

Programme description

The YGGDRASIL mobility programme: Funding for international Ph.D. students and younger researchers for research stays in Norway

As from the academic year 2009-2010, the Research Council of Norway is offering grants to highly qualified, international Ph.D. students and younger researchers in connection with research stays in Norway through the YGGDRASIL mobility programme.

Programme's name

The mobility programme takes its name from *Yggdrasil*, the immense ash tree from Norse mythology whose branches extend throughout the world and into the heavens.



Illustration: Oluf Olufsen Bagge, *Verdensbildet* (1847)

Objective

Much of the world's knowledge is produced outside of Norway. *International cooperation* is essential if Norwegian research is to achieve the quality and breadth needed to stay abreast of and benefit from the knowledge being developed. *Internationalisation* of research takes many forms – from participation in international scientific conferences and research networks to research stays and guest researchers who are invited to Norway to participation in international research cooperation. The Research Council provides practical as well as financial support that facilitates international mobility and the internationalisation of Norwegian research.

Through grant allocations, the YGGDRASIL mobility programme seeks to make Norway an attractive research destination for highly qualified international Ph.D. students and younger researchers while at the same time promoting the internationalisation of Norwegian research and strengthening Norwegian research communities.

Countries covered under the programme

The programme replaces previous exchange schemes established by the cultural agreements between Norway and other countries. While the exchange with China will continue for the academic year 2009-2010, exchanges with Finland and Iceland will not be covered under the new programme. The programme will therefore offer grants to the following 25 countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom

Applicant groups

The YGGDRASIL mobility programme is targeted at younger researchers, defined as:

- Those admitted to organised Ph.D. programmes;
- Those who have completed a Ph.D. degree within the past six years and are affiliated with a higher education and/or research institution.

Duration

The YGGDRASIL mobility programme will award the first grants for the academic year 2009-2010. The programme is open-ended and will be assessed after five years of activity at the latest.

Budget

The programme has an annual budget framework of about NOK 8 million, which is provided by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Subject areas

The YGGDRASIL mobility programme encompasses all subjects and disciplines.

Grant period

The programme offers grants for a period of one to ten months.

Rates

The YGGDRASIL mobility programme covers settling-in expenses and other expenses in connection with a research stay in Norway. The rates for 2009-2010 are:

- For Ph.D. students: NOK 12,000 per month, plus NOK 10,000 for settling-in expenses;
- For post-doctoral researchers: NOK 15,000 per month, plus NOK 10,000 for settling-in expenses.

Grant recipients from Egypt, India, Mexico and Turkey are also eligible to apply for up to NOK 7,000 to cover round-trip travel expenses.

The entire grant amount is paid out by the Research Council to the grant recipient in monthly instalments. No funding is available for accompanying family members.

Application procedures

International researchers must submit a personal grant application to the Research Council of Norway and attach an invitation from a Norwegian host institution. Universities, university colleges, museums and independent research institutes are eligible to serve as the host institution.

Grant allocations

The International Scholarship Section programme board takes the final decision on grant allocations.

Application deadline

The deadline for applying for grants under the YGGDRASIL mobility programme is in the spring for the following academic year. In 2009, the application deadline is 22 April for the academic year 2009-2010.