



2024-03-15

Call for proposals Incubator Grant - year 2024

(This call is also available on BECC's website: www.becc.lu.se)

Aim of call

BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) welcomes proposals for *Incubator* projects in line with the vision and aims of BECC. This is a joint call between Lund University (LU) (up to 7 million SEK) and the University of Gothenburg (UGOT) (up to 3 million SEK). The call aims to further consolidate the collaboration between research groups within and between LU and UGOT and to increase the impact on research and society in relation to BECC's three Grand Challenges:

- Develop a scientific basis for effective and biologically meaningful conservation strategies under ongoing and future global change in socio-ecological land-use systems.
- Reduce wide uncertainty in the components of the carbon cycle, its responses to anthropogenic and biophysical drivers, and the legacy effects of slow responding processes of vegetation and soils.
- Integrate the private and public value of ecosystem services into management and policy while accounting for the projected impacts of climate, land-use and other drivers of change.

Specific aims 2024

The twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are two of the most pressing issues our planet faces today. Mitigation strategies of the two crises can involve potential synergies, but also serious trade-offs. Solving one crisis may come at the expense of the other, and measures to overcome one of them will only be effective as long as we address them both. BECC now calls for research topics addressing the Twin Crisis, namely projects considering the Climate Crisis and the Biodiversity Crisis together. This call aims at projects investigating the link between those crises and how to address them to promote sustainability. We are especially looking for solution-driven projects that have clear and innovative objectives and contribute to policy and decision-making. This 2024 call for the Incubator grant is targeting new hires of Postdocs, with the core team and supervision responsibilities distributed among research groups, disciplines, and universities (LU/UGOT), and with the budget evidencing extended stays at both universities.

What is the Incubator Grant?

The funds within the *Incubator Grant* are intended for projects that offer excellent research addressing BECC challenges, where inter- and/or transdisciplinarity, interaction between different research groups and interaction between different universities are requirements. Granted projects should clearly address one or more of BECC's current Grand Challenges and should be in line with the BECC Research Strategy 2020-2025 and the Theme strategic plans 2021-2025. The projects should entail substantial standalone efforts and should be feasible to achieve within two to three years. The grant can cover well-motivated costs of salary (as specified in the specific aims of the call) and running costs. The grant is not aimed at funding larger infrastructure.

Application guidelines

The main applicant must be a BECC PI. There can be up to four additional co-applicants (BECC PIs and/or BECC researchers) with roles clearly described. Collaboration with external researchers is welcomed, but the funding is strictly to be used for costs at the departments where the applicants are affiliated.



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An applicant may only apply for one proposal as the main applicant and contribute to a maximum of one as a co-applicant. Main applicants who were successful in BECC's "Call for proposals for research funding in BECC for the years 2023-2024" or BECC Call for Postdoc funding – Climate Adaptations (2022) cannot be the main applicants in this call. In addition to this, all applicants need to have approved report(s) of finished BECC activities (workshops, Action groups, project funds) as well as have filled in the mandatory BECC activity form (see below).

Instructions

1. Applications should be sent in using the application template (Appendix 1).
2. The project size should fit a budget of up to 3 000 000 SEK. Examples of eligible costs are salary funding/co-funding for researchers/postdocs/PhD-students, running costs, smaller infrastructure (up to 50kkr), and other costs related to the specific research project. All costs need to be well motivated.
3. The project timeline should not exceed three years.
4. CV should be attached for both main and co-applicants (2 pages each), using the CV template (Appendix 2).
5. Proposals should be sent to BECC research coordinator, Josefin Madjidian, Josefin.Madjidian@cec.lu.se, who also provides information on the application procedure.

The time frame for the application

Announcement of call: April 1 2024

The final day of application: June 1 2024

Decisions are expected to be taken during November 2023.

Assessment

Only eligible applications that clearly fit the call topic and criteria will be evaluated by external evaluators.

Eligibility and call relevance assessment:

- *The formal set of call criteria* (e.g. BECC-PI, reporting of earlier BECC activities etc)
- *Degree of relevance* in relation to the call topic including the connection to the wider BECC's Research Strategy 2020-2025, BECCs grand challenges, and BECC Research Themes' Strategic Plans 2021-2025. (Ranking: 1-5, applications with grades 1-3 will not be further evaluated)
- *Degree of synergy*. Applications with high synergistic effects across universities, research groups and/ or sectors will be favored. (Ranking: 1-3, applications with grades 1-2 will not be further evaluated)

Proposal evaluation:

- *Scientific quality and novelty*. Only applications of the highest scientific quality and with a significant degree of novelty and future potential will be supported. This ranking will include an evaluation of the degree to which knowledge, methods, goals and outcomes of different disciplines are integrated to generate new understanding that goes beyond what single disciplines can achieve alone. (Ranking: 1-5, applications with grades 1-3 cannot be funded)
- *Degree of inter- and/or transdisciplinary*. The degree to which knowledge, methods, goals, and outcomes of different disciplines are integrated into a new understanding that goes beyond what



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single disciplines can achieve alone. Balanced collaboration between social and natural science is compulsory. (Ranking: 1-5, applications with grades 1-3 cannot be funded)

- *Feasibility: Aims and budget.* The application shall describe a project that can be achieved within a time frame of up to three years and that has adequate resources to be carried out (e.g. external funds sufficient to support costs not included in the project budget). (Ranking: 1-3, applications with grades 1-2 cannot be funded)
- *The applicant's/s' scientific merits.* (Ranking: 1-3, applications with grades 1 cannot be funded)

where Rankings 1-5 are defined: 1=insufficient, 2=poor, 3=acceptable, 4=good, 5=very good, whereas Ranking 1-3 are defined: 1=insufficient, 2=acceptable, 3=good.

The score from each application will then be used to form a ranking list where funding will be allocated to the highest-ranked projects, considering budget allocations from each university.

Relevant documents

[BECC Research Strategy 2020-2025](#)

[Strategic Plans of BECC Research Themes 2021-2025](#)

[List of BECC-PIs](#)

[List of BECC-researchers LU](#)

List of BECC researchers UGOT (ask for pdf)

[Activity form questionnaire PIs Gothenburg](#)

[Activity form questionnaire PIs Lund](#)

[Reporting template AG](#)

[Reporting template Project](#)

[Reporting template Workshop](#)

Henrik Smith

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