



Umeå University's handling of grants for research infrastructure of national interest 2025

Innehåll

Umeå University's handling of grants for research infrastructure of national interest 2025	1
Background.....	2
About the 2025 call.....	2
Who can apply?	2
General information regarding distribution of responsibility, support and co-funding at UMU	3
Coordination between universities.....	4
Overview and timeline for UMU's handling of grant application for RIs of national interest 2025	5
Umeå University's internal handling of expressions of interest to participate in an application.....	7
Where Umeå University is the lead applicant.....	7
Where Umeå University is a co-applicant.....	8
UMU's internal handling of the application process.....	9
Where UMU is the lead applicant	9
Where UMU is a co-applicant	11



Background

The Swedish Research Council (VR) funds research infrastructures of national interest across all scientific fields via a two-year process consisting of a needs inventory, the prioritisation of these needs, and a call for proposals aimed at prioritised research infrastructures (RIs). Applications need to be submitted by an organisation, with the Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent) needing to grant final approval for applications in a support letter. Prioritised RIs are often distributed RIs, with several organisations (primarily higher education institutions but also other public authorities with research responsibility, research funding bodies and researcher teams) forming a consortium, with one organisation taking the role of lead applicant and administrating organisation that is responsible for the entire operation towards VR. The other organisations (also called parties) act as co-applicants.

Detailed information about the process can be found on [VR's website](#). VR's Council for Research Infrastructures (VR-RFI) also publishes a guide to research infrastructure (RI), which is updated regularly.

According to the [Rules for research infrastructures at Umeå University](#), VR-RFI's funding process is coordinated and prepared by the [Council for Research Infrastructure at Umeå University \(RIS\)](#) to ensure university-wide strategic prioritisation and planning of RI. RIS is responsible for ensuring that coordination process and timelines for Umeå University (UMU) are communicated well in advance.

About the 2025 call

The call will be open 4 December 2024 – 18 February 2025 (see <https://www.vr.se/english/applying-for-funding/calls/2024-04-05-grant-for-research-infrastructure-of-national-interest.html>)

Who can apply?

To be able to apply, RIS must have been placed in Category A1 in VR-RFI's needs inventory 2023/2024. You can find more information about the inventory and its results here: <https://www.vr.se/english/applying-for-funding/decisions/2024-05-31-needs-inventory-of-research-infrastructure-of-national-interest-2023-2024.html>. In addition, there are several existing RIs whose funding terminates 2026 or 2027 and who may apply for renewed funding. VR-RFI's list over all research infrastructures that are included in the call can be accessed via: <https://www.vr.se/english/just-now/news/news-archive/2024-09-16-these-may-apply-for-grants-for-research-infrastructure-2025.html>. The table below lists those that UMU participates in:



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Ref. No.

Research infrastructure	UMU lead-/co-applicant	Contact person UMU	Node UMU
ArchLab	Lead applicant	Phil Buckland	MAL
Digitaliserat svenskt tryck	Co-applicant	Ulf Sandqvist	UB
InfraVis	Co-applicant	Karin Danielsson	HumLab
Chemical Biology Consortium Sweden (CBCS)	Co-applicant	Erik Chorell	CBCS Umeå
Protein Production Sweden (PPS)	Co-applicant	Uwe Sauer	Protein Expertise Ålatform (PEP)
Swedish population databases for research (SwedPop)	Lead applicant	Elisabeth Engberg	
SwedNMR	Co-applicant	Gerhard Gröbner, Jürgen Schleucher	NMR Core facility
SWERVE	Co-applicant	Nick Kamenos	UMF

No information on the overall budget has been shared.

VR-RFI invites to a digital information meeting about the call on 22 October 2024 during which they will inform about the application process and about the new features of this call. There will also be time to ask questions. More information and a zoom-link can be found on VR:s webpage: <https://www.vr.se/english/just-now/events/event-archive/2024-09-16-information-meeting-about-the-call-for-grants-for-research-infrastructure-of-national-interest.html>.

The meeting is aimed particularly at those taking part in the application process for the call, such as project leaders and node managers, research advisors or corresponding, and accountants tasked with reporting of the infrastructure.

All contact persons for RIs at UMU that are eligible for the call have received information about and an invitation to the information meeting.

General information regarding distribution of responsibility, support and co-funding at UMU

Applications to VR for funding for RIs of national interest are so-called organisational applications, meaning that applications must be formally



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

submitted by organisations, with the Vice-Chancellor needing to grant final approval for applications in a letter of support (see above “Background”).

However, the preparation of the application in all its parts is conducted at the departmental and faculty levels. Note that **the initiative for an application that involves staff and resources from UMU can only be approved by the Vice-Chancellor if it is clear that the relevant department(s) and faculty(ies) support the application.**

Faculty and departmental support for the application means that the application aligns with current strategies, the applicant may participate in the consortium preparing the application to VR, and that the faculty and/or department is willing to participate in and take responsibility for the planned RI.

It also means that the faculty, based on the conditions known today, assesses that the costs for the RI that is not covered by VR-RFI will be able to be covered by the university, and guaranteeing the faculty's share of this co-funding.

The co-funding guarantee is required as **VR-RFI and UMU fund 50% each of the amount that UMU applies for**, which underlines the importance of discussing potential co-funding early on in the application process. The 50% co-funding of UMU are in turn distributed according to the principle that **70% of the University's cost for co-funding is financed at the university-wide level, and 30% by the faculty.**

For applications that constitute a continuation of an operation with an ongoing VR-RFI grant, the principle is that UMU's annual co-financing from the previous grant period may be increased by a maximum of 15%.

Coordination between universities

Higher Education Institutions that are part of URFI (the Universities' Reference Group for Research Infrastructure) strive to synchronize parts of the application process. A university leading an application should, at an early stage (no later than October/November 2024) invite prospective co-applicant organisations to participate in the application process. At that stage, the main contact between the universities and other participating organisations (e.g., the National Archives, the Natural History Museum) occurs at the project leader level, i.e., the researchers at each organisation that are responsible for the application.

The official requests for participation in an application for a national RI are to be sent on behalf of the lead organisation's Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent) no later than December 11, 2024, to the management of the co-applicant organisations.

The Vice-Chancellors (or equivalent) of the co-applicant organisations must respond to the invitation no later than Thursday, 19 December 2024, and specify who within their



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

organisation will be responsible for the application process (the "application coordinator").

In January/February, the application will be drafted by the participating organisations through their respective application coordinators.

Application coordinators also need to ensure that their Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent) approves of the application, and lead organisations require official confirmation from the other parties that these support the application. This confirmation is provided in the form of a Vice-Chancellor's letter of support.

At the same time, there will be coordination between the universities through URFI and continuous consultations within the consortia regarding the budget and any uncertainties.

By 20 January 2025, the lead organisation must circulate a **preliminary version of the application** within the consortium as a basis for evaluation and for signing the letter of support. This preliminary version should include the scientific plan, an explanation of the infrastructure's operations and organisation, as well as a budget (total and per participating party) and explanation of said budget.

By 11 February 2025, the Vice-Chancellors' (or equivalent) official letters of support must be sent to the lead organisations via email.

By 18 February 2025 the latest, the lead organisation will register the application in Prisma.

It is important that UMU adheres to the timeline for coordination between the universities. To achieve this, the following overview and more detailed descriptions and deadlines for UMU's internal handling of applications for national RI must be followed.

Overview and timeline for UMU's handling of grant application for RIs of national interest 2025

The below table shows important dates and deadlines for the coordination within UMU and between universities and other applying organisations. More detailed descriptions and deadlines for UMU's internal handling of applications can be found in the sections below the table.

Date/deadline	What happens	Who is responsible
2024-10-22	Information meeting about the call	VR-RFI
October–November	Lead organisation enquires about prospective co-applicant's interest to partake in the application	Lead application coordinators



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Ref. No.

2024-12-04	Call opens. Detailed information on how the application should be structured is published.	VR-RFI
2024-12-09	For RIs where UMU is the lead applicant, documentation supporting the requests to prospective partners is sent to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the RI analyst.	Management of faculty that employs the application coordinator
2024-12-11	Requests to participate in applications are sent between the parties in the prospective consortiums. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where UMU is the lead applicant, the request for participation is sent to prospective partners on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor. • Where UMU is a co-applicant, incoming requests are forwarded to the respective faculty. 	Analyst after consultation with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor
2024-12-13, 17:00	The faculties' responses regarding participation in applications where UMU is a co-applicant, and the name of the application coordinator, are sent to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the analyst.	Respective faculty management
2024-12-16, 8:30–10:00	Coordination meeting with the faculties that are represented by their RIS members.	Pro-Vice-Chancellor and RIS members
2024-12-19, Thursday	Responses to invitations to participate in applications where UMU is a co-applicant are sent to the lead applicant organisations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where UMU is a co-applicant, the university's response is sent to the lead applicant • Where UMU is the lead applicant, responses from prospective co-applicants to UMU's request are received and forwarded to the respective faculty 	Analyst by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor
January	Applications are drafted by the participating organisations.	Application coordinators



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

2025-01-16, Thursday	Where UMU is lead applicant, parts of the application are sent to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and analyst.	Respective faculty management
2025-01-20, Monday	Parts of the application are circulated within the prospective consortiums by the lead organisations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where UMU is the lead applicant, parts of the application are sent to co-applicants. • Where UMU is a co-applicant, parts of the application are received and forwarded to the respective faculty. 	Analyst by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor
2025-02-01	Where UMU is a co-applicant, the faculty's confirmation of participation is sent to the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and analyst.	Respective faculty management
2025-02-10, Monday	The university leadership makes the final decision on whether to participate in the application.	Vice-chancellor
2025-02-11	Official letters of support are sent from the co-applicants to the lead applicant organisations via email. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where UMU is the lead applicant, letters of support are received and forwarded to the respective faculty. • Where UMU is a co-applicant, support letters are sent 	Analyst by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor
2025-02-18 the latest	Where UMU is the lead applicant, the application is registered in Prisma and approved by the authorized organisational representative.	Lead application coordinator & organisational representative
2025-02-18	Call closes	VR-RFI

Umeå University's internal handling of expressions of interest to participate in an application

Where Umeå University is the lead applicant

So that UMU can send requests to prospective participating organisations to inform them about the application and ask them to confirm their intention to participate, **the following documentation must be**



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Ref. No.

submitted by the management of the faculty employing the lead application coordinator **no later than 9 December 2024 via email to Pro-Vice-Chancellor Katrine.Riklund@umu.se**, with analyst insa.wemheuer@umu.se in cc.

- a brief description of the planned RI;
- name and contact details of the researcher responsible for the application process ("lead application coordinator");
- the organisations that should be invited to join the application consortium;
- confirmation that the faculty and the relevant department(s) are prepared to take responsibility for the RI if it is approved, i.e., that they are willing to prioritise and support the RI and the activities required for its maintenance and development in the long term;
- confirmation that the faculty and the relevant department(s) assess that the costs for UMU's part of the RI that are not covered by VR can be covered by UMU according to the 70/30 principle (see above),
- if departments from more than one faculty are involved in the infrastructure, the lead faculty must ensure that these departments and their faculty management also support the application initiative and are prepared to take their share of the responsibility for the planned RI.

Analyst sends requests by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor by 11 December 2024 at the latest.

The Vice-Chancellor will receive responses to invitations to participate in applications where UMU is a lead applicant by Thursday 19 December at the latest.

Where Umeå University is a co-applicant

UMU expects to **receive request regarding our interest to partake in application consortia by Wednesday, 11 December 2024 at the latest.**

Analyst Insa Wemheuer (Planning Office) sends received requests to the faculty employing the application coordinator.

At this stage, UMU is expected to decide whether to participate in the application process. The decision to submit the application to VR, and thereby the final approval of the budget, UMU's own co-funding, and other related matters, will be made at the beginning of 2025.



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

So that UMU can respond positively to requests by Thursday 19 December 2024 the latest, faculties need to provide a clear statement for each prospective RI. This is achieved by the following process:

- If organisational units from multiple faculties will be part of a prospective RI, the management of the faculty primarily responsible for the RI is expected to gather feedback from the other relevant faculty(ies) before providing their response.
- Faculty management provides a clear statement, i.e., whether they recommend that the Vice-Chancellor responds positively or negatively to the invitation to participate in the consortium preparing the application.

The faculty's statement should be sent via email to Pro-Vice-Chancellor Katrine.Riklund@umu.se by 13 December 2024 at the latest. Please cc analyst insa.wemheuer@umu.se.

Coordination meeting with the faculties on Monday, 16 December 8.30–10.00. Faculties will be represented by their RIS members.

Analyst answers requests by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor by 19 December 2024 at the latest.

UMU's internal handling of the application process

By 11 February 2025, the official letters of support from the Vice-Chancellor (or equivalent) must be sent to the lead applicant organisations via email, and by 18 February 2025, the application must be submitted to VR. The following process applies to ensure these deadlines are met.

Please note that prior to the submission of each application, UMU will only conduct a simplified review that primarily ensures that the application process has proceeded according to plan and that each application is approved by the faculties and departments involved. This includes ensuring that the relevant faculty(ies) approve the University's portion of the budget in the application.

Where UMU is the lead applicant

As a basis for the parties' approval and signing of the letters of support, parts of the application will be circulated within the consortium by 20 January 2025.

So that UMU can circulate parts of the application to the respective consortium's members by 20 January 2025, faculty managements must submit the following documentation via



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

email to analyst insa.wemheuer@umu.se (cc Pro-Vice-Chancellor Katrine.Riklund@umu.se) by 16 January 2025:

- Parts of the application:
 - the goals of the infrastructure;
 - scientific justification of the infrastructure;
 - national interest;
 - implementation, leadership and organisation; and
 - budget (total and per participating party), including an explanation of said budget
- A certificate from the Dean (or equivalent) confirming that the faculty fully supports and approves the application in all its aspects, including its budget, that the University's share of the budget has been correctly calculated, and that sufficient funds for co-funding the RI will be made available at the faculty level if the application is approved.
- If departments from another faculty are involved, the faculty primarily responsible is expected to ensure that they, along with their faculty management, also approve the application and are prepared to take their share of responsibility for the planned RI.

After decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, the analyst sends parts of the application as described above to the other organisations in the respective consortia by 20 February 2025 the latest.

On 11 February 2025, official letters of support are sent from co-applicants to lead applicants' organisations via email.

The Vice-Chancellor receives signed letters of support from participating organisations. The analyst forwards these immediately to the lead application coordinator and respective faculty.

By 18 February at the latest, the lead application coordinator registers the application in Prisma.

The application is **approved by the authorized organisational representative** (Agneta Plamboeck-Hanell) **by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.**



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Where UMU is a co-applicant

As a basis for the parties' approval and signing of the letters of support, parts of the application will be circulated within the **consortium by 20 January 2025.**

Where UMU is a co-applicant, parts of the application are received by the Vice-Chancellor **by Monday 20 January 2025 at the latest.**

The analyst forwards these immediately to the corresponding faculty management.

So that the Vice-Chancellor can sign the letter of support (or refrain from doing so) for each RI, the **responsible faculty needs to provide a certificate** to analyst insa.wemheuer@umu.se and Pro-Vice-Chancellor Katrine.Riklund@umu.se **by 1 February 2025.**

- The certificate needs to be signed by the Dean (or equivalent) and confirm that the faculty fully supports and approves the application in all its aspects:
 - budget;
 - that the University's share of the budget has been correctly calculated; and
 - that sufficient funds for co-funding the RI will be made available at the faculty level if the application is approved.
- If departments from another faculty are involved, the faculty primarily responsible is expected to ensure that they, along with their faculty management, also approve the application and are prepared to take their share of responsibility for the planned RI.

The University Management makes the final decision on whether to participate in the application consortia by Friday, 10 February 2025.

On 11 February 2025, official letters of support are sent from co-applicants to lead applicants' organisations via email.

The analyst sends letter of support to the respective lead applicant by decision of and on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.