# Ten Royal Academies



H.M. the King is the Royal Patron of several academies and learned societies. This publication describes the ten royal academies that were founded to oversee their respective fields nationally. The academies appoint their members from all over Sweden, and most of them also have members from other countries.

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# The Flowers' Festival

The royal academies are like Elsa Beskow's classic story book about the flowers that gathered to celebrate midsummer in the garden: a colourful parade of bellflowers, peonies, lady's mantles, cottongrass, beetroots, broadbeans and others. The European Renaissance saw the blossoming of thousands of flowers in the spiritual meadow of life: useful plants grew alongside ornamental blooms. In the centuries of classicism and the Enlightenment, however, the spiritual verdure was pruned, ordered and categorised. This was the era where national academies such as the *French Académie des sciences* and *the Royal Society of London* budded. The same happened here in Sweden; most of our national academies were founded in the 18th century, and more were added in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Thus, the spiritual garden in our country was disciplined, with distinctly defined herb beds where plants of the same species could grow together in peace. The overarching framework consisted of the ideals of the 18th century and the Enlightenment – an optimistic faith in historic progress and the importance of science to civilisation. In light of this background, it is remarkable that the royal academies have maintained their position and enhanced their relevance to social development. Yes, conceptually they may have their roots in the 18th century – but they are operating in the present for the future.

The academies have their relevance in times like ours: as non-profit, non-governmental, independent institutions that can safeguard freedom of expression and freedom of research. They enjoy optimal credibility in their respective fields of responsibility, unhampered by political tendencies. Yes, they ensure the quality of research and higher education. This is especially critical in these days, when the weeds of pseudo-science and "fake news" flourish in the garden.

The academies support research and development through grants, conferences and awards. They raise awareness about research by sharing and publishing scientific results through reports, publications, public seminars and op-eds. They are crucial in providing decision-makers with relevant and correct background information. Through interacademy collaborations, the totality of their activities is greater than the sum of their parts. One example is the Bernadotte Programme, a framework for long-term interaction between five of the royal academies.

There is a saying that "only Sweden has Swedish gooseberries". But the royal academies maintain intensive contacts with foreign counterparts, through affiliation to extensive networks of international academies (including the ISC, the UAI, CAETS and ALLEA). The academy system is not a gated community: the doors to the Swedish garden are wide open to the international scientific community.

### Svante Lindqvist

Honorary member of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, president of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters



The Royal Academy of Fine Arts, the Nike Hall. Photo: Björn Strömfeldt.

The Royal Academy of Fine Arts

The Royal Academy of Fine Arts is one of the oldest Swedish Royal national academies. Founded in 1735, it is a diverse and independent institution with a mandate to promote art and architecture, giving them the dignity and support needed to enrich society at large.

The key words of the Academy are knowledge, independence and longevity.

#### Knowledge

The Royal Academy manages donated funds of around half a billion SEK. These funds are used to support research and development by annually awarding a large number of grants and prizes to students and established or up-and-coming artists and architects.

The Royal Academy preserves and makes available its collections and archives of material relevant to art history, art and architecture studies, buildings and the works of

individual artists over nearly three centuries. Several research projects are pursued by the Academy and funding is given to various publications in the fields of art and architecture. Through exhibitions, events and collaborative projects, the Royal Academy of Fine Arts contributes to the furthering of knowledge and social development.

#### Independence

The Royal Academy of Fine Arts is an independent and autonomous forum for art and architecture, but also for a wider range of arts.

#### Longevity

Activities within the Royal Academy of Fine Arts build on traditions dating back to 1735. The royal academies were created to oversee their respective specialist fields nationally. The Academy manages its cultural heritage, including the building on Fredsgatan 12, with the objective that art and architecture should continue to enrich both society and its citizens.

The Academy is affiliated to the Association of Swedish Museums and ICOM, and is represented in numerous councils and boards, including Skönhetsrådet, the Nordic Art Association, the Swedish Institute in Rome, the C. M. Lerici, Gerlesborgsskolan, Svensk-Danska kulturfonden, the Göran Lagervall Foundation, the Schock Foundation and Stiftelsen Framtiden.

Year of establishment: 1735, as Kongl. Ritare-Academien (The Royal Academy of Drawing) Swedish members: approx. 122 International members: approx. 24 Other members: senior honorary members Form of election: vote within the plenary, election requires a majority vote of 2/3





The seminars in Almedalen are one of many external activities in the Academy's efforts to enhance the influence of science in society. Photo: Fredrik All

## The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is an independent, non-governmental organisation whose overall objective is *to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society*. The Academy *promotes science of the highest quality* by encouraging the development and renewal of Swedish research, *strengthens the position of the sciences in society* by highlighting and examining important societal issues from scientific perspectives, and *participates in collaboration on global issues*, as an international scientific advocate for sustainable development.

Members of the Academy include Sweden's leading researchers in mathematics, natural sciences, and the social sciences and humanities. They initiate inquiries, consultation responses, conferences, and seminars, and perform the extensive reviews and investigations on which the Academy bases its decisions on grants, prizes and awards. The best known of these are the Nobel Prizes in Physics and Chemistry and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel (the Prize in Economic Sciences).

The Academy also conducts its own research and, through research institutes, programmes and professorships, is at the frontline of research in ecological economics and sustainable development, botany, mathematics and the history of science.

Since 2012, the Academy of Sciences has also been one of the academies involved in implementing the Wallenberg Academy Fellows career programme, which provides long-term funding to promising young researchers. The Academy is also involved in appointing research positions in a number of other programmes funded by external bodies.

Through its committees, the Academy works to promote international cooperation and sustainable, science-based societal development in the fields of energy and the environment, research policy, human rights and health, as well as education and working conditions in the teaching professions.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences was founded in 1739, partly due to dissatisfaction with traditional educational institutions, which were criticised for simply reproducing old knowledge, rather than creating new and useful knowledge. Sweden was in serious economic decline due to many years of war, so a scientific forum that prioritised the development of the nation was urgently needed. Today, the Academy still works to promote a knowledge-based society, with an emphasis on education, research and innovation, in the conviction that this provides the best foundation for addressing the challenges of the future.

Year of establishment: 1739 Swedish members: approx. 460 International members: 175 Other members: honorary members

**Form of election:** Vote within the Academy at a general meeting, according to proposals from the members





The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities (located in Rettig House). Photo: Philip Håkanson

## The Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities

Queen Lovisa Ulrika of Sweden founded Kongl. Swenska Witterhets Academien, the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, on 20 March 1753. When Gustav III reconstituted the Academy in 1786, it was given the name that is still current: Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademien, most commonly referred to as Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien.

For much of its history, the Academy was closely linked to the Swedish National Heritage Board. The head of the Board was also the secretary of the Academy. In 1975, the Academy and the National Heritage Board were divided into separate organisations. Since then, the Academy has been an independent learned society, supporting research in the humanities and social sciences and in cultural heritage management. Its work is funded by donations and by public and private foundations. The Academy also owns and manages several historic buildings and sites: Skånelaholm Castle, Stjernsund Castle, Rettig House in Stockholm (which houses the offices of the Academy), Stensjö by and Borgs by.

The Academy promotes and supports research by funding research projects, research positions, publications, conferences, projects in internationalisation and digitisation, travel grants, and scholarships. It has research collaborations with universities and research funding bodies, including the Swedish Research Council, Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, and Sweden's other royal academies. The Academy also collaborates with international learned societies and academies. It provides expertise when requested by government committees or official commissions of inquiry or when its own interests so require.

At its Annual Meeting, held on 20 March, in memory of the day it was established, the Academy acknowledges leading researchers and teachers through prizes, awards, and medals. The best-known prizes are the Gad Rausing Prize, the Swenson Prize, and the Rettig Prizes. The Academy publishes its own journals and book series and supports important scholarly journals.

The Academy members represent a range of disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, religion, and law. It has sixty members divided into two 'classes', representing two categories of disciplines: history and the humanities (archaeology, history, human geography, religious studies, political science, etc) and philosophy and philology (exegetics, languages, law, literature, philosophy, psychology, etc). The board of the Academy, the administrative committee, consists of the President, Vice President, Secretary General and Vice Secretary General and an additional five members.

#### Year of establishment: in 1753

Swedish members: approx. 120 working members, 5 honorary members and approx. 15 corresponding members International members: approx. 35

Form of election: members nominate and elect new members





Crown Princess Victoria awarding the Royal Medal for the Advancement of Musical Art to Katarina "Katalin" Varga Smith Photo: Peter Bothén.

# The Royal Swedish Academy of Music

**Spirit and Art**. When Gustav III established the Royal Swedish Academy of Music in 1771, it had no equivalent north of the Alps. At that time, there was no organised higher music education in Sweden and its founding and operation dominated the Academy's first 200 years. In 1971, the Swedish government took over this responsibility.

Today, the Royal Swedish Academy of Music is a central and autonomous force in musical life with a goal of promoting the art of music. Through a number of scholarship funds, the Academy promotes musicians, composers, researchers and others within the world of music – with a focus on the younger generation. The Academy is one of the most influential consultative bodies on music policy and is deeply committed to the future of musical life – in Sweden and internationally.

The Academy awards a number of prizes, and its foremost award is the Royal Medal for the Advancement of Musical Art.

Cooperation within the world of music, ensuring the increase of professional musicians and singers, and promoting the Swedish musical heritage are among the Academy's priorities:

• The Swedish Musical Heritage is a database with extensive information on music and composers, making Sweden's musical cultural heritage accessible.

• Children Singing is a national movement showing the importance of verbal music in preschools and schools, with the goal to give all children opportunities to grow up with their voice as a natural resource.

• Young Minds For Music is an independent think tank whose purpose is to make use of the richness of ideas, potential, and the voices of young people active in professional musical life.

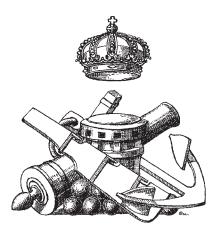
• The Alfvén Estate, after the composer Hugo Alfvén, is owned and administered by the Academy. It is open during the summer as a museum, with exhibitions, a coffee shop and concerts.

The publication board of the Academy publishes a series covering biographies, research, musical history and pedagogics. The research board organises research seminars and conferences on key issues. The scholarship board awards nearly 400 scholarships annually and the programme council plans internal and public concerts.

The members of the Academy participate in activities as jury members, members of boards, authors of referral responses and in programme activities.

Year of establishment: 1771 Swedish members: approx. 180 International members: approx. 90 Other members: honorary members Form of election: vote on proposals from members





## The Royal Swedish Society of Naval Science

The Royal Swedish Society of Naval Science, Sweden's marine academy, was established in 1771 and is one of the world's oldest nautical science academies. In 1805, it received royal patronage. The Society has as its mission to follow and work actively for the advancement of naval warfare and seafaring in general. Its motto is: With Understanding and Strength.

The young officers of the galley squadrons who founded the Society of Naval Science were inspired by a strong will to improve their professional skills by expanding their knowledge through deeper study. They raised the issue of the galley squadrons' role, then a contested matter in defence policy debates at the time. At the first meeting, the commander of the galley squadrons, Vice Admiral Christoffer Falkengréen, was appointed the honorary president, and twelve fellows were elected.

The Society's oldest bylaws state: "The Fatherland's vast borders are its coastline. Its most beautiful landscape lies by the sea. Its wellbeing depends on its commerce, and its livelihood on trade and seafaring. The defence of the shores and the protection of seafaring are important responsibilities."This text still describes the Society's purpose, to follow and work actively for the advancement of the knowledge of naval warfare and seafaring in general.

The Society maintains its library in Karlskrona as a research centre holding books, maps and nautical charts. The Society published its first work in 1787 with five theses. Its

journal, *Tidskrift i Sjöväsendet*, has been published since 1835, and all issues are available on the Society's website.

The Society's bylaws establish four categories of membership: Senior Honorary Fellows, Honorary Fellows, Ordinary Fellows and Corresponding Fellows. Senior Honorary Fellows (royalty) and Honorary Fellows can be either Swedish or foreign citizens. Ordinary Fellows must be Swedish citizens, and Corresponding Fellows must be foreign citizens.

The Society's work is divided into four branches, to which the fellows are assigned. Branch I is strategy, operations and tactics; Branch II is personnel, education and healthcare; Branch III is maritime technology; and Branch IV covers seafaring and other operational areas meaningful for the Society's goals.

Fellows hold lectures and write articles on subjects in their areas of expertise. Worthy research and competitive essays are published in the journal and can be rewarded after evaluation. Scholarships and awards are handed out annually to encourage and recognise outstanding achievements.

Year of establishment: 1771 Swedish fellows: approx. 300 International fellows: approx. 20 Other fellows: approx. 30 honorary fellows

**Form of election:** Senior honorary fellows and honorary fellows are chosen by acclamation, others are elected by closed ballot





The Swedish Academy has its headquarters in the old Stock Exchange Building in Gamla Stan. Photo: Rickard L Eriksson.

# The Swedish Academy

The Swedish Academy, founded in 1786 by Gustav III, is an independent cultural institution that strives to promote Swedish language and literature. The King chose for the Academy the motto 'Talent and Taste', and its purpose may today be interpreted as being to promote creative talent and critical judgement. According to its statutes, the Academy must have eighteen members and is therefore also referred to as 'The Eighteen'.

Among its members are authors, literary researchers, linguists and a lawyer. Meetings are held every Thursday for eight months of the calendar year, along with an Annual Grand Ceremony on 20 December. Much of the Academy's work is concerned with making preparations and decisions with regard to prizes and scholarships. In total, more than fifty awards of this kind are conferred every year. The most famous of these is the Nobel Prize in Literature, which gives the Academy an important international role to play in the promotion of superlative writing and enriching reading experiences. The Academy also annually rewards a large number of domestic authors, translators, critics, researchers, teachers and librarians, while also allocating grants to various cultural organisations throughout the country. The Swedish Academy publishes a large number of books itself. Along with *The Proceedings* of the Swedish Academy, which has been published since 1786 and includes speeches and texts from its annual grand ceremonies, the Academy is responsible for producing such standard language works as the Swedish Academy Dictionary, Swedish Dictionary published by the Swedish Academy, Swedish Academy Word List and Swedish Academy Grammar. These publications are all freely available in digital form on the svenska.se website. With a view to promoting Swedish literature, the Academy also produces a Swedish Classics series, as well as its Memorial Library series, a selection of biographical and historical texts previously published in the *Proceedings*. In addition, a number of independent works are produced, including the poetry anthology A Bridge of Poetry, which was distributed to six-year-olds throughout Sweden in the autumn of 2021. Last but not least, the Academy is the main financier of the Swedish Literature Bank (litteraturbanken.se), through which much of Sweden's literary heritage has been made digitally available.

The Nobel Library, located in the Stock Exchange Building, fulfils a central function for the Academy. Its book collection consists mainly of fictional works, along with literary and linguistic publications, and the library is open to the public. The Academy moreover retains within its archives – along with, for example, founding documents, meeting minutes and letters – a special Nobel Archive and numerous personal archives relating to members and other individuals. Most of these documents have been made available for research purposes.

Year of establishment: 1786 Swedish members: 18 International members: 0 Form of election: voting within the Academy





The idea of establishing an academy of war sciences was born here at Karlberg Castle, the then military and navy school, founded in 1792. Photo: Björn Anderson.

on account of its colour, is the face of the Academy and a good source of both scientific and other studies on these developments.

From previously having focused mainly on military issues, activities now include all issues relating to our defence, from crisis to war. According to its statutes, the Academy shall promote sciences of relevance to defence of the realm, engaging in research and development of importance to Sweden's security and defence. For this purpose, the Academy organises symposia, seminars and lectures, conducts studies and investigations, issues statements and consultation responses, supports research and publication of writings, publishes "Gulan" and awards grants and prizes.

The Academy's study and research activities aim to provide government bodies and the defence sector with documentation regarding Sweden's security and defence. As an independent institution, seeks to provide decisionmakers and the general public with information on defence issues, through active and non-profit work by its members. The Academy is the Nordic region's foremost centre of expertise on security and defence issues. The Academy's members range from renowned high-ranking military personnel, politicians, diplomats and researchers to leading figures in defence authorities, media and business.

The academy's motto: "The defence of the Realm - Courage and knowledge".

Year of establishment: 1796 Swedish members: approx. 400 International members: approx. 30 Form of election: proposals from members and annual decisions at the Academy meeting in May



# The Royal Academy of War Sciences

The Royal Swedish Academy of War Sciences was founded in 1796, at a time when interest in sciences in various forms was significant, in Sweden and in most European countries. The purpose of the Academy was twofold: firstly, to encourage cadets at the Karlberg War School and other military schools to improve their knowledge of military science issues, and secondly, and perhaps more importantly, to inspire officers on active duty to take an interest in military sciences after school.

Over the years, the Academy has provided a prestigious forum for discussion and deliberation on issues of importance to the country's security. By Activities from its founding to the present day give a good idea of how society has developed and how the structure and strength of our defence has varied. This is documented in *The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. The Proceedings and Journal of the Swedish Academy of War Sciences*, published in unbroken succession since 1797. The "Yellow", as this publication is known



The Royal Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is located at Drottninggatan 95 B in Stockholm. Photo: Ylva Nordin.

# The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry

The Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry (KSLA) began its work in 1813 on the initiative of King Carl XIV Johan, with the aim of improving the Swedish population's ability to manage their basic livelihood. The Academy's role has changed in various ways since its inception, but the main orientation remains and is more important than ever. Activities are underpinned by the Academy's portal paragraph: "The task of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry is to promote agriculture and forestry and associated activities with the support of science and practical experience and in the interest of society."

The Academy's mission is to promote the sustainable use and care of land, water and air as well as plants and animals for the positive development of society as a whole for our long-term sustainable livelihood and living environment. This is achieved by being an active meeting place for science and practical experience. Through formation of ideas and opinions, influencing and sharing knowledge, the ability of green industries to meet challenges is promoted and enhanced. At the KSLA, people from different walks of society meet in respectful dialogue and discussion, with the aim of making wise decisions in society about sustainable use of our natural biological resources.

The KSLA is independent and autonomous. The daily work is carried out in boards, committees, working committees and groups that organise assemblies, conferences, seminars, workshops, study trips and more, to discuss issues affecting the green sector. Most events are open to the public. The Academy also responds to referrals in matters relating to the green sector.

The Academy produces several publications. *The Journal of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry* (KSLAT) encapsulates and elaborates on lectures and discussions from the Academy's seminars and conferences or contains reports from the Academy's committees and working groups. The series *Forestry and Agricultural Historical Notices* (SOLMED) features, among other things, agrarian historical works, bibliographies and annotated manuscripts. The digital magazine "Aktuellt från KSLA" informs about activities at the Academy.

The KSLA disposes of certain own funds and manages a number of foundations in accordance with the donors' wishes, as well as a number of funds for prizes, awards, scholarships and research grants. All the foundations and funds are for the promotion of research and development in the green sector. The Academy represents accumulated knowledge through its fellows, publications and agrarian history library.

Year of establishment: 1811, but work began in 1813 Swedish fellows: approx. 535 International fellows: approx. 180 Form of election: closed election following proposals from the fellows





The entrance of the building on Grev Turegatan, where the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences has had its offices since it was established in 1919. Photo: Pär Rönnberg.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences

For more than a century, the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences (IVA) has been a meeting place for Sweden's future. We bring together the expertise and experience of some 1,300 Academy Fellows and 250 member companies. IVA builds bridges between the business community, academia and policy makers.

IVA is an independent academy tasked with promoting technical and economic sciences and the development of business for the benefit of society. Our organisation is based on trust in the ability to contribute positively to society through technical and economic science, in accordance with the vision "Technology in the service of humanity".

IVA runs a series of projects and organises seminars all over Sweden. For its members, IVA is a meeting place and a platform for exercising their social commitment with a

scientific foundation. The members are divided into twelve departments: Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Building and Construction, Mining and Materials, Management, Basic and Interdisciplinary Engineering Sciences, Forest Technology, Economics, Biotechnology, Education and Research Policy, and Information Technology. The Business Executives Council, which includes approximately 250 companies and organisations, secures the academy's connection to business life and is an important part of IVA.

IVA is a national academy with a global perspective. It has a large proportion of international fellows and works alongside other national academies to promote international collaboration.

IVA's nodes in the national network are Stockholm (where IVA's secretariat is located), Luleå (IVA North), Gothenburg (IVA West) and Malmö/Lund (IVA South).

Year of establishment: 1919 Swedish members: approx. 1.050 International members: approx. 250

**Form of election:** vote within the academy following proposals from the academy's departments



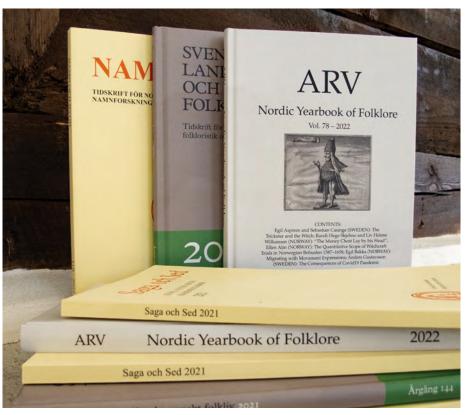


Photo: Kinna Andersson / Eddy.se AB

# The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture

The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy for Swedish Folk Culture takes its name from Gustavus Adolphus (Gustav II Adolf) on account of a famous memorandum for antiquarians and collectors of traditions, issued by the King on 20 May 1630. This document, composed by Johannes Bureus, called for an inventory to be made of everything the country had to offer by way of knowledge about the past: archaeological remains and manuscripts, customs, legends and songs, words and names. It can be seen as Sweden's first programme for the study of folk culture. The Academy's mission is to promote research on Swedish and Nordic folk culture – the term interpreted in a broad sense. As research in this field has expanded, the Academy's activities have become broader and more diverse. Today, it naturally includes the cultures and languages of indigenous minorities, but also cultures outside the Nordic region that have a Nordic connection. The Academy highlights local research.

The Academy has extensive publishing activities, including six scientific journals: Arv – NordicYearbook of Folklore, Ethnologia Scandinavica, Namn och bygd, NoSo–Nordisk tidskrift för socioonomastik / Nordic Journal of Socio-Onomastics, Rig – kulturhistorisk tidskrift and Svenska landsmål och svenskt folkliv. In addition, there is the yearbook Saga och sed.

The Academy promotes research into Swedish folk culture by publishing research findings in its publication series and journals, initiating and supporting academic studies, arranging lectures, symposia and field trips, and encouraging scholarly activities by means of scholarships and awards. The Academy is particularly keen to support doctoral and postdoctoral students.

The Royal Gustavus Adolphus Academy's property at Klostergatan in Uppsala serves as the venue for most plenary sessions of the Academy. The Annual Gathering takes place on 6 November at Rikssalen (the former Hall of State) at Uppsala Castle.

Year of establishment: 1932

Swedish members: 40 active

International members: 30 active

**Other members:** honorary members, supporting members, senior members and corresponding members

**Form of election:** vote at a regular Academy meeting following proposals from at least three active Swedish members



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