

# THE SWEDEN-AMERICA FOUNDATION

SVERIGE-AMERIKA STIFTELSEN



Annual Report 2020

Founded in 1919



The 2020 Sweden-America Foundation Fellows.

For more information, please see the Swedish version.

## THE SWEDEN-AMERICA FOUNDATION

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## The Sweden-America Foundation

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The Sweden-America Foundation is a non-profit organization that makes academic studies and research in the United States and Canada possible for gifted Swedish students through fellowships and other forms of assistance.

These students return to Sweden with knowledge, contacts, ideas, and experiences of great importance for Swedish research, business and society at large.

The Sweden-America Foundation's range of activities include:

- The Fellowship Program – presenting fellowships for research and graduate level education in the United States and Canada.
- Providing information about higher education in the United States and Canada.



Nobel Prize laureates among  
The Sweden-America Foundation alumni

Hugo Theorell, Medicine 1955

Hannes Alfvén, Physics 1970

Bertil Ohlin, The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in  
Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 1977

Kai Siegbahn, Physics 1981

Sune Bergström, Medicine 1982

Arvid Carlsson, Medicine 2000

Nobel Prize Medal image used with kind permission:

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# The 2020 Sweden-America Foundation Fellows

## **Sebastian Andersson**

Master studies, Urban Planning

Columbia University

Donor: Stiftelsen Roland Nilssons stipendiefond, Thanks To Scandinavia

## **Cathrine Axfors**

Postdoc studies, Meta-Research Innovation Center

Stanford University

Donor: Borgrättsfonderna

## **Hamid Behjat**

Postdoc studies, Biomedical Engineering Harvard University.

Donor: Stiftelsen ASEAs stipendiefond, Ingemar Dörfer

## **Katarina Bendtz**

Postdoc studies, computational neuroscience, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA.

Donor: Stiftelsen ASEAs stipendiefond

## **Måns Berglund**

LLM-studies

Columbia University

Donor: Borgsättsfonderna

## **Adel Daoud**

Postdoctoral research, Department of Sociology and the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University.

Donor: Ernst O Eks fond

## **Johanna Eriksson**

Graduate studies, Management and computer science, Stanford University

Donor: Elof Hanssons stiftelse

## **Viviane Forsberg**

Postdoc studies, Engineering Physics,

Northwestern University

Donor: Stiftelsen Roland Nilssons stipendiefond

## **Aram Ghalali**

Postdoc studies, toxicology

Boston Children's Hospital, Harvard Medical school.

Donor: Tetra Laval

## **Arvid Guterstam**

Postdoc studies, cognitive neuroscience

Princeton University

Donor: Ernst O Eks fond; Prins Bertils stipendium

## **Maria Lemdal Sjöstrand**

Postdoc studies, immunotherapy

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Donor: Ernst O Eks fond

## **Ellen Nohle**

Master studies, Law

Yale University

Donor: Ernst O Eks fond; Mariana Burénstam Linders stipendium, Thanks To Scandinavia

## **Ludwig Schmitz**

Doctoral studies, Comparative Literature New York University

Donor: Sten Westerbergs stipendium

## **Bahira Shahim**

Postdoctoral Studies, interventional cardiovascular Research Foundation Columbia University in the City of New York

Donor: Ingegerd and Viking Olov Björks

Scholarship Trust

## **Ambjörn Sjörs**

Postdoc studies, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations

University of Chicago

Donor: Borgrättsfonderna

## **Emma Truvé\***

Master-studier, Tandon School of Engineering

New York University

Donor: Stockholms Grosshandelssocietet

*Grants awarded 2020, which due to the covid-19 pandemic, are postponed and intended to be requisitioned in 2021:*

## **Noura Alkhalili**

Postdoc studies, Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian and African Studies Columbia University

Donor: Stiftelsen Roland Nilssons stipendiefond

## **Alexandra Alvarsson\***

Postdoc studies, Neuroscience and diabetes Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Donor: Ernst O Eks fond

## **Lina Andersson**

Doctoral studies, Game Theory and Behavioral Economics

Columbia University

Donors: Stiftelsen Bergsingenjör Axel

Ax:son Johnsons stipendiefond, Stiftelsen

Hans Werthéns stipendiefond

## **Nina Carlsson**

Doctoral studies, Political Science

Queen's University

Donor: Ernst O Eks fond

## **Elizabeth Castaldo Lundén**

Postdoc studies, Media

University of Southern California

Donor: Anders Zorns stipendiefond

## **Cissi Efraimsson**

M.F.A. studies, Film/Video

California Institute of the Arts

Donor: Anders H. Pers stipendium

## **Ann Eklund**

Postdoctoral research visit, Human Dimensions of Natural Resources

Colorado State University, Fort Collins,

Donor: Stiftelsen Roland Nilssons stipendiefond

## **Hanna Erixon Aalto**

Postdoc studies, urban planning

University of California Los Angeles

Donor: Stiftelsen Roland Nilssons stipendiefond

## **Mikaela Görllin**

Postdoc studies, Renewable fuels and batteries

Massachusetts institute of Technology

Donor: Borgrättsfonderna

## **Alfred Jimenez Villafana**

Doctoral studies, Composition

University of California San Diego

Donor: Fritz O Fernströms stipendiefond, JP

Seeburgs stipendiefond

## **Robert Pettersson**

Postdoc studies, Colorado School of Mines

Donor: Ingegerd and Viking Olov Björks

Scholarship Trust

## **Otto Simonsson**

Postdoc studies, Psychology

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Donor: J Sigfrid Edströms stipendiefond

## **Emma Truvé**

Master studies, Tandon School of Engineering

New York University

Donor: Stockholms Grosshandelssocietet

## **Alfred Wahlfors**

Master studies, management science & engineering

Harvard University

Donor: Familjen Mix Entreprenörstiftelse

## **The Lawrenceville School**

Siri Larsson Regnström

## **Augustana College**

Erik Pettersson

## **Stiftelsen Nils Björkmans minnesfond**

Cajsa Leffler\*\*

\*\*Paid during 2020

## Organization

### Patron

H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf

### Board of Directors

The 2020 Board of Directors:

Christian Salamon  
Chair

Magnus Sjöqvist  
First Deputy Chair

Katarina Bonde

Mariana Burenstam Linder

Henrik Ekelund

Håkan Ekström

Anders Flodström

Reinhold Geijer

Lage Jonason

Jenny Jonsson

Magnus Nilsson

Olle Wästberg



Magnus Nilsson, founder and chairman of iZettle, joined the board of directors.

### Board of Trustees

*Elected until 2021*

Martin Börresen

Boel Flodgren

Lars Gårdö

Birgitta Johansson-Hedberg

Christina Lampe-Önnerud

Svante Lindqvist

Kenneth Macartney

Kay W Olson

Lisbet Rausing

Björn Savén

Elisabeth Tarras-Wahlberg

Lars Thunell

Udo Zander

*Elected until 2022*

Viveca Ax:son Johnson

Bengt Braun

Mariana Burenstam Linder

Claes Dahlbäck

Gustaf Douglas

Göran Ennerfelt

Sverker Johansson

Fredrik Lundberg

Rolf Lundén

Anders H Pers

Sten Westerberg

Olle Wästberg

*Elected until 2023*

Pär Arvidsson

Bengt Baron

Dag Blanck

Karin Forseke

Christer Fuglesang

Sven Hindrikes

Larry Leksell

Sture Lindmark

Anders Ljungh

Annika Rembe

Magnus Sjöqvist

Madeleine Sjöstedt

Hans T:son Söderström

### Research, Doctoral and Graduate Fellowship Committee

Anders Flodström

Chair

Bo Dimert

Erling Norrby

Daniel Tarschys

Anna Rosvall Stuart

Tiina Rosenberg  
(acting member, 2020)

### The Lawrenceville Committee

Frances Broman

Patrik Engellau

Anna Rosvall Stuart



Håkan Ekström (SUNY, 1982) is managing partner, Sweden, Odgers Berndtson, and was elected to the board of directors.

### The Augustana Committee

Dag Blanck

Helena Törnkvist

Anna Rosvall Stuart

### Staff

Anna Rosvall Stuart

Executive Director

Mattias Schulstad

### Revision

Peter Nilsson

Auditor, PWC

Peter Danowsky

Auditor, Danowsky & Partners

Elin Götling Christiansson

Deputy Auditor, PWC

Kenth Skogsvik,

Deputy Auditor, Stockholm School of Economics

## Legacy, Mission and Operations

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The Sweden-America Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1919 on the initiative of Swedish leaders of science, religion, business, politics, and the arts. Among the founders and founding Members of the Board were scientists and Nobel laureates Svante Arrhenius and Theodor Svedberg; Archbishop and Nobel laureate Nathan Söderblom; banker and industrialist Jacob Wallenberg; industrialist and businessman Axel Ax:son Johnson; Prime Minister Hjalmar Branting; author Selma Lagerlöf; and painter Anders Zorn.

According to the Foundation's statutes, the objectives are to "work for the development of a relationship between Sweden, on the one hand, and the United States of America and Canada on the other, by promoting the exchange of scientific, cultural and practical experiences between the countries and in particular through presenting fellowships to young men and women for research, post graduate and graduate level studies in the USA and Canada."

The Sweden-America Foundation administers fifteen permanent funds. The returns from fourteen of the funds are used to finance fellowships. These funds are:

Anders Zorn's Fellowship Fund  
Asea's Fellowship Fund  
Kooperativa Förbundet's Fellowship Fund  
J Sigfrid Edström's Fellowship Fund  
J P Seeburg's Fellowship Fund  
Fritz O Fernström's Fellowship Fund  
Hans Werthén's Fellowship Fund  
Axel Ax:son Johnson's Fellowship Fund  
Ernst O Ek's Fund  
Roland Nilsson's Fellowship Fund

Nils Björkman's Memorial Fund  
Prince Bertil's Fund\*  
Ingemar Dörfer's Fellowship Fund for studies at Harvard University  
The Bicentennial Swedish-American Exchange Fund  
The Mix Family Entrepreneur Foundation

The Sweden-America Foundation is dependent upon donations from Swedish companies, organizations and private individuals. The range of activities include:

### The Fellowship Program

Fellowships are awarded for research, post graduate and graduate level education in the United States and Canada, with funding from the fellowship funds, partners, companies, organizations and private individuals.

The Sweden-America Foundation has Swedish and American partner institutions with which it collaborates within the Fellowship program. These are:

- The Borgrätts Fund, which is administered by The Marshall of the Realm, at the Royal Court in Stockholm. Each year The Sweden-America Foundation nominates candidates for fellowships announced by this fund.
- Thanks To Scandinavia (New York). Each year Thanks To Scandinavia offers fellowships to the Scandinavian countries in gratitude for their efforts to save Jews during World War II.

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\* Prince Bertil's Fund is to be used to support and promote the Sweden-America Foundation's long-term operation. The returns should be used as a financial support for its activities.

The Sweden-America Foundation annually nominates candidates for two fellowships.

### Other Programs

The Sweden-America Foundation administers one high school scholarship for studies at The Lawrenceville School and scholarships to Augustana College in Illinois. Corresponding organizations in the Nordic countries are Danmark-Amerika Fondet (dormant), Finland-Amerika Föreningarnas Förbund, Island-Amerika Förbundet samt Norge-Amerika Foreningen.

## Fellowship Donations and Financial Contributions

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### Fellowship Donations

Elof Hansson Foundation  
Ingegerd & Viking Olov Björk Fellowship Trust  
Peter Baldwin & Lisbet Rausing  
Stockholms Grosshandelssocietet  
Tetra Laval  
Anders H. Pers  
Sten Westerberg

### Financial Contributions

Augustana College  
Elof Hanssons Foundation  
Alfa Laval  
Ingegerd & Viking Olov Björk Fellowship Trust  
Peter Baldwin & Lisbet Rausing  
Handelsbanken  
Sture Hedlund  
Jeanette & Harald Mix Charitable Trust

The Tercentenary Foundation  
 Stena AB  
 Stockholms Grosshandels societeten  
 Tetra Laval  
 The Ministry of Education and Research  
 Sten Westerberg  
 All members of the board of directors

## The Annual Report for 2020 Presented by the Board of Directors and the Executive Director

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During the 101st year of the Foundation, were:

- A total of 29 fellowships with a value of approximately 6,7 MSEK awarded for higher education and research in the United States and Canada. Several requisitions were postponed due to the pandemic.
- Two students awarded scholarships to Augustana College. One declined and one decided to postpone until the fall semester of 2021. A high school student was appointed a fellow to The Lawrenceville School, and postponed the start of studies until the autumn term 2021 in consultation with the school.

### Events During the Year

On January 29, 2020, a reception was given by the Swedish Consulate General in New York, at the Swedish residence. The evening's program was opened by Consul General Annika Rembe, followed by the Foundation's Executive Director Anna Rosvall Stuart. The speaker of the evening was the philosopher and author Martin Hägglund (SUNY, 2003), today a tenured pro-

fessor at Yale University. Martin Hägglund talked about his new book *This Life*, which during the year was also published in Swedish and attracted a lot of attention.

In February, the world was hit by the covid-19 pandemic, and the rest of the year the Foundation's activities and meetings were held digitally. The work at the office was mainly conducted from home in accordance with the Swedish Public Health Agency's recommendations.

Digital meetings were held regularly with this year's fellows to support the unexpected obstacles that the pandemic posed.

The annual meeting was held as a conference call on April 23, 2020, and with about thirty present. Our autumn event, Homecoming, dealt with the 2020 American Presidential election with Professor Dag Blanck and board member Olle Wästberg as keynote speakers, flanked by a few fellows on the ground in the United States. About forty people joined from their screens.

### The Fellowship Program

The announcement of the 2020/21 fellowships for master's and doctoral studies at universities in the USA and Canada resulted in 73 applications, of which 71 were eligible to apply and of these, 69 applications were ranked by experts. The fellowship applications received have been assessed by 23 senior subject experts at Swedish universities and colleges. The Foundation's fellowship committee under Chair Professor Anders Flodström made the final selection, after which the board approved the fellowship list for the academic year 2020/2021.

For the academic year 2020/21, the fellowship committee appointed a total of 29 fellowship recipients, 17 women and 12 men. Of these, one fellow will

study in Canada.

Fellowship funds were obtained from:

The Sweden-America Foundation Fellowship Fund	SEK	2 500 000
Donations from Swedish businesses and organizations	SEK	2 000 000
The Borgrätts Funds	SEK	900 000
Thanks To Scandinavia	USD	40 000
Tuition waivers	c. USD	152 000

After completing studies or research, a travel report must be submitted. During the year, 9 reports from previous fellows were submitted. The reports are written from both a formal and personal point of view and express a great deal of gratitude. Access to world-leading authorities from various faculties as well as unique and expensive equipment, the creation of important scientific networks within the academic world and, not least, the experience of the North American world that even outside the academy makes an impression on life. Read excerpts from travel reports here in the annual report.

### Other programs

In 2020, a Swedish high school student received the Lawrenceville School scholarship, which is a scholarship at the high school level. The number of applicants was 9. The start of studies was postponed until the next academic year and therefore no Lawrenceville School scholarship was announced for the 2021/22 academic year. Two scholarships were awarded to Augustana College for undergraduate studies. Due to the pandemic, one of the scholarship recipients declined, and the other postponed the start of studies until 2021. A total of five applications were sent to the Foundation. Scholarships

from the Nils Björkman Memorial Fund are awarded every year. The scholarship was awarded to a student from Halmstad. Within the framework of the Bicentennial Swedish-American Exchange Fund, this year's two beneficiaries were allowed to postpone their respective stays until 2021 due to the pandemic.

#### **Board of Directors, Board of Trustees, Auditors and Office**

The board of directors consisted of eleven members in 2020 until the annual meeting when two more board members were elected: Håkan Ekström, Managing Partner at Odgers Berntson, and the Foundation's alumni from SUNY 1982 for bachelor's studies, and Magnus CW Nilsson, chairman of the board and founder of IZettle. Both of the two new board members have a degree from the Stockholm School of Economics. The Board held six minuted meetings during the year.

For 13 of the board of trustees' 39 members, the term of office expired in 2020. Britt-Marie Bertilsson and Ingegerd Palmer abstained from re-election, and Beate Sydhoff deceased. New trustees were elected: Christer Fuglesang, Astronaut and professor at KTH, the Swedish Institute's director general Marianne Sjöstedt, and Laurent "Larry" Leksell, chairman, Elekta. Authorized Public Accountant has been Peter Nilsson, PWC, Deputy Auditor has been Authorized Public Accountant Elin Götling Christiansson, PWC. Layman internal auditor Lawyer Peter Danowsky remained, as did Deputy Auditor Professor Kenth Skogsvik. Anna Rosvall Stuart is the Foundation's Executive Director, and she has worked with Mattias Schulstad at the office.

#### **Financial Position**

The Sweden-America Association Foundation manages fourteen affiliated foundations. Each foundation submits its own annual report. The Mix Family En-

trepreneurship Foundation has its own annual report and investment policy.

The Sweden-America Foundation operates with limited financial resources. The Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees fulfill their assignments without compensation. The same applies to the members of the Foundation's Fellowship Committee as well as the large number of experts who review fellowship applications. The foundation is dependent on donations and grants from companies, organizations and individuals. The Foundation's board members have decided that they themselves are all donors to the Foundation's activities.

During the year, the Foundation was able to decide to award scholarships to a total value of approximately SEK 6.7 million (approximately SEK 7 million, in 2019) to 29 Swedish students and researchers for higher studies in the USA and Canada (as well as some younger students with scholarship for school fees). Decisions remain for 12 months for those fellows who have postponed the start of studies due to pandemic. Fellowship donors are expected to contribute 10% of the fellowship amount as compensation to the foundation's scholarship administration.

According to a government decision, an important grant was given to the Sweden-America Foundation from the Ministry of Education as operational support in 2020. Thanks in part to this, grants from donors go undivided to the scholarship activities.

Contributions to Sweden-America The foundation's activities amounted to approximately SEK 1.3 million (approximately SEK 1.6 million, as well as Centennial gifts, approximately SEK 600,000, in 2019).

At the end of 2020, the Foundation managed approximately SEK 141.5 million (SEK 139 million, in

2019), an increase of 2.5%. The investment committee has met quarterly. The Mix Family Entrepreneurship Foundation is not part of the joint administration.

For individual members, the annual fee in 2020 was SEK 150. The fee for permanent membership has been SEK 2,250. The foundation expresses a warm thank you to all companies, foundations, organizations and private individuals who through fellowship donations, operating grants or other help have made the Sweden-America Foundation's work possible during the year..