



2026-03-11

## Call for proposals Incubator Grant - year 2026

(This call is also available on BECCs web page: [www.becc.lu.se](http://www.becc.lu.se))

### Aim of the call

BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) welcomes proposals for *Incubator* projects aligned with BECC's vision and goals. This joint call between Lund University (LU) (up to 7 million SEK) and the University of Gothenburg (UGOT) (up to 7 million SEK) aims to strengthen collaboration within BECC and to increase the scientific excellence and societal impact related to BECC's three Grand Challenges:

- Develop a scientific basis for effective and biologically meaningful conservation strategies under on-going 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

### Description of the 2026 call

Funding from the *Incubator Grant* call supports excellent and novel research projects within BECC's framework. Priority will be given to projects that foster interaction between research groups and promote collaboration between LU and UGOT. Projects must clearly address one or more of BECC's [Grand Challenges](#) and be aligned with the [BECC Research Strategy 2026-2030](#) and the [BECC Research Theme's Strategic Plans 2021-2025](#). Projects should be equivalent in scope to a Postdoctoral project and feasible within 2-3 years. Funding may be used for:

- Salary (PIs, researchers, postdocs or contribution to PhD-students, or assistants)
- Running costs
- Smaller infrastructure (up to 100 kSEK)
- Other well-motivated project-related costs.

The grant does not fund major infrastructure, monitoring, or continuous work tasks.

### Application guidelines

- The main applicant must be a BECC PI.
- Up to four co-applicants may be included (BECC PIs or BECC researchers, including PhDs and postdocs), with clearly described roles.
- Collaboration with external researchers is welcome, but funding must be used for BECC researchers or for new Postdoc/PhD hiring or assistants employed at the departments of the applicants.
- An applicant may submit only one proposal as the main applicant and participate in one additional proposal as co-applicant.
- Main applicants funded in BECC's 2024 *Incubator Grant* call cannot apply as main applicants in this call.



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- All applicants must have approved reports for previously completed BECC activities and PIs must have submitted the mandatory BECC Activity Form.

### Instructions

1. Applicants must use the application template (Appendix 1).
2. The project size should fit a budget of up to 3 000 000 SEK. All costs need to be well-motivated.
3. Project duration should not exceed three years.
4. CVs of all applicants should be attached (max 2 pages per applicant + a list of the 10 most relevant papers per applicant), using the obligatory CV-template (Appendix 2).
5. The application should also include an approved budget template from the department of the main applicant, signed by the head of the department.
6. Proposals should be submitted to BECC research coordinator, Josefin Madjidian (Josefin.Madjidian@mgeo.lu.se), who can also provide guidance on the application process.

### Timeline

- Call announcement: 11 March 2026
- Final day for application: 1 June 2026
- Decisions notification: November/December 2026

### **Assessment**

Only eligible applications aligned with the call will be evaluated by external evaluators.

### Eligibility

- Fulfilment of the formal criteria:
  - Main applicant is a BECC PI
  - Main applicant has reported earlier BECC-financed activities
  - Main applicant has submitted the BECC Activity Form
  - A full cost analysis, signed by the head of the department of the main applicant, is attached to the application.
- Relevance to BECC's Grand Challenges and to the wider BECC Research Strategy 2026-2030. (*Ranking: 1-5; scores 1-3 will not proceed to further evaluation*)
- Synergy across BECC's universities and research groups, and/or sectors will be favored. (*Ranking: 1-5; scores 1-2 will not proceed to further evaluation*)

### Proposal evaluation

- **Scientific quality**  
Only applications of the highest scientific quality will be supported. (*Ranking: 1-5, scores 1-3 cannot be funded*)
- **Novelty and future potential**  
Only applications that demonstrate a clear element of novelty and/or future potential, such as opening new fields or research trajectories, will be supported. (*Ranking: 1-5, scores 1-3 cannot be funded*)
- **Feasibility (aims and budget)**



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The application describes 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 scores 1-2 cannot be funded)*

- **Applicants' scientific merits**

Evaluated based on the applicant's attached CV and publication lists following the template in Appendix 2. *(Ranking: 1-3; score 1 cannot be funded)*

Ranking definitions:

**1-5:** 1 = insufficient, 2 = poor, 3 = acceptable, 4 = good, 5 = very good.

**1-3:** 1 = insufficient, 2 = acceptable, 3 = good.

The score from each application will be used to form a ranking list, and funding will be allocated based on ranking and available budget from each university.

*Relevant documents*

[BECC Research Strategy 2026-2030](#)

[List of BECC-PIs](#)

[List of BECC-researchers LU](#)

List of BECC researchers UGOT (ask for pdf)

Edith Hammer

Coordinator of BECC