



Sveriges lantbruksuniversitet
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences

**Faculty of Natural Resources and
Agricultural Sciences**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2016-11-15

Translation of Forskarskolesatsning 2017-2020 (SLU.ua.2016.3.2.1-4307)

Call for applications - Research Schools for PhD-students, 2017-2020

New support for research schools

SLU's board and the NJ faculty have decided to continue to support research schools. The call is aimed at both existing research schools as new initiatives. The new venture is valid for a period of four years and are in the order of 6 000 thousand per year at NJ Faculty.

Research schools at the Faculty NJ

Research schools at the NJ faculty are usually thematically defined and provides educational activities at a high, international level. Research schools should through their activities contribute so the doctoral students can meet the objectives of the doctorate. The training activities will mainly be offered in the form of courses, but also through other activities such as seminars, workshops, networking meetings that are relevant and valuable to the students and their education. Possibility of networking is an important part and achieved, e.g. by interaction between research schools or external actors for some activities. Each research school plans its activities in accordance with its disciplinary / thematic framework.

Each graduate schools is coordinated by one or two director of studies, who are in charge of the operating activities, while steering groups have a more general responsibility for RS. More information about [SLU's existing graduate schools are available on the staff web.](#)

Overall purpose and goals of the Research Schools at NJ Faculty are to:

- offer educational activities of high quality;
- contribute to a varied range of courses and other activities,
- develop and open networks in academia and society,
- involve as many students as possible in research school activities
- at least 25% of the training activities to be carried out in cooperation with external actors
- part of the training activities to be carried out in collaboration with other research schools

General aspects of the new graduate school initiative:

Research school activities should be open to all PhD students at SLU and together ideally involve all faculty PhD students. The courses offered in the research schools should not compete with Fur's course offerings. Resource allocation will be regulated to some extent by the respective graduate school's scope, size and content.

The allocation for mobility support, study tours and conferences will be limited. Cost of coordination may not exceed 30% of the total budget per research school. Research schools that are supported, will receive funding for the entire four-year period.

A follow-up of the research schools will be made after two years and depending on the results, resource allocation may be adjusted.

Call and assessment of applications

Research school activities are planned for a four-year period to start autumn 2017 and to be ended in spring 2021 (the budget is for technical reasons, from 2017 to 2020).

The application process will include a two-step procedure. Step 1 involves those who are interested to pursue a graduate school to submit an application with an overview of the entire four-year period, including the general budget. These applications will be reviewed by the Postgraduate Studies Board (Fun-NJ), according to a number of criteria (see below). In step 2, based on a selection by Fun-NJ, a number of proposals will be awarded grants for further planning. At this stage, Fun-NJ might suggest some adjustments, restructuring or further "co-planning" between research school teams. Based on the more detailed and possibly revised proposals, Fun-NJ will propose to the NJ-faculty board which research schools should be run and awarded funds for the four year period.

Scheduled time frame:

2016

November SLU Board and NJ dean decisions on RS allocation.
November Call for proposals for the establishment of RS
December 22 Deadline - application step 1, (see below)

2017

19/20 January Fun-NJ decision on planning grants for selected proposals
March 17 Deadline for final applications (application step 2)
March 31 Fun-NJ proposal on which RS should be run
April 19 Faculty board decision on RS

Instructions Step 1

A request to pursue research school operations should be written according to the attached application template. The application should take into account and clarify how the research school intends to work in terms of the criteria stated below.

Applications must be sent to registrator@slu.se, **not later than 22 December 2016**.

Fun-NJ examines the applications according to the following criteria, and then notifies the applications that are approved and awarded planning grants for pursuing step 2.

The issues to be considered in the assessment of applications (compare application template):

- Target group and its approximate extent
- Planned collaborations and partnerships, such as between institutions and clusters
- Aims and objectives of the research school
 - Research school's added value for research training
 - Training activities that are relevant and of value to a number of graduate students
 - Pedagogical approach of the different activities and the research school as such
 - Continuity, ie. whether both existing doctoral students as well as new doctoral students admitted during the period could participate in the graduate school's activities
 - Elements of career planning
 - Teachers' competence
 - Elements of interaction with the society
 - International extension
- Planned courses e.g. subject depth, width and whether different activities build on each other