



2018-10-12

Re-announcement of project funding for researchers to apply for up to 6 doctoral studentships within the strategic research area BECC (Lund)

Note: it is the researcher who applies for funding, not the student.

BECC welcomes research proposals to fund in total 6 PhD candidates within the vision and aims of BECC, starting as of July 2019.

For each of the approved applications, BECC will account for a sum equivalent to ¾ of a PhD position of 4 years (i.e. the first three years after which follows one year funding from respective department). BECC uses agency capital to fund this call and will therefore transfer granted funds to relevant departments.

General information

BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) is a strategic research area, which brings together research on climate-ecosystem-biodiversity relationships from natural and societal perspectives at Lund University and the University of Gothenburg. BECC strives to assess the impacts of climate change on terrestrial biodiversity and ecosystem services, and to generate knowledge as a basis for informed societal responses to those impacts. BECC research encompasses forestry, agriculture and subarctic ecosystems, but also how nutrient export from forestry and agricultural land affects aquatic systems. The focus is on Swedish conditions, taking into account relevant aspects of the regional (e.g. European) and global context. Studies of other climatic, societal or regional contexts may also be relevant, if they generate knowledge of well-motivated relevance to the evidence-based management of Swedish ecosystems, or to the fulfilment of Sweden's international commitments in related policy areas.

BECC is organized in Challenge Themes ("Theme" for short), each relating to a Grand Challenge with regard to the impacts of climate and environmental change on biodiversity and ecosystem services, and the ability of society to adapt to the impacts, or mitigate their causes. Each Theme thus focuses on an overarching issue of scientific importance, in need of scientific coordination, with high relevance to decision making and with potentially high impact on international research, today and in coming years. See <http://www.becc.lu.se/important-becc-documents>, for more information about the themes.

Proposals are invited for research relevant to achieving the vision and aims of BECC. For approved projects, a doctoral studentship will be advertised according to respective faculty's regulations. For approved applications, BECC will pay a sum equivalent to half a doctoral studentship of 4 years. The funds are granted under the premise that the doctoral student is admitted to a graduate program at a department and that an agreement is reached with the department and its faculty. This department will finance the other half of the doctoral studentship with faculty resources or through external funding. The student's achievements in the distribution models are credited entirely to this department.

The student will follow the syllabus of the faculty to which the department of the main supervisor is affiliated. The main supervisor must be a "docent" or equivalent in accordance with the faculties' rules.

Instructions

The call is open to Lund University-affiliated BECC PIs. The application is submitted by the main supervisor (must be a BECC PI). For each application, there should also be a co-applicant. As a PI you can only be the main applicant on 1 application as well as co-applicant on 1 application.

1. First page: project title, name and full address of the main and co-applicant.
2. Description of the project (maximum 5 pages, Times 12, single spacing).
 - Title
 - Specific aims of the research funding
 - BECC significance (bullets in no particular order)
 - In what way does the proposed research lead to the achievements of the central aims of the BECC programme?
 - In what way does the suggested research go beyond the current state of the art (including inter- and trans-disciplinary developments and novel or unconventional concepts and approaches)?
 - How does the planned research link to current research activities within BECC?
 - How does the project enhance inter- and transdisciplinary collaboration?
 - Describe how the research projects take stakeholder interaction into consideration?
 - Planned research
 - Short description of the planned research including a clear objective
 - Brief description of the methodology
 - Budget and time plan
 - Specification of what resources are available to carry out the PhD-project (running costs)
 - Description of how the remaining half of the studentship will be funded
 - A short time plan of the project
 - Involved scientists (research groups)
 - Short description of the skills of the involved scientists in relation to the aim of the project
3. CV and a complete list of publications from the last 8 years of main applicant.
4. The Head of the main supervisor's department must confirm that the department intends to host the PhD student and finance the remaining part of the studentship.

Assessment

Applications will be evaluated by the BECC board and be based on:

- Scientific quality. Only applications of the highest scientific quality will be supported.
- BECC relevance. Only applications contributing to the aims of BECC will be supported.
- Feasibility. The proposal must describe a project that is feasible to carry out during a four-year PhD-project.
- Credible and specific plan for dissemination of results tailored to the research conducted.

In the ranking of proposals fulfilling the above obligatory criteria, equal weight will be given to each of the following criteria:

- Scientific, methodological and/or inter/transdisciplinary novelty;
- Expectation and extent of impact of the research findings on societal processes relevant to the scope of BECC;
- Degree of synergy between different research areas of BECC by involving collaboration spanning more than one research group, department or faculty;
- The applicants' academic track record, expertise relevant to the proposed research and demonstrated engagement for the development of the BECC environment.



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Application

Re-announcement of call: Friday 12 October 2018.
Final day of application: Friday 9 November 2018.
Decisions are expected to be taken during December 2018.

Proposals should be sent to the BECC research coordinator, Josefin Madjidian, josefin.madjidian@cec.lu.se, who also provides information on the application procedure.

This call is also available on BECCs web page: www.becc.lu.se

Henrik Smith

Coordinator of BECC

