

Rules of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences



KUNGL.
VETENSKAPS-
AKADEMIEN

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



KUNGL.
VETENSKAPS-
AKADEMIEN

THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

BOX 50005, SE-104 05 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN, +46 8 673 95 00, KVA@KVA.SE • WWW.KVA.SE



Rules of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences

APPROVED BY THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON 14 NOVEMBER 2019

The Aims and Composition of the Academy

1. The Academy, founded on 2 June 1739, has as its aim to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society. Traditionally, the Academy takes special responsibility for the natural sciences and mathematics. The Academy endeavours to promote generally the exchange of ideas between various disciplines and the understanding of their special features.

The Academy preferably fulfils this task by:

- spreading information on findings and problems in current research
- participating in the public debate on the basis of science
- working for beneficial conditions for education and research
- awarding prizes, rewards, research funding and scholarships and
- running scientific institutes and projects of scientific importance

The Academy keeps in close contact with foreign academies and learned societies and with international scientific organisations, and also promotes international scientific cooperation in other ways.

The Academy collaborates with those people who seem best able to contribute to its aims.

The Academy does not provide reports on documents sent in by the public.

2. The Academy consists of at least 175 Swedish members and 175 foreign members. No one may be proposed for election as a Swedish member who is 65 years old or more.

Foreign citizens with permanent work in Sweden for at least the previous two years may be elected as Swedish members. Swedish members who have held a permanent position abroad for at least two years may, with their consent, be transferred to a foreign place. Swedish citizens who have held a permanent position abroad for at least two years may be elected to a foreign place instead of a Swedish place.

The order of the members is determined by the date of their election.

3. The members of the Academy belong to the following classes, in which the number given refers to Swedish members below the age of 65.

First Class,	for mathematics	13 members
Second Class,	for astronomy and space science	11 members
Third Class,	for physics	18 members
Fourth Class,	for chemistry	18 members
Fifth Class,	for geosciences	12 members
Sixth Class,	for biosciences	28 members
Seventh Class,	for medical sciences	25 members
Eighth Class,	for engineering sciences	13 members
Ninth Class,	for social sciences	21 members
Tenth Class,	for humanities and for outstanding services to science	16 members

Six members of the Tenth Class are to be elected on the grounds of outstanding services to science in accordance with Section 31.

The foreign members belong to each class with the same numbers as are given in the first paragraph.

4. In addition to what is laid down in Section 2, there are places for a maximum of ten Swedish members below the age of 65 for classes that need to be strengthened. These reserve places are to be allocated as given in Section 27.
5. Members of the Royal family and other particularly deserving persons may be elected honorary members of the Academy. The number of honorary members may not exceed six.

General Meetings

6. At its General Meetings the Academy decides on the questions that are listed in the rules and on the questions referred there by the Academy Board, the President or the Secretary General. If one tenth

of the Academy members with voting rights request it in writing, a question must be tabled at a General Meeting. At General Meetings, the Academy may entrust matters or groups of matters to the Academy Board, the President or the Secretary General for decision. The Academy is competent to make decisions when notice to attend the General Meeting has been sent out in accordance with the Academy's rules.

General Meetings are private unless otherwise decided.

7. The Academy holds a General Meeting at least every other month, apart from July and August.

An Extraordinary General Meeting is held when a decision to do so is made at an Ordinary General Meeting, when the President or the Academy Board so decides or when at least one tenth of the Academy's members who are entitled to vote according to Section 24 of the Rules request an Extraordinary General Meeting in writing.

An Extraordinary General Meeting is also held to deal with matters concerning the Nobel Prizes and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel. There are special regulations laid down by the Swedish government on 7 April 1994 and 19 December 1968 concerning the treatment of these matters.

Notice to attend an Ordinary or an Extraordinary General Meeting is sent out at least one week in advance by the Secretary General after consultation with the President. The President himself/herself may also send out a notice to attend a General Meeting.

The notice lists the matters that are to be dealt with.

Foreign members who have reported interest in attending are to be summoned to General Meetings.

The President and the Vice-Presidents

8. The President represents the Academy and leads General Meetings and meetings of the Academy Board and the Presiding Committee. The President has the right to be present at meetings of all the Academy's

bodies, without the right to vote, however, if the President is not a member. The Academy Board issues instructions for the President. The President may delegate tasks to the Vice-Presidents.

9. The President is elected from among the members of the Academy who are entitled to vote according to Section 24 of the Rules for a period of three years at an Ordinary General Meeting. The President takes up office on 1 July but has the right from the time of the election to take part in the Academy Board's meetings without the right to vote. The President may be immediately re-elected for an additional year. If the President resigns before the end of the election period, a replacement is elected at the earliest possible opportunity for the remainder of the time.

A President who is elected following such a by-election and has held the position for no more than one year, may however be re-elected for a three-year period.

Nominations for President are drawn up by a nominating committee as laid down by Section 20 and are presented no later than the General Meeting closest to the date of the election.

The outgoing President should hold a lecture on a subject of their choosing at an Ordinary General Meeting.

10. A First, Second and Third Vice-President are elected as deputies for the President from among the members of the Academy who are entitled to vote according to Section 24 of the Rules. They are elected for a period of three years at an Ordinary General Meeting no later than February. The President and Vice-Presidents take office on 1 July, in such a way that each year one is in turn to retire. The regulations in Section 9 regarding the President are applicable to proposals for and the election and re-election of Vice-Presidents.

If the President and all the Vice-Presidents are prevented from being present at a General Meeting, the member whom the Academy appoints shall preside at that General Meeting.

The Presiding Committee

11. The President, the First, the Second and the Third Vice-President and the Secretary General compose the Presiding Committee of the Academy.

The Presiding Committee deals with questions regarding representation concerning national and international scientific connections, questions delegated to the Presiding Committee, and prepares questions of fundamental importance before meetings of the Academy Board.

The Presiding Committee meets at the summons of the President or the Secretary General.

The Academy Board

12. The Academy Board is to devote itself to organising the Academy's work in a way that corresponds to the task of the Academy as expressed in Section 1. The Board is responsible for the management of the Academy's business with the exception of business that according to the Rules is the responsibility of some other person. The Board also prepares when necessary matters requiring a decision in the Academy.

Concerning management, the Academy Board shall continuously see to it that the Academy's finances are managed in such a way that its capital is secured, a good return is obtained and secure control is exercised.

The Academy Board shall annually provide instructions for capital management and capital withdrawal. Every year, the Board may decide on expenditure over and above that laid down in the current budget up to a value of thirty (30) price base amounts under the Social Insurance Code. The Board may also decide expenditure over and above that laid down in the current budget greater than the value of thirty (30) price base amounts under the Social Insurance Code, provided a corresponding increase in revenue is available or if the Board cannot wait for a decision at a General Meeting.

The Academy Board may delegate to the Presiding Committee, the Secretary General, another member of the Board, a committee or an Academy official the right to decide on matters that the Board has the right to decide on. If a matter is delegated from the Academy Board, it is

the Board's responsibility to check in a suitable way that the matter has been dealt with and if necessary to recall this delegation.

The Academy Board may without special authorisation decide on matters that are otherwise dealt with at a General Meeting, provided it is not possible to await a decision at a General Meeting without serious inconvenience.

The Academy Board represents the Academy and signs for the Academy. It can authorise a member of the Academy or another person to represent the Academy. Such authorisation shall be reviewed every year and also when the need arises.

13. The Academy Board consists of 15 members, of which the five members of the Presiding Committee of the Academy are self-evident, as well as one member from each of the Academy's ten Classes. Two staff representatives are co-opted and have the right to attend and to voice their opinions.

The members of the Board who are not automatically appointed are elected at a General Meeting in June for a period of three years from the 1 July of the same year in such a way that each year three or four are in turn to retire. Proposals for the election of members not automatically appointed are made by each Class.

If a member who is not automatically appointed resigns before the end of an election period, another member is elected as soon as possible for the remaining part of the period. A member who has been elected for two whole periods in succession may not be re-elected.

The Academy Board has a quorum when at least eight members are present, one of whom shall be the President or a Vice-President.

14. The Academy Board meets when necessary.

Notice of a meeting is sent out at least one week in advance by the Secretary General of the Academy after consultation with the President. The President himself/herself may also summon a meeting.

Classes

15. The Classes are the Academy's permanent scientific committees, whose task is to follow scientific developments within their fields and propose to the Academy any measures that can promote its aims.

They shall also present names for election to the Academy in accordance with the regulations in Sections 27–30, propose members for the Academy Board who are not automatically appointed in accordance with Section 13 and deal with certain questions concerning the awarding of prizes, scholarships and research grants.

Each Class elects within itself a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson for a period of three years. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson who is elected for two whole periods in succession may not be re-elected immediately.

16. A Class meets when the Chairperson finds it appropriate, but as a rule at least once a term.

Notice of a meeting is sent out by the Chairperson. Foreign members who have stated an interest in attending are to be summoned to Class meetings.

The Secretary General

17. The Secretary General is the Academy's executive member.

The Secretary General leads the Academy's operations and manages the current administration of the Academy's business in accordance with the guidelines and directives that the Academy Board issues.

The Secretary General is responsible for executing without delay decisions made at General Meetings or by the Academy Board. If decisions outside the current administrative business can be delayed without inconvenience, the Secretary General may take the necessary action. In such cases, the Academy Board must be informed as soon as possible.

The Secretary General shall ensure that the Academy's work is organised in a way that corresponds to the task of the Academy as it is expressed in Section 1 according to the Board's guidelines.

The Secretary General is head of the Academy's Secretariat and in this capacity is to lead its work and supervise that it is carried out in accordance with current rules and regulations. The Secretary General is in particular to see to it that the Academy's bookkeeping is in order and that the management of financial resources is safeguarded.

The Secretary General may represent the Academy and sign on its behalf concerning matters that he or she is to manage according to these rules.

The Secretary General may attend meetings of all the bodies of the Academy of which he or she is not a member, but without the right to vote.

18. The Secretary General is elected from among the Academy's members at a General Meeting. Proposals for the election of the Secretary General are made by a Nominating Committee in accordance with Section 20 and are presented at the latest at the General Meeting prior to the election. Besides competence in carrying out the work for which the Secretary General is responsible, the person appointed must have a firm reputation as regards their scientific expertise.
19. If necessary, the Academy Board may appoint a deputy for the Secretary General.

The Nominating Committee

20. The election of the President, the Vice-Presidents and the Secretary General is prepared by a Nominating Committee which is appointed at a General Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of not more than five persons, one of whom has been President, Vice-President or Secretary General. The Nominating Committee shall include two Academy members who are not members of or who have not been members of the Academy Board for the last three years. The election of other members of the Academy Board is prepared by each Class in accordance with Section 13.

The Secretariat

21. There is a Secretariat whose task is to prepare administrative and financial questions and in other matters assist the Academy and its bodies.

Institutes

22. The Academy has Scientific Institutes and establishments for which there shall be special regulations. Each Institute has a Director with the title of professor.
23. The Director of an Institute is appointed at a General Meeting unless otherwise provided for. On appointment, consideration shall be paid both to high scientific competence in the field in which the Institute is active and to proven ability to lead research work.

Rules for Decisions and the Keeping of Minutes

24. Swedish members and foreign members who have been resident in Sweden for at least two years may take part in voting on proposals at General Meetings and in the Academy's bodies. A decision is valid when a majority votes for the proposal or, in the case of a tied vote, when the Chairperson votes for it.

The election of members of the Academy, of the President, of the Vice-Presidents, of the Secretary General and of members of the Academy Board is by secret ballot. At other elections there is an open vote unless a secret ballot is requested. If there is a tied vote, the decision shall be by lot.

At an election when more than two have received votes but none of them at least half of the votes cast, blank votes not included, a new vote is held for the two that have received most votes.

The Presiding Committee of the Academy may decide that a specific question tabled for a General Meeting may be decided at the Meeting with the opportunity for remote voting via post or by electronical means.

For decisions on the Nobel Prizes and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize

in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel, the following special rules apply. Foreign members who are not included in the directive in the first paragraph do not have the right to be present or to vote. If a member demands that the award will not take place, there is to be a vote on this after the relevant Prize Committee and Class have presented their proposal for laureate. A laureate for a prize or a group of laureates for a prize is chosen by voting according to the regulations in the previous paragraph. Each of these votes takes place by open voting unless a secret ballot is requested.

25. At General Meetings and at meetings of the Academy Board, Classes, decision-making bodies and permanent committees, minutes are to be kept. These shall include the date of the meeting, the names of those taking part in dealing with the matter, documents pertaining to the matter and motions proposed, the result of voting, if any, and the decisions made.

If a member has a reservation when a certain question is discussed, that member has the right to have his reservation noted in the minutes.

The minutes of General Meetings are approved either by a decision taken at the next General Meeting or by a member specially elected to check the minutes. The minutes of meetings of the Academy Board are approved by a decision of the Board at its next meeting or by a person specially elected to check the minutes and the President. Minutes of other meetings are checked and approved by the Chairperson.

Text that records a decision may be declared immediately approved.

There are special regulations governing decisions concerning the award of the Nobel Prizes and the Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel.

Archives and Registration

26. Regulations concerning the archives of the Academy and its Institutes shall follow current archive statutes as appropriate.

Documents concerning matters that are to be decided by the Academy

at General Meetings, by the Academy Board, by the Secretary General or any other official shall be registered at the Academy Secretariat.

Election of Members

27. When the number of members in a Class falls below the number specified in Section 3, the Class concerned is to be notified at the next General Meeting. The Class shall present a proposal for the election of a new member or members.

Decisions concerning an increase in the number of members in accordance with Section 4 are made at a General Meeting at the proposal of a Class. The Academy Board is to give its opinion on this proposal.

When a vacancy occurs in a Class in which the number of Swedish members below the age of 65 has been increased in accordance with the second paragraph, the vacancy is transferred to a reserve pool.

28. Proposals for the election of a new member of a Class are put forward by the members of that Class who are entitled to vote.

Nominations of candidates for election must be submitted to the appointed Nomination Committee in the relevant Class. In its considerations, the Committee shall take into account in the first place the person's scientific qualifications. In addition, potential usefulness to the Academy but also the need for broad subject representation, rejuvenation, equality between men and women and geographic distribution shall be taken into account. The Committee is to report all nominations that are made and its own considerations to the Class.

29. Notice to attend Class meetings at which proposals for election are to be made are sent out at least two weeks in advance by the Chairperson. The Nomination Committee's report on nominations that have been made and its own considerations are to be attached to the notice.

Members who are entitled to vote but who are not able to attend meetings at which the Class will vote on proposals for the election of new members are entitled to notify their vote to the Class Secretary before the meeting.

After the Nomination Committee's considerations have been presented at the Class meeting, a discussion will take place.

Thereafter each of those present who are entitled to vote votes for one of the proposals for each vacancy. After voting is completed, postal votes, if any, are reported.

The minutes for the Class meeting show the number of votes cast for each of the proposals. If less than half of the Class's members who are entitled to vote have cast their vote for a candidate before or during the designated time at the meeting, the question is postponed until the next meeting.

If the Class's proposal is for only one person, this person must have received at least two thirds of the votes cast, blank votes not included.

30. After the Class has presented its proposal, this proposal together with the nomination of one or more of those proposed by the Class and an extract from the minutes of the Class shall be sent to the members of the Academy who are entitled to vote.

At the next General Meeting the Academy decides whether the Class's proposal is accepted or not. If the proposal is accepted, at the same time a decision shall be made as to the meeting at which the election is to take place.

31. Proposals for the election of new members to the Tenth Class with reference to outstanding services to science are made by the Academy Board after the Tenth Class has stated its opinion. Each member of the Academy who is entitled to vote has the right to present to the Academy Board a proposal for the election of such members.

32. Proposals for the election of honorary members in accordance with Section 5 shall be signed by at least three members who are entitled to vote.

Such proposals are dealt with by the Academy Board, which, on acceptance, presents them to the Academy at a General Meeting for an immediate decision.

Resignation

33. Members have the right to resign from the Academy after having requested this in writing.

Suspension and expulsion

34. Members who breach their obligations to the Academy or bring it into disrepute, may be partially or fully suspended from the work of the Academy for a period of up to three years, with the opportunity for extension. Members who commit a serious breach of their obligations to the Academy or bring it into disrepute, may be expelled.

A decision on suspension or expulsion is made using secret ballots at two consecutive General Meetings, after a proposal from the Academy Board. To be valid, two-thirds of the submitted votes in each of the secret ballots must support such a measure. The member who is the subject of the potential sanctions must have been given the opportunity to make a written statement on the proposal at least three weeks before it is first put to the ballot. The member does not participate in the consideration of, or making the decision on, their case at the General Meeting, and does not participate in the Academy's work between the two meetings.

Finances and Auditing

35. The financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.

The budget and operational plan for the following financial year is decided, after a proposal from the Academy Board, at a General Meeting in December at the latest. Special budgets and operational plans are to be made for the Institutes.

36. An annual report shall be presented for each financial year. This report consists of an administrative report, a profit and loss account and a balance sheet.

The annual report is to be signed by all members of the Academy Board.

The annual report is to be given to the auditor in April at the latest.

37. At the latest in December three auditors and three deputy auditors are elected at a General Meeting to audit the administration and accounts of the following year. One of these auditors and one of the deputy auditors shall be a chartered accountant. In addition, the Swedish government appoints an auditor and a deputy auditor for the same period.
38. In May at the latest the auditors shall deliver their report to the Academy. This report shall include a statement regarding freedom from responsibility for the members of the Board. If the auditors' report includes a complaint, the person who is affected must present a statement on the matter.

The Academy shall come to a decision at a General Meeting whether to adopt the annual report and to grant the members of the Academy Board freedom from responsibility. If this is not granted but no court case is initiated within one year, then freedom from responsibility may be considered to have been granted.

When the questions of adopting the annual reports and of granting the members of the Academy Board freedom from responsibility is brought up at a General Meeting, the Chairperson shall be the member who has been the latest President or, if no such member is present, the member who has been the latest Vice-President. If no such member is present, or if all members of the past Presiding Committee present can be considered affected by the decisions, the Chairperson shall be appointed by the Academy.

The Academy's Annual Meeting

39. Every year an open meeting is held which normally takes place on 31 March, the anniversary of the Crown's adoption of the Academy's Rules in 1741.

At this meeting the President welcomes newly elected members and the Secretary General reports generally on the Academy's activities during the previous year.

Scientific lectures are also held at the meeting.

Conflict of interests

40. Members may not participate in the administration of cases relating to the relationship between them and the Academy. No may members participate in the administration of cases relating to a third party if they have a significant interest that may conflict with the interests of the Academy. The same applies if there are any circumstances that may lead to their impartiality in the case coming into question. For more detailed application of this rule, special instructions have been adopted under Section 42.

Confidentiality

41. Matters dealt with in Academy bodies relating to background documentation and discussions about elections, prizes and research funding mediated by the Academy, and regarding economic and financial circumstances that are not public knowledge, may not be brought to the knowledge of external parties except when the Academy so decides. The President may also decide to widen the scope of confidentiality.

Special Instructions

42. The Academy adopts in special instructions more detailed directives concerning the Academy's activities.

Changes to the Rules

43. A proposal for a change to these Rules can be raised by the Academy Board or at least one tenth of the Academy's members who are entitled to vote. In the latter case the Academy Board shall state its opinion on the proposal. If the Board disapproves the proposal with a two-thirds majority, it is rejected.

A change to these Rules requires the same decision at two Ordinary General Meetings. Any change decided by the Academy shall be presented to the Government for its approval.