



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Research Board

Call for applications for university-wide funding – Interdisciplinary projects focusing on Agenda 2030 and sustainable development

Purpose and goals

Lund University is allocating up to SEK100 million to a university-wide initiative for excellence at Lund University focusing on Agenda 2030 and sustainable development. One part of this sum is to be used for a new investment in doctoral studentships in the Agenda 2030 graduate school and the other part for a university-wide call for applications for postdoc fellowships in interdisciplinary projects.

The Brundtland Report was published almost 35 years ago, but the development since then has been anything but sustainable. There is thus a need for new and innovative knowledge to facilitate a development that guarantees the ability of future generations to also have the opportunity to fulfil their own needs. Knowledge is needed both about sustainability in general, and for the implementation of the UN-approved Agenda 2030 and its specific goals. The aim of the initiative is that Lund University shall achieve international excellence in the field of research. By both expanding the Agenda 2030 Graduate School with more doctoral students and at the same time investing in a large number of postdocs in innovative interdisciplinary projects, Lund University expects to engage a broad, international configuration of researchers and ideas. The aim is to create internationally leading environments by utilising Lund University's breadth even more effectively than before. Lund University looks forward to receiving novel project applications by virtue of this breadth, which have the potential via a cluster of externally-funded projects to be developed into new top-class research environments.

The call for applications covers postdoc fellowships in various interdisciplinary projects. The projects' participants also include researchers from the faculties involved. The projects that are developed are not only to constitute platforms for the postdocs' career development, but also form a basis for national and European applications, and for future environments for excellence and profiling.

The research programme is also to develop the postdocs' expertise in teaching and learning in higher education, and specific funding is to be allocated for this purpose within the programme.

It is estimated that on the basis of the first call for applications in 2021 it will be possible to fund 2–4 projects, with total funding of around 12 postdocs.

After 1–2 years, a new call for applications is planned for postdoc fellowships in which the remaining funding will be made available.

Assessment process

Applications for faculty-wide projects are to be produced by researchers at Lund University. The projects are to involve at least three faculties. In order to guarantee that the faculties are fully informed about the plans, all the deans of the faculties involved shall confirm via email that they support the application. These email messages are to be enclosed with the application.

The proposals will be assessed, rated and ranked by an external panel of internationally recognised researchers who together possess broad expertise in sustainable development. In order to ensure that the Swedish context and the research already carried out at Lund University has been taken into account, the assessments will then be processed by a working group. The working group is composed of two representatives from the Research Board and two representatives from the Sustainability Forum with the chair of the Research Board as chair. The decision on which projects are to be funded is made by the vice-chancellor, based on a proposal by the Research Board. If the Research Board's proposal deviates from the external panel's ranking, this should be justified.

Assessment criteria

Relevance. In what way is the project relevant to the formation of new knowledge for sustainable development, Agenda 2030 and the specific sustainable development goals the project focuses on?

Quality. What is the potential of the project to generate research at the highest international level?

Novelty. Are the issues, methods, perspectives and knowledge combinations original and unique compared with what is already done at Lund University or internationally? Does the project constitute the basis for a new interdisciplinary collaboration at Lund University?

Development potential. What qualifications does the project have to apply for and obtain funding for sustainability research from the specific national and international calls for applications stated in the application? Are there ideas, expertise and links to European networks? Is there potential for the project to develop into an environment for excellence and profiling, i.e. that via a cluster of externally-funded projects build a new top-class research environment?

External engagement. Does the project cover collaboration with external stakeholders in a way that increases the project's relevance, the quality of research and the potential societal impacts and applications of the research?

Feasibility. Is it realistic that the researchers from Lund University together with the postdocs recruited for the project can achieve the goals when the researchers' expertise, the methods that will be used and the resources for the project are taken into account? Do the researchers who are taking part in the project have the ability to develop the project into a top-class research environment?

Relevance, development potential and external engagement are assessed solely on the basis of the respective section in the application. Quality, innovation and feasibility are assessed on the basis of the specific sections, but also on the application as a whole.

Terms for the application

- At least three faculties are to be involved in each project. Lund University's Cultural and Public Centres (LUKOM) can participate in projects, but cannot employ postdocs. The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics and MAX IV can participate in projects and also employ postdocs. However, the requirement that each project is to involve three faculties remains.
- Each participating faculty receives through the project funding for a postdoc position for two years, including indirect costs. The faculties whose projects receive funding must be prepared to advertise the postdoc fellowships on 30 August 2021 in the combined call for applications.
- Each project receives funding from the programme for the main applicant corresponding to 10% of a full time position.
- Those faculties or departments that take part in the project co-fund the period that other project participants, who support the postdocs, spend within the project. The co-funding should consist of at least 10% per faculty per main and co-applicant researcher, including indirect costs.
- There is to be a main applicant from one faculty, who is also the project leader. In addition, there is also to be one co-applicant from each participating faculty. The main applicant is to be either professor or senior lecturer ("lektor"). A co-applicant researcher who participates in the project can be professor, senior lecturer ("lektor") or associate senior lecturer ("biträdande universitetslektor"). The main and co-applicant researchers' qualifications form the basis for the assessment of the application. The main and co-applicant researchers can only participate in one application. Other participating researchers can participate in several applications.
- Projects are to start by 1 August 2021 and end on 31 July 2024. The funding allocated to the project is to be used within the project period stated in the application.
- Funding that is granted for this project is to cover both direct and indirect costs.
- The main applicant is responsible for the project's finances and funds are allocated (monthly) in line with project costs arising.
- Other costs of performing the research such as travel costs, operating costs, equipment and external services can be applied for up to a maximum of SEK 100 000 per postdoc, including indirect costs.

Application structure

The application is to contain the following information in the order specified below:

- Title of the application.
- Name of main applicant and name, title, email, telephone number, faculty, department and cost centre of the main applicant.
- State the participating faculties and name, title, email, telephone number, faculty and department of each co-applicant.
- The project's start and finish date.
- Summary (max. 200 words).

- **Section 1. Relevance.** Description of the way in which the project in question is relevant in the formation of new knowledge for sustainable development and Agenda 2030, and which specific sustainable development goals the project focuses on.
- **Section 2. Quality.** Short description of what is to be carried out in the project, methods, material and expected results and publications.
- **Section 3. Novelty.** Description of the project's novel element. In what way does the application represent new research issues, methods, perspectives or knowledge combinations compared with what is already done at Lund University, nationally and internationally?
- **Section 4. Development potential.** A short description of the possibilities to develop the project into a top-class research environment. A short description of the possibilities to find synergies and develop collaborations with existing research environments. Description of which applications the project will submit to Horizon Europe and the Swedish research programme for sustainable development and a brief justification for why these applications have the potential to be funded during and after the project's implementation.
- **Section 5. External engagement.** Description of how the project collaborates with external players and links to ongoing processes with an aim to increase the project's relevance, the quality of research and the potential impact of the research in society.
- **Section 6. Collaboration.** Description of how the project leads to collaborations in Lund University, nationally and internationally. What links are there to national and international networks?
- **Appendix 1.** Budget and funding plan according to enclosed template, including short justification of the various cost items and co-funding of the project.
- **Appendix 2.** Approval from the heads of departments. The application is to be supported by the main and co-applicants' department and the heads of departments are to be informed about any co-funding costs that the application entails. The applicants certify that they have been in contact with the concerned department and that the application has the support of the heads of departments and that the heads of departments agree to the co-funding. State the head of departments' names and email addresses.
- **Appendix 3.** The dean's approval of the application. The approval may be through email messages from the deans of the faculties involved, and are to be enclosed with the application.
- **Appendix 4.** CV (max. 2 pages per applicant) and publication list with solely the ten most important publications for each main and co-applicant in the project. It is important that the CV presents leadership experience, the ability to build research environments and to obtain external funding.

The application is to be a maximum of seven pages, of which sections 1–6 are to be a total of six pages. The maximum number of pages is excluding appendices. The language for application is to be English.

Overall schedule

10 March	Information meeting.
16 March	The call for applications is published on the Research Board's website and distributed.
13 April	The assessment form for the international panel is published.
7 May	Deadline for applications at 16.00.
24 June	Vice-chancellor's decision on allocation of funding.
30 August	Combined call for applications for all doctoral studentships and postdoc fellowships, a total of 20 positions.

Application

The application deadline is *7 May 2021 at 16.00*.

The application is to be made to the Research Board and is to be submitted digitally to Research Services (ansokan@fs.lu.se). Write "Application research project sustainable development" in the subject line of the email message.

Any questions are to be sent to research administrator Tina Trollås, Research Services (tina.trollas@fs.lu.se, extension 27745).

Appendix. Budget template

Budget items	Amount (SEK K)
Salary costs including social security costs (LKP)	
Travel costs	
Other operating costs	
Expenditure for equipment	
External services	
Total direct costs	
Indirect costs	
Total costs	

Funding	Amount (SEK K)
Amount applied for	
Co-funding, e.g. project participants' salaries	
Total funding	