

Grants to write graduate theses on Nordic cooperation

STIFTELSEN BARBRO OCH SUNE ÖRTENDAHL'S FOND

offers four research grants to post-graduate students to study the relations between Sweden and Iceland, and Nordic cooperation in general.

Four grants, - two in Sweden and two in Iceland - will be offered to students in the academic year 2013-2014. They are intended for students currently working for an MA degree in any relevant discipline, and the research carried out under the grants is expected to contribute to the student's work, the writing of a thesis, for that degree.

The aim of the grants is to enhance knowledge about the relationship between Sweden and Iceland, the relations between the Swedish Cooperative Movement in particular and the Icelandic Cooperative Movement, and the importance of Nordic cooperation for each country more generally.

Priority will be given to research on the Nordic Cooperative Movements and, in particular, the relationship between the Swedish and the Icelandic Cooperative Movements. However, research proposals on Nordic cooperation, covering aspects of interest both to Sweden and Iceland notably in the economic, political, and societal fields, are also welcome.

Stiftelsen Barbro och Sune Örtendahls fond was established in 2009. It is a part of Samfundet Sverige-Island, from 1930, with the aim of augmenting the knowledge of Iceland in Sweden and strengthening the bonds between the two countries. The founder of Samfundet, Ejnar Fors Bergström, was in 1929 impressed by the economic and social development in Iceland. The agrarian cooperative movement played a great role in this, establishing both shops and production. Ejnar Fors Bergström did encourage Torsten Odhe to, on behalf of the Swedish Kooperativa Förbundet, go to Iceland. His report *Det moderna Island* was published in 1937 and also translated into Icelandic. For many years Kooperativa Förbundet was a single general source of information on Iceland in Sweden. See www.samfundet-sverige-island.se

As for more information on the Cooperative Movement in Sweden see <http://www.coop.se/Globala-sidor/OmKF/Kooperativ-samverkan/Var-historia1/> and <http://www.lrfhistoria.se/>

Applicants should hand in a research proposal, not longer than three pages, indicating the title of the study, main research question/s, the overall aim and scope of the research, the methods to be used and the outputs expected to be produced. A research plan should be included showing the intended time of conclusion of the student's work and planned graduation date. Also, applicants are asked to send a reference from their academic supervisor indicating their ability to conduct the study and complete it within the given time frame.

The grant is worth 25 000 SEK and is supposed to cover individual field work as well as the winners' participation in a seminar on the Cooperative Movement and Nordic cooperation, which will be held in Reykjavík in spring 2014.

The deadline for applications including the supervisor's reference is *15 September 2013*. The applications in Iceland should be sent by e-mail to Baldur Thorhallsson, Professor of Political Science, at the University of Iceland, baldurt@hi.is, and the applications in Sweden to Katarina Friberg, lecturer in History at Linnaeus University, Sweden, katarina.friberg@lnu.se