



Strategic Plan for the Swedish National Graduate School for Ageing and Health (SWEAH) 2022-2025

RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF SWEAH, 2022-04-20

SWEAH

SWEDISH NATIONAL GRADUATE SCHOOL ON AGEING AND HEALTH



Definitions

Interdisciplinary research: Mainly the problem-focused orientation of interdisciplinary research, which implies cross-disciplinary integration of different knowledge interests driven and motivated by societal problems. Interdisciplinary research implies that the disciplines involved in the collaboration are truly integrated, leading to refined or new theory and methods to address jointly defined research questions.

Transdisciplinary research: Builds upon pragmatic intersection of different disciplinary backgrounds with similar interests in interdisciplinary endeavours, extending to co-production of research with non-academic partners.

References:

- Frodeman, R. (Ed.). (2010). *The Oxford Handbook of Interdisciplinarity*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press.
- Lawrence, R. (2015). Advances in transdisciplinarity: Epistemologies, methodologies and processes. *Futures*, 65, 1-9.

Vision

An interdisciplinary and sustainable graduate school contributing to making Sweden and the world better for ageing

SWEAH is operating in an ecology with multiple layers at target for collaboration (Figure 1). Several mission statements and goals explicitly target specific layers for collaboration, but in all work towards the vision multiple layers are considered.

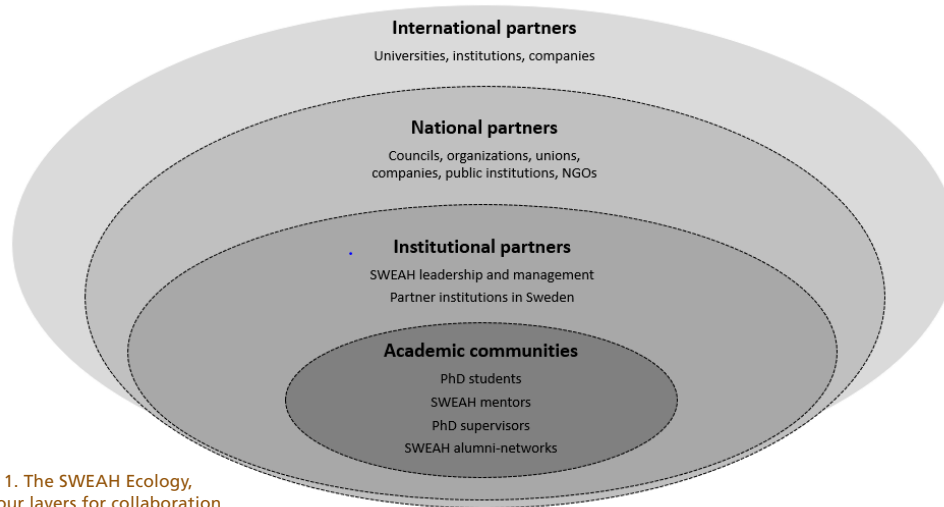


Figure 1. The SWEAH Ecology, with four layers for collaboration.

| Missions | Goals |
|---|------------------|
| SWEAH visibility and attractiveness | |
| 1. Strengthen the graduate school's attractiveness for PhD students and supervisors within and beyond the SWEAH partnership, thus increasing the recruitment base of future researchers with capacity for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research with potential to generate new knowledge for sustainable development related to ageing and health. | A, B, C, D, E, F |
| PhD students | |
| 2. Train PhD students to make cutting-edge contributions in research on ageing and health and prepare them for an interdisciplinary academic career. | D, G, H |
| 3. Make SWEAH PhD students attractive and employable in societal sectors beyond academia and clinical settings, to the benefit of the ageing population and society overall. | D, G, H |
| 4. Sustain and further develop an interdisciplinary learning environment for research on ageing and health of the highest quality, of national and international visibility and founded on principles of active student participation, peer-learning, and mentoring. | C, D, G |
| 5. Develop PhD students' awareness of and skills for interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research on ageing and health and promote such perspectives in their thesis projects, thus adding value to the ordinary research education curricula at the partner universities. | G, I, J |
| 6. Promote improved PhD student communication skills, networking, and personal and career development, through the lens of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, emphasizing the context of ageing and health and its implications. | G, I, J |
| Postdoctoral researchers | |
| 7. Provide networking opportunities and academic career support activities for postdoctoral researchers, emphasizing forms for influence and impact of research, innovation capacity, independence and leadership in the multi-faceted, international context of research on ageing and health. | K, L, M |
| 8. Make use of the postdoctoral engagement for progressive development of SWEAH. | K, L, M |
| Supervisors and senior researchers | |
| 9. Stimulate involvement of supervisors and senior researchers in the graduate school as teachers and mentors, emphasizing interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration, and mutual benefits of joint activities and networking. | G, K, M, P, Q, R |
| 10. Act as ambassadors for SWEAH, promoting the graduate school, its opportunities and activities. | E, F, H, K, P, R |
| National and international collaboration | |
| 11. Provide an infrastructure for strengthened national and international experience exchange and collaboration among researchers in ageing and health, including all academic career levels and with specific attention to the engagement of supervisors. | N, O, P, Q |
| 12. Establish possibilities for co-funding of interdisciplinary, novel and innovative PhD student projects/positions, supervised by teams of senior and junior researchers representing different disciplines, at several SWEAH partner universities. | N, O, P, Q |
| 13. Expand and strengthen the SWEAH partnership, offering possibilities for additional partners of different character – in Sweden and other Nordic countries as well – to join the consortium. | F, S |
| 14. Develop and establish international exchange and partnerships in graduate education and postdoctoral training in ageing and health. | F, O, P, T, U, V |

Goals

- A. Increase the annual number of applications for PhD Student affiliations, reaching at least 25 per year.
- B. Continuously have about 50 PhD students affiliated, recruited in competition with scientific quality as the main criterion.
- C. Increase the publication of scientific original papers on experiences, results, and outcomes of SWEAH in international journals.
- D. Develop and strengthen the communication of PhD student work as well as experiences, results and outcomes of SWEAH towards making societal impact, targeting a diversity of audiences using different modes of communication, nationally and internationally.
- E. Make SWEAH known and visible within and beyond the 13-partner consortium.
- F. Expand the SWEAH consortium to include additional universities and other relevant partners in Sweden and explore interest for joining among universities in other Nordic countries.
- G. Sustain and develop SWEAH Core Curriculum, with a set of mandatory annual courses for affiliated students, open for external students when possible.
- H. Make SWEAH visible as an attractive and competent partner, establishing collaboration with political and public authorities with mandate to develop initiatives and services targeting the ageing population.
- I. Sustain and develop SWEAH PhD student days and related activities, with a high degree of active student participation in the planning and execution.
- J. Provide teaching and learning activities to promote PhD students' skills for communication and knowledge translation of research on ageing and health.
- K. Develop efficient collaboration and networking strategies on different levels within the SWEAH Ecology (Figure 1), involving PhD students, supervisors, postdoctoral researchers, and senior researchers, towards sustainable development regarding ageing and health.
- L. Encourage and support SWEAH alumni to develop and establish a network for postdoctoral researchers.
- M. Sustain and develop SWEAH courses, postdoctoral assignments and mentorship activities.
- N. Attain external funding to co-finance interdisciplinary PhD student projects/positions.
- O. Provide PhD student as well as postdoctoral scholarships for internationalization.
- P. Develop and sustain a biennial Master Class on Ageing and Health, with international collaboration.
- Q. Establish a system for supervision collaboration and secondments at other partner universities for PhD students within the SWEAH consortium.
- R. Provide possibilities for collaboration and mutual learning, involvement in national and international graduate education, mentor training and networking activities targeting supervisors and senior researchers.
- S. Identify relevant graduate schools in other countries and explore possibilities for collaboration and partnerships.
- T. Advertising SWEAH Core Curriculum courses for participants from abroad.
- U. Explore possibilities to affiliate PhD students from universities abroad.
- V. Explore Nordic and European funding possibilities, additional to SWEAH's national co-funding model to secure sustainable funding.

About SWEAH

From 2014 to 2021, the Swedish National Graduate School on Ageing and Health (SWEAH) was funded by the Swedish Research Council. From 1 January 2022, SWEAH will be funded by a consortium of 13 Swedish higher education institutions. SWEAH's vision is to contribute knowledge about ageing and health, with particular consideration for the complexity of ageing in the society of today and tomorrow.

The graduate school continuously develops and establishes a core curriculum for affiliated doctoral students, as well as a range of open courses and other activities. By the end of 2022, 103 doctoral students had been affiliated to the graduate school, of which 60 have defended their theses.

The National graduate school for Ageing and Health, SWEAH,
is financed by the following partner institutions.



