

Centre for Environmental
and Climate Science (CEC)

Announcement of project funding for researchers to apply for a doctoral studentship in Environmental Science within the Lund University Agenda 2030 Graduate School

Note: It is the researcher who apply for this funding, not the student

The Centre for Environmental and Climate Science (CEC) is responsible for the interdisciplinary PhD programme in Environmental Science at the Science Faculty at Lund University.

Lund University runs a graduate school focusing on societal challenges, sustainability issues and the 2030 Agenda. The graduate school will enrol a new cohort of students in 2022, by funding one studentship at each Faculty.

CEC now announces funding for one doctoral studentship, where the doctoral student is admitted to the PhD programme in Environmental Science at the Faculty of Science, and is enrolled in the Agenda 2030 graduate school. The doctoral student will be employed and have their main workplace at the main supervisor's department.

The Agenda 2030 graduate school will account for a sum equivalent to one PhD position for 4 years.

The last day to submit a project proposal is Monday 2021-05-31.

General information

CEC invites applications from researchers for an individual doctoral student project. It is not intended for students who are already admitted to PhD studies.

We welcome research projects that will investigate environmental science research questions. Interest areas can lie within CEC's research environments BECC (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in a Changing Climate) or MERGE (Modelling the Regional and Global Earth System) (see www.cec.lu.se), or other research fields of interest for environmental science. These include the study of chemical substances in the environment, human impact on ecosystems and climate, sustainable use of energy and natural resources including strategies, or the study of natural strategies and technologies that prevent or solve environmental problems.

The 2030 Agenda is the framework for sustainable development that the world's nations have signed to end extreme poverty, reduce inequalities, solve the climate crisis, promote peace and equity and much more. In order to achieve the goals, research has several important roles: to identify challenges and conflicting objectives, contribute new solutions, generate dialogue and learning between different societal stakeholders and critically analyse the goals. Lund University aspires to be a part of the solution and therefore has a graduate school focusing on societal challenges, sustainability issues and the 2030 Agenda. The graduate school offers an opportunity to gain interdisciplinary perspectives on global challenges and contribute to current research while subject knowledge is deepened.

For the approved project, a doctoral studentship will be advertised according to the regulations of the Faculty of Science.

Requirements

As all doctoral students of the graduate school are recruited in a joint process, there is a strict timeline that must be followed. Should the applicant at some stage not be able to follow the timeline, the funding will be offered to the next applicant in line.

The last day to submit a project proposal is Monday 31 May 2021. The applicant of the approved project will be informed at latest by 24 June 2021, and must accept or refuse instantly. The applicant must submit a complete text for an advertisement for a doctoral studentship by July 31, and be available for corrections during August. The advertisement will be published together with all positions for the graduate school on August 30. The supervisors must complete the recruitment (including time needed for working permit/equivalent) of the doctoral student in time for the student to start on 1 January 2022.

It is required that the supervisors of the doctoral student should come from different disciplines. The main supervisor must be employed at the Faculty of Science and be a "docent" or equivalent in accordance with the Faculty's rules. The main supervisor and all co-supervisors must have completed supervisor training or equivalent.

Before the doctoral studentship is announced in August, an agreement between CEC and the supervisors' departments must be signed by the respective heads of the departments and the supervisors.

A recruiting committee in line with the rules of the Faculty of Science must be appointed before the doctoral studentship is announced in August.

The student will be enrolled in the Environmental Science programme and gain a PhD in Environmental Science regardless of where the main supervisor works/is affiliated. The current general syllabus can be found here:

<https://www.naturvetenskap.lu.se/internt/sites/naturvetenskap.lu.se/internt/files/2020-12/allman-studieplan-miljovetenskap-2020-12-16.pdf>

See here for an explanation in English:

<https://www.science.lu.se/internal/research-and-education/postgraduate-studies/general-syllabi-and-individual-study-plan>

In addition to the Environmental Science programme, it is mandatory for the PhD student to complete at least two of the courses organized under the umbrella of the Agenda 2030 graduate school as well as to participate in the yearly meetings and other activities arranged by the graduate school. The graduate school courses will count towards the 60 credit courses within Environmental Science programme.

It is mandatory for all supervisors to participate in meetings and activities organized by the Director of graduate studies in Environmental Science (in average 1-2 activities per semester).

The doctoral student will be employed at and have his/her main workplace at the department where their main supervisor works.

Instructions

The application for the PhD project is submitted by the main supervisor. Each applicant can submit only one application as main supervisor, but can contribute to other applications as co-supervisor. Please note that the application will be evaluated by representatives of a broad range of subjects (The CEC Board) rather than disciplinary experts. Project applications must be written in English, and sent as one electronic pdf file containing the following:

1. First page: project title, name and contact details of the main applicant (main supervisor) and co-applicants (co-supervisors).
2. A general scientific description of the project (maximum 5 pages, Times 12, single spacing) including clear objectives of the project and a description of how different tasks of the project (e.g., lab work, travel) will be funded. The scientific description should comprise the following:
 - a. *Project description*: The project application must clearly describe the doctoral student's project. The following must be clarified:
 - i. The environmental science research questions
 - ii. The research question's connection the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
 - iii. Methods
 - iv. Competence and contributions of supervisors involved in project
 - b. *Environmental science*

Under a separate heading, the project's environmental science aspects will be described (see description in the general syllabus for Environmental Science at Lund University). During the subsequent evaluation process of the

incoming applications emphasis will be placed on the interdisciplinary nature of the project, therefore the application should argue why the project is suitable for environmental science and not any of the other research fields within the natural sciences. It must be clear which supervisors are involved and what their roles are, and also if there are collaborators outside the university.

c. *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

Under a separate heading, describe how the research project relates to the purpose of the United Nation's global goals for sustainable development, using the 2030 Agenda's holistic approach as a starting point rather than focusing on individual sustainability goals. More information about the core principles of the Agenda 2030 can be found here: [2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-KCSD-Primer-new.pdf \(un.org\)](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development-KCSD-Primer-new.pdf)

d. *Funds*: Funding for the operational costs of the project must be presented. This includes lab costs, equipment, travel cost etc including indirect costs.

3. CV of the applicant and co-applicants including a list of max. 10 relevant peer-reviewed publications.
4. Certificate: The head of the main supervisor's department must confirm that:
 - a. The doctoral student will be employed at and have his/her main workplace at this department.
 - b. The department takes responsibility for the supervision of the doctoral student, and it is mandatory for all supervisors to participate in meetings and activities organized by the Director of graduate studies in Environmental Science.
 - c. The department guarantees the funding of the operational costs of the project.
 - d. The department is aware that:
 - i. the student will be enrolled in the Environmental Science programme and gain a PhD in Environmental Science.
 - ii. the doctoral student will also be enrolled in the Agenda 2030 graduate school.
 - iii. in addition to fulfilling the general syllabus of the Environmental Science programme, it is mandatory for the PhD student to complete at least two of the courses organized under the umbrella of the Agenda 2030 graduate school as well as participating in the graduate school's yearly meetings and other activities.

- iv. an agreement between CEC and the department on the above points has to be signed before the doctoral studentship is announced in August.

Assessment

Applications will be evaluated by a review panel and the decision is taken by the CEC Board. Applications will be assessed based on:

- *Scientific quality and relevance*: Projects with clear and innovative scientific issues and appropriate methodology will be prioritized.
- *Environmental Science*: The project must have a clear environmental science character in line with the subject description and goals listed in the revised version of the general syllabus for Environmental Science at Lund University. Projects with a clear synergy between different disciplines are prioritized, and it is required that supervisors belong to different disciplines. Projects with collaborations with partners outside the university are especially welcomed (when the project allows for it).
- *The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*: The project must have a clear connection to the 2030 Agenda. Priority will be given to projects that can clearly motivate how the research supports the core principles of the 2030 Agenda.
- *Financing*: Projects with existing co-funding of the operational expenses will be prioritized.

Application

Monday, 2021-05-31, is the last day to apply

The application can be submitted via email to the administrative manager Karin Hofvendahl (Karin.Hofvendahl@cec.lu.se) who also provides information on the application procedure. The subject line of the email should include “Application for PhD funding”

Additional information is also provided by:

Natascha Kljun, Director of PhD studies in Environmental Science, natascha.kljun@cec.lu.se

Anna Ekberg, Faculty of Science representative in the Agenda 2030 graduate school, anna.ekberg@cec.lu.se

Per Persson

Director

Karin Hofvendahl

Administrative manager