



Call for funding of visiting scholars

Background and Scope

In order to strengthen the LTU research area “Natural Resources for Sustainable Development – SUN, we launch a first call for funding of visiting scholars. The overall goal of this call is to (co-)fund short-term visits of prolific researchers that can help expand the university’s network in the academic world, this in order to make possible path-breaking research and prestigious publications, and/or secure new and significant funding together with excellent research groups internationally. An important requirement for funding is that the visit should make it possible for LTU researchers and Ph.D. candidates to learn more about the research frontier in important fields directly relevant to SUN, e.g., through seminars and/or Ph.D. courses. Visiting scholars that could be a catalyst for multi-disciplinary research collaboration at LTU are encouraged.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide important points of departure for the SUN research area. These goals signify the blueprint to achieve a sustainable future, including seventeen global challenges such as climate change, improved health, equality and economic development. Reaching the SDGs is a formidable task, which stretches far beyond incremental changes in existing production processes. The transformation is characterized by disruptive technological change; novel actor networks, value chains, and institutions (legal rules, norms) must be put in place. Technological change is therefore highly intertwined with societal change.

In SUN, we take stock in the fact that the natural resources of northern Sweden, in the form of *minerals and metals, forest biomass and hydropower* (green electricity), play key roles in a sustainable society. The SDGs presume green technological change and innovation, such as, for instance, electrification based on zero-carbon energy sources, energy storage and flexibility, resource and energy efficient production processes, as well as an increased use of byproducts and waste materials. At the same time, though, it is important to address how such developments affect the pursue of different types of SDGs. Efforts involving attempts to reach one goal could often make it more difficult to reach another one; this results in difficult trade-offs where the various dimensions of sustainable development – environmental, economic and social – are not easily aligned (at least in the short-term).

In this context, the vision for SUN is that LTU, through first-rate research on the emergence of sustainable industrial value chains and its societal implications, is an indispensable partner for industries and other key actors in society. LTU should lead the way, and make it possible for Sweden to develop novel technologies that will induce a radical reduction in the environmental and carbon footprints, increase competitiveness, as well as the legitimacy of the transformation towards a sustainable society. Again, SUN focuses on the roles of minerals and metals, forest biomass and hydropower in this transformation.



About the Call

In this call, we seek applications for shorter guest research visits. We anticipate visits over 1-3 months, but they could be longer and also shorter (as long as this is reflected in the budget). Applications from both the technical and the philosophical faculties are encouraged as long as they are in line with the above vision of a natural resource-dependent sustainability transition.

The total budget for the call equals SEK 900 000, and for the year 2021, the plan is to fund 3-5 research visits. SUN can help cover the costs of travel, hotel, and remuneration (e.g., for giving and/or guesting a Ph.D. course). We expect the total budgets for each application to differ, e.g., depending on the length of the stay and what the visiting scholar will do while at LTU. Still, the maximum amount that can be applied for equals SEK 300 000. If this sum does not cover all anticipated costs for the visit (e.g., in the case of longer visits), the applicant's research group needs to co-fund the remaining (see also below on instructions and evaluation criteria).

Applications are due no later than 1 March, 2021. Follow the instructions below and send the application in a PDF file to Christina Wanhainen at christina.wanhainen@ltu.se. A decision will be announced within a month. Given the uncertainty about the pandemic situation during next year, any granted funding can be spent either during 2021 or during the spring 2022. A new call for funding of visiting scholars is planned also next year (call out in November, 2021).

Instructions

The application for funding of visiting research scholar should be about two-three pages long, written in English, and be structured around the following sections/headings. **Please use the attached template**, and submit as PDF.

- **Title of Application:** e.g., "Visiting Scholar: Professor X, Y University, Country"
- **Applicant:** name of the LTU contact person at LTU (needs to be a LTU employee), division, department, e-mail, telephone number.
- **Background and motivation:** motivate why the funding will help attain the goal of this call (see above). Provide a short description of the research expertise of the proposed visiting scholar, and in what ways her/his research is related to ongoing research at LTU. State also if the research group has collaborated with the proposed visiting scholar in the past. The application must clearly explain why the visit is interesting and relevant *in the context of the research area's focus* on the role of natural resources (ore, wood, water) in the transition to a sustainable society. Explain also to what extent the visit relates to multi-disciplinary collaboration, and/or could encourage such collaboration.
- **Objectives:** provide short-term goals (i.e., what should be achieved as a direct result of the planned research visit as such?); and long-term goals (i.e., what could the established collaboration imply in the long-term in terms of path-breaking research and/or funding).



- **Description of visit:** what will actually be done during the visit? Provide a detailed plan for the research visit in terms of activities for the visiting scholar, e.g., seminars, Ph.D. courses, meetings with LTU staff, supervision, other regional actors, etc.
- **Time plan:** Planned dates for the visit.
- **Project budget, including co-funding (if applicable):** Provide a detailed budget of how the applied funding will be spent (e.g., travel, hotel, remuneration, etc.).
- **CV:** Attach a short two-page CV of the visiting scholar.

Evaluation criteria

The applications for guest researcher visits will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (a) the qualifications of the visiting scholar (strong researchers in the middle of their careers are encouraged); (b) added value in relation to ongoing research at LTU, and the project's fit with respect to the vision of the SUN research area (multi-disciplinary research is encouraged); (c) potential for path-breaking research and/or long-term funding opportunities; (d) good plan for the visit at LTU, including interactions with LTU staff and Ph.D. candidates (the scholar giving a seminar at the SUN seminar series is a requirement); and (e) a reasonable and transparent budget.

Decision

The final funding decisions will be taken by the SUN steering group, and will be announced by the end of March, 2021, at the latest. All granted applications are expected to submit a brief, final report and a financial statement after the visit.

We look forward to your applications, and do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions!

The steering group of Natural Resources for Sustainable Development – SUN

Contacts:

Main coordinator: Professor Christina Wanhainen, e-mail: christina.wanhainen@ltu.se

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