



**LUNDS**  
UNIVERSITET

14 February 2022

STYR 2022/204

Revised 21 March 2022

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 has been 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 during spring 2021. Now, a second call for applications is being launched for projects with postdoctoral and associate senior lectureship positions.

The Brundtland Report was published 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 opportunity of future generations also to fulfil their 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 simultaneously investing in a large number of postdocs and associate senior lecturers 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 postdoctoral and associate senior lectureship positions 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' and associate senior lecturers' career development, but also to 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' and associate senior lecturers' 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 second call for applications in 2022 it will be possible to fund around 3-4 projects, with total funding of around 9-11 postdocs and associate senior lecturers.

## Assessment process

Applications for faculty-common 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 support the application.

The proposals will be ranked by an external panel of internationally recognised researchers who together possess broad expertise in sustainable development. A working group will prepare a proposal for the Research Board's decision. The working group is composed of representatives nominated by the Research Board and the steering group of the Sustainability Forum who are free of conflict of interest, 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. The Research Board is also to take a stand on gender equality among the principal and co-applicants in the projects that are proposed as funding recipients.

## Assessment criteria

### Relevance

In what way is the project relevant to the formation of new knowledge that supports a transformation of society towards sustainable development, the fulfilment of the Agenda 2030 goals and the specific sustainable development goals the project focuses on?

### Quality

What is the potential of the project to generate research on sustainable development and the specific goals of Agenda 2030 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 and internationally? Does the project constitute the basis for a new interdisciplinary collaboration at Lund University? What connections will be formed with national and international networks?

### Development potential

What qualifications does the project have to apply for and obtain funding for sustainability research from specific national and international funding bodies, such as Horizon Europe calls for applications in pillar two, stated in the application? Are there ideas, expertise and links to European networks? Is there potential for the project to develop into a new environment for excellence, i.e. to build a top-class research environment via externally funded projects? Do the researchers' prior qualifications show experience in obtaining external funding to build research environments?

### **External engagement**

Does the project cover collaboration with external stakeholders (non-academic organisations) 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 and associate senior lecturers recruited for the project can achieve the goals when the researchers' expertise (based on the attached CVs), 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 long-term, stable and top-class research environment?

### **Gender equality**

Gender equality is not an assessment criterion but the Research Board will take gender equality into account in its recommendation to the vice-chancellor for project funding.

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, as well as on the application as a whole and the attached CVs.

## **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 may not employ postdocs or associate senior lecturers. The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics and MAX IV can participate in projects and also employ postdocs and associate senior lecturers. However, the requirement that each project is to involve three faculties remains.
- The faculties whose projects receive funding must be prepared to advertise the postdoc fellowships and the associate senior lectureships on 30 August 2023 in the combined call for applications.
- Each participating faculty receives through the project funding for the research included in a postdoc position for three years, or for the research included in the first three years of an associate senior lectureship, including indirect costs for research.
- In order to achieve the aim of the call for applications, it is important that the postdocs and associate senior lecturers are also offered the opportunity to teach and take part in professional development in teaching and learning in higher education. Opportunities for this vary between departments and faculties. The projects are to budget for the time and costs used for this by the postdocs and associate senior lecturers. These costs for teaching are not covered by the university-wide funds.
- After the first three years, all costs for a recruited associate senior lecturer are to be covered by the faculty or department, by grants or external funding. No further university-wide funds will be provided. A certificate approving this condition is attached according to the template.

- Each project receives funding from the programme for the main applicant corresponding to 10% of a full-time position during the project period, including indirect costs.
- Those faculties or departments that take part in the project certify through the application that they have set aside at least 10% of a senior researcher's time to support the postdocs and associate senior lecturers during the project period. Each faculty or department which is hosting a postdoc or an associate senior lecturer certifies that it has set aside the stated time.
- There is to be a main applicant from one faculty, who is also the project manager. In addition, there is also to be one co-applicant from each participating faculty. The main applicant is to be either a professor or a senior lecturer ("lektor"). Co-applicant researchers who participate in the project are to be employed on a permanent contract by Lund University or be associate senior lecturer at Lund University. 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. Members of the university-wide Research Board who have taken part in any decision concerning this call for applications are not to take part in project applications at all.
- Projects are to start by 1 January 2024 and end by 31 December 2027. The funding allocated to the project is to be used within the project period stated in the application.
- The main applicant is responsible for the project's finances and funds being 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 or associate senior lecturer, plus indirect costs.
- Projects with participants who were awarded funding as main or co-applicants in the first call for applications (STYR 2021/682) will not be awarded funding in this round. Likewise, projects with participants who are members of the Research Board who have been involved in any decisions concerning this call for applications will not be awarded funding.

## 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.
- 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 supporting a transformation of society towards sustainable development, the

achievement of the Agenda 2030 goals, and for the specific sustainable development goals on which the project focuses.

- **Section 2. Content, feasibility and quality.** Short description of what is to be carried out in the project, methods, material and expected results and publications. Describe how this will result in research on sustainable development and specific goals in Agenda 2030 at the highest international level.
- **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 and internationally? Describe how the project constitutes a basis for a new interdisciplinary collaboration at Lund University. Describe what connections will be created to national and international networks.
- **Section 4. Development potential.** A short description of the vision and plans 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 specific international and national funding bodies, such as Horizon Europe calls for applications in pillar two, which are specified in the application and a brief justification for why these applications have the potential to be funded during and after the project's implementation. Describe how the researchers' prior qualifications show experience in obtaining external funding to build research environments.
- **Section 5. External engagement.** Description of how the project collaborates with external players (non-academic organisations) 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. Gender equality.** Description of how gender equality and diversity are taken into account in management (main and co-applicant), in recruitment and in the implementation of the project.
- **Appendix 1.** Budget and funding plan according to template (received when pre-registering), 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. All the heads of departments concerned certify that they support the application and agree to the co-funding the project entails. A signed certificate, as per the template below, is to be provided for each head of department concerned.
- **Appendix 3.** The dean's approval of the application. The approval is to be formulated as per the template for the dean's statement below and is to be submitted by email by the faculty deans concerned and attached to the application. There is to be one approval statement per faculty/equivalent concerned.
- **Appendix 4.** CV 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 CV is not to exceed 2 pages per applicant, excluding the publication list.

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 includes the list of references, but excludes appendices. Use font size 11 or larger. The language for application is to be English.

## Overall schedule

- 14 Feb. 2022 Research Board decides to call for applications for funding.
- 21 February The call for applications is published on the Research Board's website and is distributed. The assessment form for the international panel is published.
- 11 March Information meeting focusing on Agenda 2030, sustainable development and the relevance criterion.
- 16 September Pre-registration to submit an application via email to Research Services ([ansokan@fs.lu.se](mailto:ansokan@fs.lu.se)). Write "Pre-registration research project sustainable development" in the subject line of the email. State the name of the main applicant, co-applicants and email addresses. The budget template will be received when pre-registering. Information to applicants will be provided via the Research Board's website and via email to those who have pre-registered.
- 21 October Information meeting on budget and funding plan in the application, with opportunity to ask questions. For applicants and finance officers concerned.
- 28 October Information meeting with opportunity for applicants to ask questions about the formal requirements of the call for applications.
- 25 November Deadline for applications at 14:00.
- April 2023 Vice-chancellor's decision on allocation of funding.
- 30 August Collective vacancy announcement for postdoctoral and senior lectureship positions.

## Application

The application deadline is *25 November 2022 at 14:00*.

The application is to be made to the Research Board and is to be submitted digitally to Research Services ([ansokan@fs.lu.se](mailto:ansokan@fs.lu.se)). Write "Application research project sustainable development" in the subject line of the email message. Combine the application and all attachments in a single PDF file, labelled with the main applicant's surname.

## Questions

Any questions are to be sent to research liaison officer Tina Trollås, Research Services ([tina.trollas@fs.lu.se](mailto:tina.trollas@fs.lu.se), extension 27745).

A document providing answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) will be published on the [Research Board's website](#). This document will be continuously updated for the duration of the application period.

## Appendix 2. Template for approval from heads of department

The head of department [insert head of department's name], [insert name of department], [insert faculty name], hereby certifies that the applicant [insert applicant's name] from our department has my support for their application. I am informed of the project application, the conditions for the project and the costs that the project entails for the department.

[For cases in which associate senior professors are to be employed through the project and the department is to cover the costs. This text is deleted if only postdocs are to be employed or if the faculty is to cover the cost of associate senior lectureships] I hereby certify that the department will finance the associate senior lectureships included in the project from [insert name of department] after the first three years.

I am aware of the condition that faculties with approved projects must be prepared to advertise postdoctoral and associate senior lectureship vacancies on 30 August 2023 in the collective announcement.

Signature of head of department

[Head of department's name in print]

### Appendix 3. Template for approval from dean

I [insert dean's name], [insert faculty name], hereby certify that the faculty approves the application entitled [insert project title] with applicants [insert name of main applicant and names of co-applicants] and that the faculty supports the application.

[For cases in which associate senior professors are to be employed through the project and the faculty is to cover the costs. This text is deleted if only postdocs are to be employed or if the department is to cover the cost of associate senior lectureships] I hereby certify that the faculty will finance the associate senior lectureships included in the project from the faculty [insert name of faculty] after the first three years.

I am aware of the condition that faculties with approved projects must be prepared to advertise postdoctoral and associate senior lectureship vacancies on 30 August 2023 in the collective announcement.

[Dean's name]