

SINGS is coordinated by Karolinska Institutet, and six other Swedish higher education institutions take part, namely Stockholm University, Lund University, Linköping University, Umeå University, Uppsala University and University of Gothenburg. The programme aims to develop deeper knowledge and skills, and to foster the ability to make informed judgements regarding how different data sources can and should be utilised in research, preparing students for careers in academia or other professional settings.

The programme has an interdisciplinary profile and fosters networking and collaboration across disciplines and sectors. With students and teachers coming from diverse research areas and varied professional and educational backgrounds, both challenges and opportunities arise. We embrace this diversity by cultivating a supportive environment that encourages students to establish cross-disciplinary and cross-sector relationships.

SINGS is of relevance to all quantitative research fields that use registers in research, including fields such as epidemiology, public health, sociology, demography, health economics, psychology, criminology, biostatistics, and other related disciplines in the medical and social sciences.

Approximately 25 students will be admitted through this call. Admission decisions will be announced in May 2026.

Objectives

The overall objectives below are further detailed in the course learning outcomes. Upon successful completion, the student is expected to be able to:

- demonstrate thorough knowledge of existing registers,
- demonstrate an ability to identify and formulate problems relevant to register-based research,
- demonstrate an ability to apply appropriate methods when undertaking research-based research,
- demonstrate a capacity to perform and assess register-based research, in compliance with legal and ethical principles,
- demonstrate methodological and practical skills necessary for register-based research, and,
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of register-based research.

Programme overview

The programme complements the mandatory courses required by the students' home university. SINGS aims to deepen knowledge and enhance skills on effective use of registers in research, making it relevant to all quantitative disciplines. It focuses on the methodological, practical, ethical, and legal aspects of the use of registers for research purposes. It includes a minimum of 10.5 higher education credits (HEC) and runs for two years, beginning in fall 2026.

Courses represent the major part and include seven core course weeks, integrating networking activities, collaborative-learning, and transferable skills. By creating a core curriculum for all students, we aim to build a shared knowledge base across a range of quantitative disciplines and sectors. The programme's activities offer unique opportunities for networking and are designed to facilitate communication among students, researchers, authorities, and other data-owning organisations. Elective courses (optional) and seminars are offered on a range of topics and levels, enabling individualised study plans.

After completing SINGS, students will be awarded with a certificate detailing how many credits they have earned, and a description of courses taken.

The school covers travel and accommodation costs for admitted students in connection with educational activities. Compensation in the form of salaries is not provided.

Core courses

"Key concepts and principles for design and critical interpretation of register-based studies" (4.5 HEC)

The purpose of this course is to provide participants with knowledge on how registers can and should be used for research purposes. This course will cover central concepts and principles for design and critical interpretation of register-based studies, taking ethical aspects and legal principles into consideration, and will be divided into three aligned modules.

Module 1, week 1:

"Central concepts, designs and methods in epidemiological and sociological life course research"

Dates: November 16-20, 2026, Stockholm

Module 2, week 2:

"Identification of data and analysis of bias in registers"

Dates: January 18-22, 2027, Online

Module 3, week 3:

"Ethical and legal aspects on using personal information in register based research"

Dates: Spring semester 2027, dates announced early fall 2026, Stockholm

"An introduction to data science for register-based research" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Fall semester 2027, location TBA

"Diagrams for causal inference from observational data" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Spring semester 2028, location TBA

"Writing and Presenting Successful Grant Applications" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Spring semester 2028, location TBA

"Longitudinal research methods: panel, growth curve, and sequence analysis" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Fall semester 2028, Stockholm

Elective courses, (examples, optional)

Subject to changes or cancellations in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

"Introduction to R" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Given annually, Karolinska Institutet

"Advanced course in SAS programming" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Given every third semester, Karolinska Institutet

"Design and analysis of twin and family-based studies" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Given every third semester, Karolinska Institutet

"Causal inference from observational data: emulating a target trial" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Given annually, Karolinska Institutet

"Fundamentals of statistical modeling" (1.5 HEC)

Dates: Given annually, Karolinska Institutet

Target group and eligibility

The target group is doctoral students involved in register-based research within their research training. Eligible applicants are doctoral students registered at a Swedish higher education institution or who will be registered latest September 30, 2026. Applicants should not have passed half-time of their doctoral education.

Assessment of applications

The applications are assessed by an interdisciplinary review panel comprising members with extensive expertise in teaching and conducting research based on register data and large-scale databases. The assessment of the applications is made based on four basic criteria: Scientific quality of the proposed research, Novelty and originality, Merits of the applicant, Feasibility). The first three criteria are assessed on a seven-point grading scale (i.e., Outstanding, Excellent, Very good to excellent, Very good, Good, Weak, Poor). The feasibility criterion is assessed on a three-grade scale (i.e., Feasible, Partly feasible, Not feasible). In addition, the application is evaluated using an additional criterion, namely, the project's relevance to the field of register-based research, and is assessed on a three-point grading scale (i.e., Relevant, Partly relevant, Not relevant).

Examples of aspects taken into consideration in the assessment of the doctoral project:

- The project's relevance to the field of register-based research.
- The project's novelty, originality, design, and its relation to the research forefront.
- The potential of the project to generate new knowledge, innovative ideas, and novel approaches.
- Whether the project is ethically and legally sound.
- The relevance and suitability of the proposed materials and methods for addressing the research question.
- The appropriateness of the general project design, including its timeline, for achieving the project objectives.
- The project's strengths and limitations, as well as potential alternative approaches.
- The supervisors' experience, skills, and scientific merits.
- The support available for the doctoral project, including statistical support, Postdoctoral researchers or other collaborators, as well as facilities, infrastructure, and other necessary resources.

Examples of aspects considered in relation to the applicant:

- The applicant's merits and competencies.
- The applicant's motivation for attending the graduate school, with consideration also given to the supervisor's motivation.
- The applicant's ability to clearly articulate the doctoral project.

Application

We encourage applicants to write their application and motivation letter in their own words, rather than relying on AI-generated or generic content.

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The application should be written in English and include the following documents:

1. A personal letter of motivation to participate in school activities, not exceeding one A4 page.
2. A description of the ongoing doctoral project, not exceeding three A4 pages.
3. A curriculum vitae for the doctoral student, not exceeding one A4 page.
4. A curriculum vitae for the main supervisor and each co-supervisor, not exceeding two A4 pages per person.
5. A list of all publications authored by the main supervisor.
6. A letter of motivation from the main supervisor, stating that the student is recommended and permitted to participate in courses and other activities (except in cases of emergency), not exceeding one A4 page.

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Website SINGS

The Swedish Interdisciplinary Graduate School in Register-Based Research (SINGS), local website: <http://ki.se/en/imm/swedish-interdisciplinary-graduate-school-in-register-based-research-sings>