

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

### Part I. Frequently asked questions on the call.

➤ *Agenda 2030 has a wide scope. Do you have any priorities?*

The call will not make any priorities within Agenda 2030. The broad concept of sustainable development is covered in the call. However, the application should specify which specific sustainable development goal(s) the project focus(es) on.

➤ *Each project must involve three faculties. Which are the faculties at Lund University?*

- Faculty of Engineering (LTH)
- Faculty of Fine & Performing Arts
- Faculties of Humanities and Theology
- Faculty of Law
- Faculty of Medicine
- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Social Sciences
- School of Economics and Management

The Faculties of Humanities and Theology count as one faculty.

Researchers at shared departments at Faculty of Engineering (LTH) and Faculty of Science will name the faculty in the application to which they are organizationally located. This faculty will count as one.

IIIEE and MAX IV do not constitute faculties. IIIEE and MAX IV can, however, participate in the call as specified in the call text (see next question).

➤ *Can researchers from MAX IV or IIIEE participate in an application?*

Yes, MAX IV or IIIEE researchers can be main and/or co-applicants and/or participate in the projects. The requirement that each project is to involve three faculties remains.

➤ *Can MAX IV or IIIEE staff be main or co-applicant?*

Yes, MAX IV or IIIEE staff who fulfills the requirements for main/co-applicants can be main/ co-applicants.

➤ *Who qualifies as main and co-applicant?*

The main applicant is to be either professor or senior lecturer (“lektor”).

Co-applicant researcher can be professor, senior lecturer (“lektor”) or associate senior lecturer (“biträdande universitetslektor”).

- *Why cannot researchers who are not permanently employed or have the title researcher at Lund University be a main or co-applicant (updated answer 20.4.2021)?*

The call for applications states *“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”).* Other employees, such as researchers, postdocs or researchers affiliated to Lund University can still participate in the projects, although not as main or co-applicants. The reason for this decision is the aim to ensure the long-term commitment and engagement of departments and faculties in the projects.

Elaborated answer, 26 March 2021:

We have had some additional questions about why employees with the title researcher are not allowed to be main or co-applicants.

First, we want to stress that we hope that also employees with the title researcher will participate in project applications. However, even if they can participate in the projects, they cannot be the main or co-applicants in the proposal.

As stated in the general answer above, the reason for this decision is the aim to ensure the long-term commitment and engagement of departments and faculties in the projects. We know that there are some employees with the title researcher that have been employed at Lund University for a long time and are likely to continue to be here also for a long time in the future. But at the same time the use of (and the requirements for) the position researcher varies even more between faculties than the positions professor, senior lecturer (“lektor”) or associate senior lecturer (“biträdande universitetslektor”). We hope that each faculty that has a long-term interest to develop a particular theme in relation to Sustainable Development into a new top-class research environment will find at least one professor, senior lecturer (“lektor”) or associate senior lecturer (“biträdande universitetslektor”) who could devote 10 % annual time for the project. In addition, we hope that faculties, departments and research groups are also willing to co-finance the time of others, e.g. researchers, to participate in the projects.

- *Can main and co-applicant be involved in more than one application?*

Each main and co-applicant researcher can only participate in one application. Other participating researchers can participate in several applications.

- *Do there need to be a co-applicant in addition to the main applicant from the main applicant’s faculty? How is this co-funded? (new question and answer 26.3.2021, updated answer 20.4.2021, updated answer 29 April)*

The call text states: *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.* This means that for the main applicant faculty, there must be one main applicant and one co-applicant. From other participating faculties, there must be a co-applicant each.

The main applicant faculty co-finances with at least 10% for the main applicant and at least 10% for co-applicants. But, the main applicant faculty also receives university-wide funding for 10% of

the main applicant's working hours. The other participating faculties co-finance co-applicants with at least 10% each. There is no requirement on how the co-funding is to be constructed, but you need to include a short justification of the co-funding in appendix 1, which includes budget and funding plan.

➤ *How many postdoctoral positions can one project apply for?*

A project can apply for a maximum of 10 postdoctoral positions, which would be if all eight faculties, IIIIEE and MAX IV would be part of the project application. A project can only apply for one postdoctoral position per faculty.

➤ *What is the minimum number of post doc positions that you can apply for? (new question and answer 26.3.2021)*

There must be a minimum of three post docs per project, divided into one post doc per participating faculty. No participating faculty can receive more or less than one post doc per project.

➤ *Is there a maximum amount granted per post-doc position in terms of salary?*

You apply for the actual salary.

➤ *What type of costs are funded in the projects?*

You can apply for funding of one postdoc per faculty. Each project receives funding for the main applicant corresponding to 10% of a full time position.

In addition, you can apply for a maximum 100 000 SEK for other costs of performing the research such as travel costs, operating costs, equipment and external services per postdoc, including indirect costs.

All other costs must be co-funded (direct and indirect costs).

➤ *Should we budget for all costs, including for the financing of the project leader's salary? This considering that the call states that each project receives funding from the programme for the main applicant corresponding to 10% of a full time position. For how long period should the co-funding be budgeted? (new question and answer 29 April 2021)*

Yes, budget for all costs, including indirect costs, in the project for the whole project period (1 August 2021 - 31 July 2024). Budget the co-funding from faculties for the whole project period.

Specify the salary for project leader in the justification of the various cost items in Appendix 1. Budget and funding plan, so it is clear how much the 10% funding of a full time position constitutes for the main applicant, i.e. the project leader. Also, include the 10% of the salary for the project leader to be funded by the programme in the funding plan under the heading "Amount applied for".

- *Is it possible to apply for funding of PhDs in the call?*

No, you can only apply for funding of postdoc positions.

- *Who will constitute the external panel?*

The external panel will constitute of internationally recognised researchers, who together possess a broad expertise in sustainable development.

- *If there is a difference in the Swedish and English call text, which call text applies?*

The Swedish call text applies.

## **Part II. Specific questions on the call**

- *Can researchers, employed at another Higher Education Institute and external to Lund University, participate in the project?*

Yes, researchers external to Lund University can participate in the project as participating researchers. However, they cannot apply for funding. Instead, their project time must be co-funded via other sources of funding.

- *Each participating faculty receives through the project funding for a postdoc position for two years, including indirect costs. Does this mean, that if there are 3 faculties plus MAX IV (or IIIIEE), each would get the funding and there would be a total of 4 postdocs employed within the project?*

Yes.

- *What is the difference between Section 5. External engagement and Section 6. Collaboration in the call text? (new question and answer 29 April)*

The difference between the two sections is who you collaborate with. Section 5. External engagement concerns collaboration with external partners outside of universities, in the surrounding society (in Swedish “samverkan”) 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 concerns research collaboration between researchers, at Lund University, nationally or internationally (in Swedish “samarbete”).

In the section highlighting the evaluation criteria it is also stated about external engagement that it will be assessed based on the question: “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?”

- *Is there a limit in length for the application (updated answer 20.4.2021)?*

Yes. 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 including a reference list. The maximum number of pages is excluding appendices.

- *For Appendix 4 - is the CV including or excluding the publication list? (new question and answer 29 April)*

The call text states: *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.* This means CV, maximum 2 pages, plus publication list with ten most important publications, i.e. the maximum pages for the CV is excluding the publication list.

- *Are there guidelines for formatting?*

Please bear in mind that the reviewers will read many applications. The application must be readable for the reviewers. We recommend using a font size of minimum 11.

- *How is novelty defined for collaborations and for issues? How is ongoing collaborations defined?*

The assessment form will clarify this. The assessment form will be published on the webpage of the Lund University Research Board on 13 April.

- *How are the assessment criteria valued? Are all assessment criteria as important or are they ranked? Do you assess the assessment criteria on the same scale? (updated answer 29 April)*

First the proposal will be assessed based on each individual criterion. Then an overall assessment will be made. The overall assessment will not be the average of the individual criteria. The assessment form will give additional information about this. The assessment form is published on the webpage of the Lund University Research Board.

- *Is there a requirement regarding the time since obtaining the PhD, i.e. if a 2 or 3-years rule since completing the PhD applies for the postdoc positions within the call?*

The faculties' terms of employment will apply. The details regarding terms of employment will be published in the call for postdoc fellowships on 30 August 2021.

- *Regarding the calls for postdoc positions to be announced on the 30 August, for how long will the postdoc calls be open? Would it be possible to apply to the call, even if a PhD student will defend the thesis after the announcement of the positions?*

The faculties' terms of employment will apply. The details regarding terms of employment and other specific conditions will be published in the call for postdoc fellowships on 30 August 2021.

- *If a researcher, employed at faculty of e.g. social sciences, were to be the main applicant and to be funded by the programme, should/could there be another applicant from social sciences who may be funded from that faculty?*

Yes, it is both possible and desirable that other researchers participate in the project. However, the second researcher from the faculty, in this example the faculty of social science, will not be funded by the university-wide funding the project apply for, but instead needs to be co-funded by the faculty/department/other sources.

- *Is the project application to be formulated as a framework project or a regular research project?*

The projects that are developed are not only to constitute platforms for the postdocs' research and career development, but also form a basis for national and European applications, and for future environments for research excellence and profiling. See also the assessment criteria for the projects in the call text.