



Stockholm Academic Forum
Annual Report 2019

Introduction

It comes as no surprise to any of us that knowledge is more important than ever, and a scientific mindset is the best vehicle for informed decisions. A scientific mindset does not come from out of the blue, it is developed through reflection, critical thinking, and analysis. When paired with creativity and boldness, fundamental ingredients toward a better society are in place. Stockholm is a place where the necessary ingredients can be combined in novel ways. With 18 universities in Stockholm, plenty of knowledge is constantly produced. These higher education institutions are constantly producing and re-producing a knowledge culture – a state of mind. Such mindsets are crucial for our societies to develop in positive directions and Stockholm Academic Forum is an excellent platform to gather and highlight excellence and knowledge in one body. Together we stand, divided we fall. With the challenges we are facing, collaboration is surely the way forward. I want to thank you all for contributing to making Stockholm the bustling, knowledge intense city it is.

*Lars Strannegård,
Chairman of the Board*

Stockholm Academic Forum Annual Report 2019

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Our Mission

Stockholm Academic Forum's mission is to promote Stockholm as a place of academic excellence and to cultivate networking and dialogue between the universities located in Stockholm, the City of Stockholm, and other stakeholders by bringing together 18 universities and the City into a network.

For centuries, the Academia has cultivated knowledge. It has developed methods to share knowledge, think across boundaries, and advance new approaches to address the changes humanity has faced and continues to face. Knowledge plays a crucial role in the development and welfare of a society.

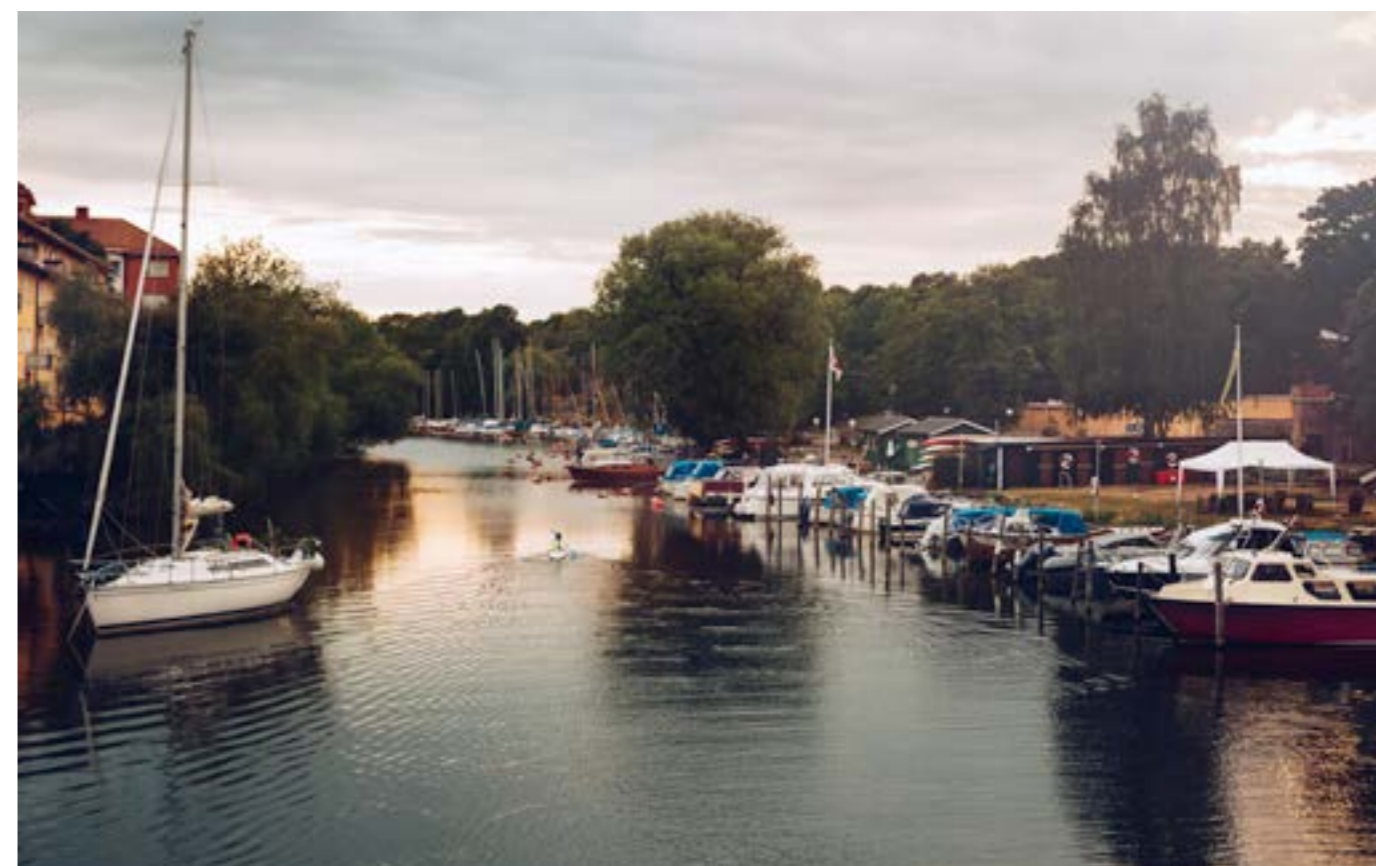
Compared to other cities, Stockholm ranks high in creativity, cutting-edge innovation, economic stability, equality, sustainability, social climate, and level of education. Here you will find 18 universities and university colleges, a highly-educated population, national and international companies with a high degree of innovation, a variety of incubators as

well as first-class research infrastructures. Stockholm's values makes it both unique and attractive, nationally and internationally.

In 2019, Stockholm Academic Forum focused on strengthening the work with strategic PR and outreach. One goal was to reach a larger audience for our business intelligence and data which we present in our reports about academia in Stockholm. The other goal was to develop our platform, 'Study in Stockholm' to become a relevant content-based website with increased social media presence.

Another focus during 2019, was to grow Stockholm Dual Career Network with more new members, new affiliated companies and an engaging range of social and professional activities for the members.

This Annual Report presents the different endeavors of Stockholm Academic Forum and the accomplishments thereof in 2019.



Reaching Out

Communication is a crucial element in Stockholm Academic Forum's work. Our overall goal is to promote Stockholm as a destination of academic excellence as well as highlight the importance of academia in today's society. We have focused mostly on international students and scholars in order to attract global talent to Sweden's capital.

In 2019, we continued our work with strategic PR that we started in 2018. By launching three new reports we worked actively to present them in new ways; through texts, charts, films and with extra material on a specially designed web page for reports. This active engagement with media led to us being featured in news reports on Swedish Radio, TV, daily press, and also in Chinese media.

Digital communication across different channels is our main and most cost-effective tool. Stockholm Academic Forum operates three different websites. First, the website for the organization, staforum.se, presents our members and our activities. Our second website is, studyinstockholm.se. This website is continuously updated to cover relevant and engaging topics related to being an international student in Stockholm. The third website is the one for Stockholm Dual Career Network, sdcn.se.

During 2019 we had a special focus on the concept 'Study in Stockholm' to transform it to an active channel, both as a website and in social media (Instagram and Facebook). The website has been transformed from an informative, rather static site, to be a more dynamic site with content tailored

for and by the target audience: international students. The website, Instagram and Facebook are associated channels, partly run by student guest editors. This has resulted in a different user behaviour, the users stay longer, the users return to the site, and more users are situated in Stockholm. This means that the site is helpful for both international students in Stockholm and prospective international students around the world. Furthermore collaboration with the social media editors at the universities, working for the same goal, has been developed.

Apart from news reports, and digital traffic, we have seen an increased interest in our activities from other organizations as well.

DIGITAL PLATFORMS


A SELECTION OF THE TOP OUTREACH DURING

2019

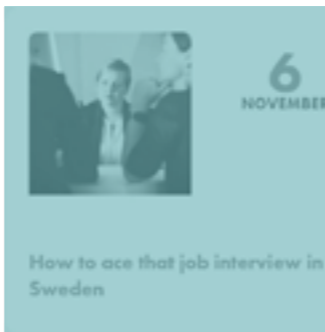
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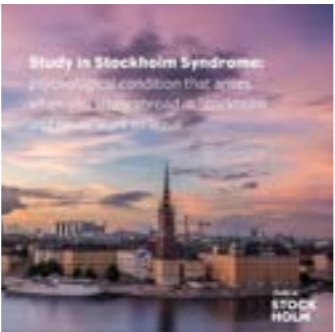
STUDY IN STOCKHOLM

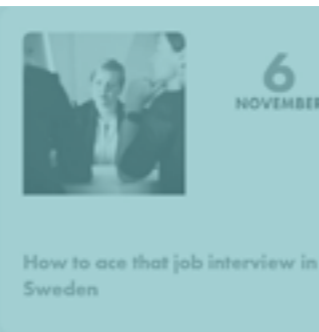


SDCN











OUTREACH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEDIA

| DATE | MEDIA | SUBJECT | COUNTRY | VIEWS |
|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------|
| 19 FEB | Dagens Industri | Student Mobility | SWE | 399 412 |
| 9 FEB | Sveriges Radio Ekot | Student Mobility | SWE | 846 435 |
| 19 FEB | Expressen | Student Mobility | SWE | 2 927 000 |
| 22 FEB | The Local | Student Mobility | SWE | 506 747 |
| 22 FEB | Dagens Industri | Student Mobility | SWE | 328 000 |
| 22 FEB | Xinhua News Agency | Student Mobility | CHN | NA |
| 22 FEB | China Plus (CRI) | Student Mobility | CHN | 2 687 851 |
| 23 FEB | Omni | Student Mobility | SWE | 496 000 |
| 23 FEB | SVT | Student Mobility | SWE | 1 358 769 |
| 23 FEB | SvD | Student Mobility | SWE | 2 665 000 |
| 23 FEB | Metro | Student Mobility | SWE | 352 433 |
| 25 FEB | Nouvelles du Monde | Student Mobility | FRA | NA |
| FEB | Nöjesguiden: Studentspecial | Student Mobility | SWE | 150 000 |
| 1 MAR | University World News | Student Mobility | Global | 1 000 000 |
| 8 MAR | Dagens Industri | She Figures | SWE | 399 412 |
| 31 OCT | Dagens Industri | Doctoral Students | SWE | 399 412 |
| 31 OCT | SvD Näringsliv | Doctoral Students | SWE | 2 665 000 |
| 31 OCT | The Local | Doctoral Students | SWE | 506 747 |
| 31 OCT | Sveriges Radio Ekot | Doctoral Students | SWE | 846 435 |
| 31 OCT | Radio Sweden (SR) | Doctoral Students | Global | 846 435 |
| 1 NOV | Radio Sweden (SR) | SDCN | Global | 846 435 |

This is a list of national and international media outlets that featured us, in connection with the three reports that we published. The number of "views" is the average outreach in the specific media.

Stockholm Dual Career Network

Stockholm Dual Career Network (SDCN) is a network for the partners and spouses of international employees working at the network's affiliated organizations. SDCN helps its members settle in Stockholm, look for work, discover Swedish culture, and broaden their social and professional networks with the main target of facilitating the job searching process in Stockholm.

In 2019, 223 new members from 57 different countries joined the Stockholm Dual Career Network. One new big company joined the group: Spotify. Apart from the university affiliates, the company affiliates at the end of the year were Klarna, Truecaller, iZettle, King, Kognity, Northvolt, and Spotify. These companies face the same challenges as the universities: they need to attract and retain an international workforce. According to us, the key is to view recruitment as hiring not just one person but facilitating a 'dual' career, by taking into account that high-level professionals often have highly-educated partners with careers of their own.

The main goal for SDCN is to support its members as they settle down in Stockholm. SDCN's activities are tailored to aid members in finding jobs, discovering Swedish business culture and traditions, and broadening their professional and social networks. Members are offered Swedish language courses, career support and a range of different professional and social activities.

We regularly get positive feedback from SDCN members who found jobs, succeeded in finding funding for their own research, or started their own business, that took them considerably shorter time than it would have without the network's support.

SDCN's efforts have garnered recognition from the British organization, Corporate Vision, which recognizes innovation and excellence in the HR sector. SDCN was awarded in the category, Corporate Coaching and Recruitment Awards in 2019, for – 'Leading Provider of CV Writing Workshops in Sweden' and 'Excellence Award in Language Training'.



SDCN members at a career development event.



LinkedIn training session with recruitment specialists from Klarna.

223

NEW MEMBERS

15

CAREER DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

14

SOCIAL EVENTS

36

CAREER SUPPORT GROUPS

29

SPRÅKCAFÉ

3x16

SWEDISH LESSONS



Stockholm Explorative Talks

On October 14th the second edition of Stockholm Explorative Talks took place. The event was organized by Stockholm Academic Forum in collaboration with the Nobel Prize Museum and was official part of Nobel Calling Stockholm 2019.

We asked a team of scholars the following question: “What happens to a scientific conversation when imagination helps researchers change their perspective?”

Professor Micael Dahlen at Stockholm School of Economics and Karina Ericsson Wärn, Vice-Chancellor at Beckmans College of Design had been appointed as curators and led the discussions. We had asked the curators to actually stage the conversation, challenge academic borders and explore what can be achieved by bringing together scholars from different disciplines with unconventional methods.

The event was held at the Royal College of Music in Stockholm before an audience of 100 scholars from 16 of Stockholm’s 18 universities, juniors as well as seniors and from the full range of disciplines that characterize the university city of Stockholm.

“The Team” of scholars consisted of (from the left): Mattia Bianchi, Stockholm School of Economics; Nanda Wijermans, Stockholm Resilience Center at Stockholm University; Sabina Čehajić-Clancy, Sarajevo School of Science and Technology and affiliated to Stockholm University; Sanna Kuoppamäki, KTH Royal Institute of Technology; Alex Nowitz, previously at Stockholm University of the Arts; Alessandro Petti, Royal Institute of Art; and the curator Karina Ericsson Wärn. The co-curator Micael Dahlen is missing in the photograph.



Welcome to Stockholm!

Reception for International Scholars

Every year, there are new arrivals from all over the world to the universities and higher education institutions in Stockholm to enroll for a PhD programme, do their post-doc, or collaborate with colleagues in the same field on a research project. Some of them are recruited as professors or assistant professors. This influx is crucial to a high-quality academic environment. It is important, yet easily overlooked, to show appreciation for these scholars and tell them that we value their presence. Therefore Stockholm Academic Forum and the City Council of Stockholm organize a welcome reception at the City Hall for the international scholars who have arrived in Stockholm during the year, together with their spouse/partner.

The fourth edition of the reception for international scholars took place on December 2nd in the Golden Hall at the Stockholm City Hall. Altogether 180 guests, international scholars from the universities in Stockholm and their partners, attended the reception.

It is a generous and meaningful gesture from the City of Stockholm to host such an event. The Vice Chairman of the City Council, Rana Nasrindotter, hosted the event. The Deputy President of KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Mikael Östling, represented the universities.

During the reception, we presented the second International SDCN Talent of the Year Award. The recipient of the award for 2019, was Mehdi Attarpour from Iran, now employed at 3 Sverige. The award was created to recognize an SDCN member who has been successful in her/his professional development in Stockholm and active in the Stockholm Dual Career Network.

The music at the reception was performed by a string quartet, who were students from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm.

Reception for International Students

The reception for international students at the Stockholm City Hall has also become an appreciated tradition for more than ten years. On October 13th, 500 international students were invited to the City Hall for a welcoming ceremony followed by a traditional Swedish Fika in the Golden

Hall. Rana Nasrindotter, Vice President of the Stockholm City Council, hosted the reception where the students were welcomed to Stockholm with a classic Swedish Fika. During the ceremony they also got to listen to the story of a fellow international student in Stockholm, Neggi Khalessi, a dental student from the UK.

After the reception at the City Hall, the students were invited to the Nobel Prize Museum. The 2019 Nobel Prizes were announced in the same week. At the Nobel Prize Museum, the students had the opportunity to listen to Professor Thomas Perlmann, Secretary of the Nobel Assembly at Karolinska Institutet, talking about the process of selecting Nobel Laureates. There were several activities such as a Nobel Prize Quiz and a mini-workshop to measure one's creativity, for the students to take part in.

The afternoon was a real success with a good mix of formal engagements and informal fun, Stockholm and the Nobel Prize, and cinnamon buns and pizza slices. Both the events were coordinated by Stockholm Academic Forum with the Stockholm City Council and Nobel Prize Museum as hosts.



Mikael Östling, Deputy President of KTH Royal Institute of Technology at the reception.



International SDCN Talent of the Year 2019: Mehdi Attarpour.



Rana Nasrindotter, Vice Chairman of the City Council.



PHOTO: STOCKHOLM ACADEMIC FORUM

Reception for International Students at the Stockholm City Hall.



PHOTO: STOCKHOLM ACADEMIC FORUM

Staf Analytics

Monitoring is crucial to be an up-to-date organisation. It is important for us to be well-acquainted with the academic ecosystem of Stockholm. At Stockholm Academic Forum, we do this not only by digging into statistics, news, and reports but also by meeting the right people, getting new contacts, and by growing networks in a wide range of areas. Open-mindedness and curiosity have opened up many new paths for collaboration.

By gathering statistics for all the universities and university colleges in Stockholm, we can follow trends and tendencies. Political and economic changes affect student flows to and from different countries, and it is important to follow how countries close or open up to other parts of the world.

Every year, Staf Analytics publishes a report on international student mobility in Stockholm, based on statistics from the previous academic year. *Study Destination Stockholm – International Student Mobility in 2017–2018*, was published in February.

During the academic year 2017–2018, there were 9,750 incoming students in Stockholm. In the last three years, the number of international students in Stockholm has increased by 20%. The largest international student groups in Stockholm during the academic year 2017–2018, came from China, Finland, Germany and France. It was the first time since tuition fees were introduced, that a non-European country comprised the largest group of international students. Stockholm University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology had the largest numbers of incoming students, while Stockholm School of Economics had the highest proportion.

The number of outgoing exchange students during the same academic year was 1,900. The most popular destinations were the USA, Australia, France, and Singapore. UK dropped dramatically as a study destination, probably because of uncertainty with regard to Brexit.

To pay attention to the International Women's day on the 8th of March, Staf Analytics this year presented a report on gender equality: *She Figures for Stockholm Academia. Gender Equality in Stockholm's Higher Education Institutions*. Stockholm stands out with a truly high proportion of female vice-chancellors: a woman leads 10 out of 18 universities or university colleges in Stockholm. Stockholm and Sweden

are world-leading in this perspective. The proportion of female professors in Stockholm is 28%, which is high from a European perspective, but not enough in terms of gender balance. To achieve equal representation between genders, at the level of professors, takes time. The proportion of women has been increasing approximately 1% every year over the past ten years. The proportion of women to men differs a lot between different universities and across subjects. In the student and doctoral student population, there is balance between the sexes from an overall viewpoint. But when looking into different universities and different subjects, it is the same unbalanced pattern as for full professors.

During the fall, Staf Analytics published another report: *Doctoral Students in Stockholm – An Overview*. The main scope of this report was to look into the proportion of internationalization among doctoral students. There were almost 5,500 doctoral students enrolled at universities or university colleges in Stockholm during the autumn semester 2018. Among them, 43% came to Stockholm for their postgraduate education from another country, compared to 36% in the rest of Sweden. In the last ten years, the proportion of international doctoral students has increased significantly, as much as 14 percentage points.

Monitoring other academic cities around the world is also important for us. Stockholm's hallmark is based on innovation, sustainability and gender equality. Therefore, we have identified ten other cities that have renowned universities and are highly ranked in terms of innovation, sustainability and equality. The cities we have identified are: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Berlin, Copenhagen, Dublin, Munich, San Francisco, Toronto, Vancouver and Zürich. We follow these cities, study their communication with international students and observe their performance on innovation, sustainability, equality and global university rankings.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY STOCKHOLM

9 750

INCOMING STUDENTS
11% of all students

6 765 FREE MOVERS
2 985 EXCHANGE

1

CHINA 825

2

FINLAND 795

3

GERMANY 775

SHE FIGURES FOR STOCKHOLM ACADEMIA

10

OUT OF

18

UNIVERSITIES ARE LED BY A
WOMAN

28%

FEMALE
PROFESSORS

DOCTORAL STUDENTS IN STOCKHOLM

5 500

DOCTORAL
STUDENTS

43%

FROM
ABROAD



Staf Small Talks

At Stockholm Academic Forum, we not only bring universities together for activities targeting their international students or scholars. We also bring together key persons from the universities to share our findings about Stockholm as an academic destination or to discuss current issues from a strategic point of view.

In March we presented the report from Staf Analytics on International Student Mobility in Stockholm during the academic year 2017–2018.

In May we invited the Executive Management persons at the universities to a breakfast on internationalization. This time we had a special focus on China with invited speakers Frédéric Cho, advisor specialized on China and Kajsa Fung, Stockholm School of Economics.

In November we gave a presentation on the newly published Staf Analytics report on Doctoral Students in Stockholm.

Study Trip to Dublin

Every year, the board members of Stockholm Academic Forum go on a study trip combined with a board meeting. This year, in November, the board went to Dublin. The Board visited Trinity College, Dublin City Council and Technological University (TU) Dublin.

TU Dublin had previously been divided into many smaller units around the city but has currently consolidated in one area. The new campus area, Grangegorman, which was previously a psychiatric hospital, is now a major transformation project in the city. The Dublin City Council meeting was a good inspiration for Stockholm Academic Forum's work with 'Study in Stockholm'. The focus in the meeting with Trinity College was research funding, outreach and collaboration between the university and companies.

Dublin, being similar to Stockholm in scope, profile, academic size and attractiveness, is one of the ten cities that Stockholm Academic Forum closely follows.

CALENDAR

19 FEBRUARY • Board Meeting

19 FEBRUARY • Staf Analytics Report: *Study Destination Stockholm. International Student Mobility in 2017–2018*

7 MARCH • Staf Small Talks: International Student Mobility

8 MARCH • Staf Analytics Report: *She Figures for Stockholm Academia. Gender Equality in Stockholm's Higher Education Institutions*

8 MAY • Board Meeting

8 MAY • Annual Meeting

23 MAY • Executive Management Team Breakfast on Internationalization

13 OCTOBER • Reception at the Stockholm City Hall for International Students and following mingle at Nobel Prize Museum

14 OCTOBER • Stockholm Explorative Talks with Nobel Prize Museum

31 OCTOBER • Staf Analytics Report: *Doctoral Students in Stockholm – An Overview*

6–8 NOVEMBER • Study Trip to Dublin for the Board

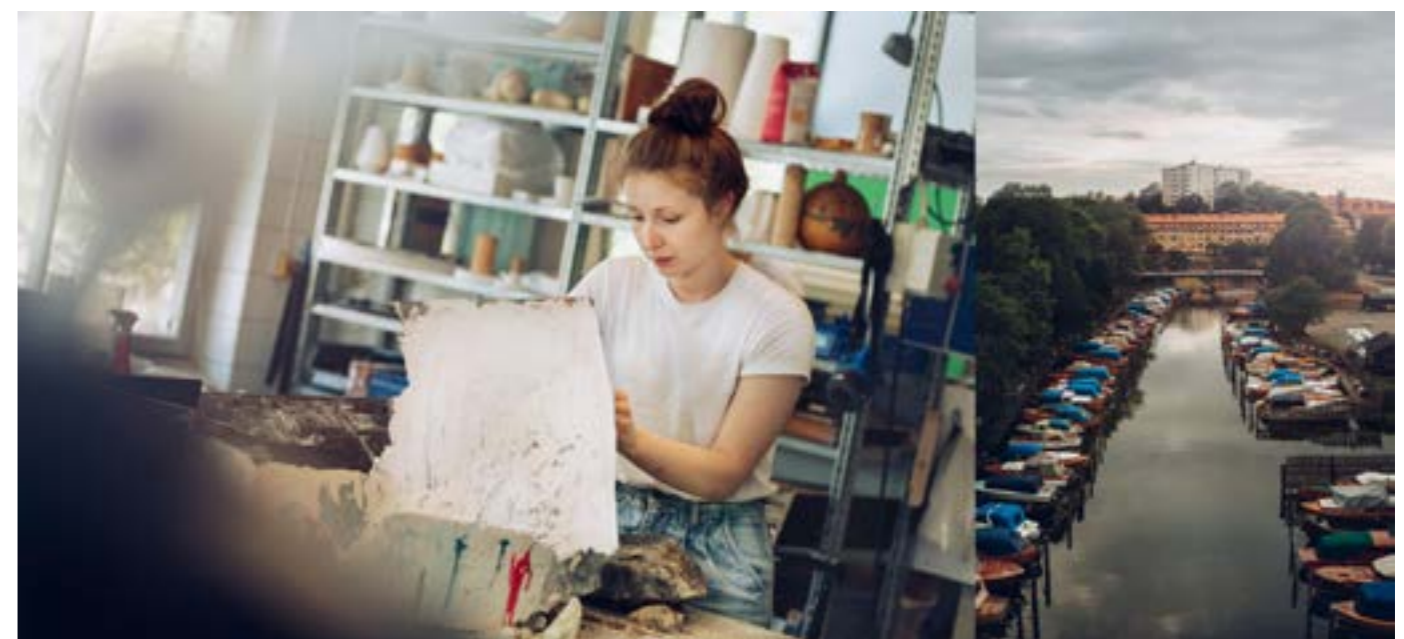
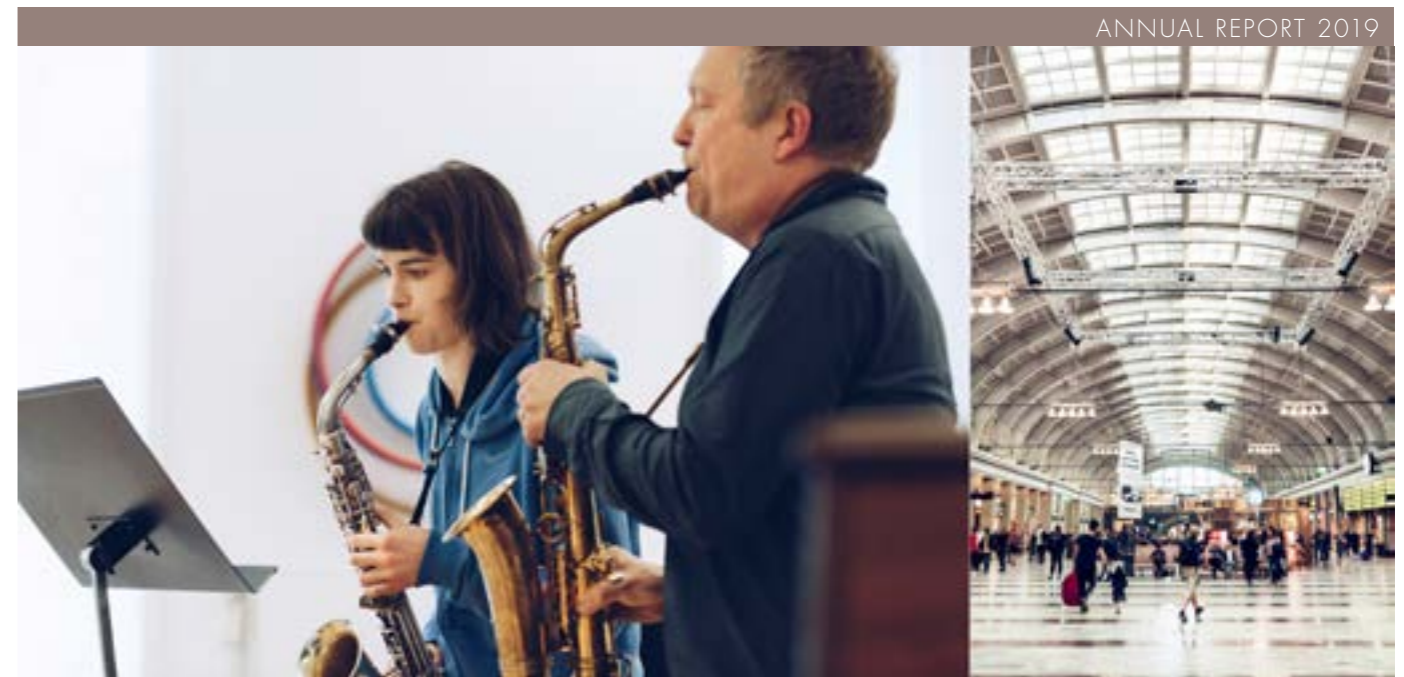
7 NOVEMBER • Board Meeting

21 NOVEMBER • Staf Small Talks: Doctoral Students in Stockholm

2 DECEMBER • Reception at the Stockholm City Hall for International Scholars and Partners



PHOTO: STOCKHOLM ACADEMIC FORUM
The Board members of Stockholm Academic Forum: Johanna Adami, Lotta Edholm, Lars Strannegård, Gunnar Björkman and Åsa Borin.



Members, Board and Staff

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 The Erica Foundation
 Ersta Sköndal Bräcke University College
 Karolinska Institutet
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Pola Papadopoulou, Project Assistant (January–June)
Martin Sahlin, Project Manager
Martin Tauman, Administrator
Sophia Wallin, Project Manager

Staf.

Stockholm Academic Forum

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