



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

**Faculty of natural resources and  
agricultural sciences**  
Doctoral education board

**UTLYSNING**  
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## Research school initiatives from 2022-

### New investment in research schools

SLU's board will according to information provided decide to continue the investment in research schools. This call addresses both existing graduate schools and new initiatives. The new investment is valid until further notice and is preliminarily in the order of SEK 4 million per year at the NJ faculty.

### Research schools at the NJ faculty

A research school at the NJ faculty is usually thematically defined and offers educational activities at a high, international level (see Appendix 1 for future definition). Through their activities, the research schools shall contribute to the doctoral students being able to fulfill the degree objectives for the doctoral degree. The educational activities shall primarily be offered in the form of courses, but also through other activities such as seminars, workshops, network meetings that are relevant and valuable for doctoral students and their education. Opportunities for network development are important parts and is achieved e.g. by research schools collaborating with other research schools and external actors (academia, business, etc.) for certain activities.

Each research school shapes its activities in accordance with its subject / thematic delimitation.

The Research schools are coordinated by the directors of studies who manage the research schools' ongoing activities, while steering groups have an overall responsibility. More information about [SLU's existing research schools can be found on the internal web](#).

*The overall purpose and goals for research schools at the NJ faculty are to:*

- offer high-quality educational activities,
- contribute to a varied range of courses and other activities,
- develop and open up networks in science and society,
- involve as many doctoral students as possible in research school activities,
- at least 25% of the training activities must be carried out in collaboration with external actors and
- some of the educational activities will be carried out in collaboration with other research schools.

*General aspects of new research school investment:*

The research schools' activities must be open to all doctoral students at SLU and together ideally involve all the faculty's doctoral students. The course offering within the research schools shall not compete with the Doctoral Education Council's (Fur) course offering. Allocation is regulated according to the scope, size and content of each research school.

The research schools that are awarded funding for activities will receive the assignment until further notice. A follow-up of the research schools will be done during years three or four and depending on the results, funding may become adjusted.

## Announcement and assessment of applications

The investment is intended to start the spring semester 2022 and last until further notice.

Those who are interested in running a research school send in an application with a general description of an initial four-year period, including a preliminary budget. These applications will be reviewed by the Doctoral education board at the NJ faculty (Fun-NJ) according to a number of criteria (see Appendix 2). Fun may request additions or make proposals for restructuring of the research schools. Fun then takes a position on which research schools should be run and submits proposals to the Faculty Board (FN), which makes decisions, on allocation and budget for each proposed research school.

### *Planned time frame:*

#### 2021

11 October

Call for proposals for the establishment of research schools

6 December

Deadline for application to [registrator@slu.se](mailto:registrator@slu.se)

December

Fun-NJ AU prepares the applications

#### 2022

January

Fun-NJ decides on the recommendation of research schools

January-February

The proposal for FN is being prep. in Fun-NJ AU and FN AU

17 Februari (prel)

FN, the Faculty board take decision on RS investments.

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Bilaga 1. Suggested definition of the research schools in the Guidelines for research education.

#### **5.4 Definition of thematic research schools at SLU**

A thematic research school at SLU aims to create a larger educational context, across departmental and faculty boundaries, with a large and varied range of educational activities in a way that can be difficult to prioritize or fund for an individual department or research group.

A research school at SLU is a form of organization that does not have to follow the ordinary department and faculty structure. It is usually thematically defined, and should carry out educational activities that aim to support the doctoral students' education towards the degree objectives. Education activities can consist of doctoral courses with an approved curriculum, seminars, workshops, conferences, study tours, etc., and will be open to all SLU doctoral students regardless of departmental and faculty affiliation. One aim is for education to be at a high, international level. Network building is important, and a research school can have a close collaboration with external stakeholders and with other Swedish and international universities.

The model for grant allocation and criteria to be met by SLU's thematic research schools are decided by FUR.

After coordination in FUR, the faculty board decides on the number of research schools, their scope and thematic delimitation. Furthermore, the faculty boards must determine the forms and routines for how their research schools are to be established. They shall appoint coordinators and a steering group, which includes a coordinator and doctoral student representatives, or a coordinator group plus a reference group shall be appointed. The Faculty Board shall, based on the research school's business plan, decide on a four-year framework budget for each research school. The faculty boards must annually follow up the activities of the research schools.

*Förslag till definition av forskarskolorna i Riktlinjerna för forskarutbildning.*

#### **5.4 Definition av tematiska forskarskolor vid SLU**

En tematisk forskarskola vid SLU syftar till att skapa ett utbildningssammanhang över institutions- och fakultetsgränser, med ett stort och varierat utbud av utbildningsaktiviteter på ett sätt som kan vara svårt att prioritera eller finansiera för en enskild institution eller forskargrupp.

En forskarskola vid SLU är en organisationsform som inte behöver följa den ordinarie institutions- och fakultetsstrukturen. Den är vanligen tematiskt definierad, och ska genomföra utbildningsaktiviteter som syftar till att stödja doktorandernas utbildning mot examensmålen. Utbildningsaktiviteter kan bestå av doktorandkurser med godkänd kursplan, seminarier, workshops, konferenser, studieresor etc. och ska vara öppna för alla SLU-doktorander oavsett institutions- och fakultetstillhörighet. En strävan är att utbildningen skall ligga på en hög, internationell nivå. Nätverksbyggande är viktigt, och en forskarskola kan ha en tät samverkan med externa intressenter och med andra svenska och internationella universitet.

Modell för anslagstilldelning och kriterier som ska uppfyllas av SLU:s tematiska forskarskolor beslutas av FUR.

Efter samordning i FUR beslutar fakultetsnämnd om antal forskarskolor, deras omfattning och tematiska avgränsning. Vidare ska fakultetsnämnderna bestämma former och rutiner för hur deras forskarskolor ska etableras. De ska utse koordinatörer och en styrgrupp, där koordinatör och doktorandrepresentanter ingår, alternativt utses en koordinatorsgrupp plus en referensgrupp. Fakultetsnämnd ska baserat på forskarskolans verksamhetsplan besluta om en fyraårig rambudget för respektive forskarskola. Fakultetsnämnderna ska årligen följa upp forskarskolornas verksamhet.

## Appendix 2, Instructions

A research school application must be written in accordance with the attached application template. The application should consider and clarify how the research school intends to operate with regard to the criteria set out below.

Send in the application to [registrator@slu.se](mailto:registrator@slu.se) **no later than 6 December 2021**.

Applications will be assessed by the Doctoral education board at the NJ Faculty (Fun-NJ) according to the criteria below.

*Assessment criteria (compare the application template):*

- Target group and its approximate size?
- Planned internal and external collaborations (e.g. departments / centers / platforms / ... and universities / institutes / organizations / NGOs/...)
- Aim and outcomes for the graduate school
  - o The research school's added value for postgraduate education
  - o Educational activities that are relevant and of value to a number of doctoral students
  - o Continuity, i.e. whether both existing doctoral students and doctoral students who are accepted during the period can benefit from the research school's activities (repetition of activities and progression)
  - o Elements of career planning
  - o Teacher competence
  - o Elements of collaboration with the surrounding society
  - o International connection
  - o Interdisciplinary approaches
  - o Elements of sustainable development
- Planned courses and whether different activities build on each other (courses must make up at least 40% of the educational activities)

There are a number of benchmarks for budget planning.

- Mobility support for postgraduate students to participate physically / digitally in external courses (not conferences) may amount to a maximum of SEK 10,000 per course and person,
  - Graduate schools may not pay for conferences.
- Planned course credits for courses must be stated.
- Course budget may not exceed guidelines for course remuneration (tab "remuneration for postgraduate courses" under <https://internt.slu.se/riktat/interna-fakultetssidor/nj-fak/karnverksamheterna/forskarutbildning/>).
  - Study travel costs may not normally exceed SEK 100,000 per occasion.
  - The cost of administration may amount to a maximum of 30% of the total budget.