FACULTY
OF SCIENCE

LUND
UNIVERSITY

Research Board

Call for funds for infrastructure at the Faculty of Science 2022

Background

Since 2011, the Faculty of Science has annually allocated funds for infrastructure initiatives that could be applied for by the faculty's researchers. From 2022 onwards, a new management order will be applied, which will entail some changes in handling compared to previous years. For applicants, the differences are very small – in principle, you can apply for funds for the same purposes as before – but the Research Board's preparation will be divided into two tracks, where medium-cost research group-related equipment is handled separately and more expensive equipment or equipment with large user bases is handled separately, as described below.

Use of funds

Funding can be sought for new instrumentation as well as upgrades and additions to existing systems. Instrumentation includes both hardware and software. Funding may be requested for several smaller components, but it must be clear that they are part of a larger infrastructure in which the components are interdependent. Funding may be sought for part-financing of investments that have funding from elsewhere. Salary support may be considered for installation and deployment (maximum 6 months). For infrastructures with many users, funding may also be considered for the operation and accessibility of the infrastructure. Funding for salaries can only be granted for TA staff. Funding is not available for the construction or renovation of premises, furnishings, etc. Funds may be used to cover overhead costs.

The main rule is that the main applicant must be a permanent employee at the Faculty of Science, but assistant lecturers can also apply. In such cases, the

application must be approved by the head of department in a separate statement.

Application procedure

The minimum amount for the application is 250 000 SEK

Applications that include salary funding for operation or access must clearly describe the user base of the infrastructure and how the infrastructure is accessible to users outside the primary research group (sections 7 and 8 of the application template).

For applications for funds for infrastructure that are also submitted to LTH, the following applies: the application must have a lead applicant from each faculty concerned and must include a statement of the user base that clarifies how the needs and use of the infrastructure are distributed between the faculties. The application must relate to the entire amount applied for, with a proposal for the distribution of costs between the faculties. LTH has its own application procedure and the same application must be submitted to LTH in accordance with the guidelines and criteria that apply to their call for proposals.

If funding is sought for the same or related purposes in LU's central infrastructure call, this must be stated in the application.

The application is made according to a special template available on the faculty's website. The application must be approved by the head of department, who confirms the overhead costs with a signed full cost calculation and certifies that the department will use the funds for the intended purpose if the application is approved.

Detailed instructions on how to prepare the application itself can be found in the application template.

Application deadline

The application (in PDF format) should be emailed to the secretary of the Research Board, Tobias Nilsson (Tobias.Nilsson@science.lu.se) by 1 March 2022. The full cost calculation must be received no later than one week after the application deadline, i.e. by 8 March.

Processing of applications received

The new procedure separates the handling of research group-related medium-cost equipment from the handling of major initiatives and initiatives involving salary funds, by dividing the Research Board's review process into two tracks.

In **Track 1**, research group-related medium-cost equipment, i.e. infrastructure in the cost range of 250 000 SEK – SEK 5 million, is prepared. Such research group related infrastructure typically serves a limited number of users and salary funding can only be considered for TA personnel for installation or set-up and for a maximum of 6 months of employment in total. A maximum of SEK 10 million will be allocated to research group-related medium-cost infrastructure.

In **Track 2**, applications are handled which exceed SEK 5 million or involve salary funds for TA staff (in addition to what can be included in track 1). Track 2 also comprises infrastructure applications that also have been submitted to other faculties or to LU centrally.

On the basis of the above criteria, the Research Board will decide, for each application, whether it should be processed in track 1 or track 2. Applications in track 1 will be compared with each other with the support of external experts, while applications in track 2 will be judged by the Research Board in a broader strategic perspective in dialogue with the institutions concerned, where the Research Board also has the opportunity to supplement the evidence for assessment through separate studies or the like. Track 2 applications may be evaluated by external experts.

The Research Board will consult with LTH on the allocation of funds to cross-faculty applications and coordination will also take place with LU's central infrastructure committee for applications that have also been submitted to them.

Feedback

A brief report on the use of the funds must be submitted to the Research Board by 1 February 2024.

Questions

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to Tobias Nilsson at the Science Faculty Office, whose contact details are in the footer.