

## **Young Investigator Synergy Award**

### **Collaborative projects by PhD students, postdoctoral fellows/researchers and associate senior lecturers (BUL)**

All PhD students, postdoctoral fellows/researchers and associate senior lecturers (biträdande universitetslektor, BUL) within the LU profile area Light and Materials are invited to propose a collaborative project and obtain funding to try out a new research idea combining light and materials.

- **Eligibility:** The proposers need to be PhD students, postdoctoral fellows/researchers or BULs employed by Lund University at least until 30 October 2024. The PhD degree should not be received more than 7 years before the deadline for the application.
- **Number of applicants:** At least two applicants, one representing light, the other materials. The division of light/materials is topical, not administrative.
- **Amount:** Up to 250,000 kronor per project.
- **Use of funds:** Funds may be used for whatever is needed to make the idea happen: for example, equipment, consumables, travel, or salary. Usual overhead rules apply. Any minor or major equipment purchased will become a University property.
- **Scope:** The project needs to combine light and materials.
- **Initiative is necessary:** The project must be the idea of, or be initiated by, the proposers (not by their supervisors).
- **Agreement:** For PhD students and postdoctoral fellows the current advisor/group leader must have agreed to the project, including making time available to work on the project. It is important to discuss the project and the use of the funds with the group leader.
- **Proposal format.** See below.
- **Selection criteria:** **Synergy** (how well light and materials complement each other and support the project), **Originality** (is this a new idea?), **Initiative** (ideas of the applicants should be clearly visible), **Feasibility** (can the project be carried out in the time available?), **Potential impact** (what new opportunities can this lead to?).
- **Number of awards:** We expect to fund 4-5 projects.
- **Project duration.** The project can start at any time during 2024.
- **Deadline for application submission:** November 6 (Monday), 2023
- **Submission:** One applicant should act as a corresponding proposer and will submit the proposal. Maximum two pages (pdf) shall be sent by email to Mirja Carlsson Möller [mirja.carlsson\\_moller@ftf.lth.se](mailto:mirja.carlsson_moller@ftf.lth.se) with CC to your advisors/group leaders (not necessary in case of the BULs). Please, name the pdf with your last name as the first part of the file name, for instance: “**Lastname\_Light\_and\_Materials.pdf**”, and use the email subject: “**Light and Materials project 2023**”.
- **Selection process:** The proposals will be evaluated by a group of experienced senior researchers (the group will be selected after the proposals have been submitted to avoid conflict of interest). The final selection will then be proposed to the Light and Materials Management group. Only one application per applicant and call is allowed.
- The funding decision will be made by the Light and Materials Management group.

**Proposal format.**

**Note, that projects failing to follow the format rules given below will not be considered.**

The project description is limited to no more than two A4 pages including figures and references with at least 2.5 cm margins. The font of the main text should not be smaller than 11 pt. The file should be submitted in pdf format.

The two pages should contain the following information:

1. Title
2. Proposers' affiliations (division/group) and emails
3. **In case of PhD students and postdocs, provide name, division and email of the senior scientists (advisor/group leader) who have agreed to host the project** as described, if successful. It is highly advisable to obtain feedback on the proposal from a senior scientist.
4. **Project description with the following information:**
  - Background and motivation
  - Specific question addressed/specific goal
  - **How is this a conceptually new project**, and not a continuation of already initiated research?
  - Why is this question/goal **important for LU profile area Light and Materials?** If successful, what might this lead to in the medium term?
  - Which are the **specific** outcomes and how will they be obtained during the funding period? What will be the final result that is **achievable with the project funds applied for?**
  - Who else needs to contribute to the project?
5. Budget, using the following table (note that salary LKP and indirect costs (overhead) to the university mean that you need to apply for more money than the direct cost of the project). Travel expenses cannot be the main cost of the project.
6. Intended project start and end (can be any time).

<b>Budget</b>	Brief description of the intended use of funds	Direct cost (SEK) <i>(purchase cost of equipment, actual salary)</i>	Total cost (SEK)
<b>Minor equipment*</b>			<i>Multiply the direct cost by 1.5</i>
<b>Consumables</b>			<i>Multiply the direct cost by 1.5</i>
<b>Salary</b>			<i>Multiply the salary by 2.25</i>
<b>Other</b>			
			<b>Total</b>

\* Different overhead rules apply to expensive equipment. Please contact Mirja Carlsson Möller if you consider applying for equipment for more than about 50 000 kronor.

**Some possible mistakes you should avoid:**

- It is not possible to see that the proposal is based on (or at least contains) the ideas of the applicants. Please, stress clearly which ideas are yours.
- It is not clear how a successful project may lead to new capabilities or new research directions at the Lund University profile area Light and Materials.
- The budget is incomplete. It is highly advisable to obtain feedback on your budget from an experienced scientist. It must be clear how you plan to spend your money, and how this will facilitate the project. It must also be clear where the numbers come from and how they are calculated (e.g. monthly salary, percent of time, number of months).
- The proposal has unrealistically ambitious goals, or it is not clear what is expected to be achieved within the proposed budget.
- The proposal is poorly written. We expect complete proposals that give a professional impression.

**Questions:**

If you have any questions regarding this call, please contact Mirja Carlsson Möller  
[mirja.carlsson\\_moller@ff.lth.se](mailto:mirja.carlsson_moller@ff.lth.se)