Seed funding for collaboration

**Researchers and teachers at Umeå University can apply for seed funding to initiate research-oriented collaboration projects together with the university’s strategic partners: Region Västerbotten, Skellefteå Municipality, Umeå Municipality, and Örnsköldsvik Municipality. Projects must address a concrete societal challenge linked to one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030) and be designed to support a future application to an external research funder. The maximum amount that can be applied for is SEK 85,000, including overhead costs.**

Application period and deadline

* The call is open for applications from 15 September to 17 November 2025
* **The application can be written in either English or Swedish**
* Complete the application form below together with your external partner
Sign the document, either manually or electronically, and send it by email to annika.nordstrand@umu.se
* Applicants will be notified of the decision within three weeks after the deadline.

Eligibility requirements

* The main applicant must be a researcher or teacher employed at Umeå University
* The project must include at least one external non-academic partner from Region Västerbotten, Skellefteå Municipality, Umeå Municipality, or Örnsköldsvik Municipality (this definition also covers municipal companies, kommunala bolag in Swedish)
* There is no existing or previously formalized collaboration between the applicant and the external partner regarding the proposed topic
* The applicant may not hold any financial interest in the external partner organization
* Requested funds may only cover costs for the academic applicant
* Only complete applications will be considered

Project period and final report

Funded projects must be completed and the final report submitted by 30 November 2026.

Evaluation of applications

Applications will be evaluated in two stages. First, the basic eligibility requirements will be reviewed. Second, proposals will be assessed and prioritized based on:

* The project’s expected contribution to knowledge
* The relevance of the project to a societal challenge or need
* Its connection to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)
* The project’s long-term perspective and connection to future external research funding
* The mutual benefits of the collaboration
* The feasibility of the project in terms of both timeline and budget

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| Section A – Main applicant, employed at Umeå University |
| Name |       |
| Institution |       |
| Research focus |       |
| Phone number |       |
| E-mail address |       |

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| Section B – Project description |
| Project title |       |
| Project period (YYMM-YYMM)1 |      -      |
| Short description of the project's purpose and aims |       |
| Brief explanation of the societal challenge or need that the project will address |       |
| Which of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030)2 is most relevant to the project? | Choose an alternative |
| Expected results and contributions to new knowledge |       |

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| Section C – Connection to further funding |
| Research funding sources you aim to apply for in the future |       |
| Explanation of why this project is a necessary first step toward applying for larger external funding |       |
| Other comments regarding future collaboration (optional) |       |

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| Section D1 – External partners (non-academic actor) |
| Organization |       |
| Department/unit |       |
| Contact person |       |
| Phone number |       |
| E-mail address |       |
| Section D2 – Other partners (if applicable) |
| Organization |       |
| Department/unit |       |
| Contact person |       |
| Phone number |       |
| E-mail address |       |

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| Section E – Conflict of interest |
| Brief explanation of any potential conflicts of interest  |       |

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| Section F – Team composition and roles |
| Provide a brief description of the project team, including the expertise of key personnel and the distribution of roles and responsibilities within the project. |       |
| Briefly describe how both the academic and external partner(s) will benefit from participating in the project. |  |

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| Section G – Budget |
| Category | Cost (SEK)4 | Timetable | Specification |
| Salary costs |       |       |       |
| Travel expenses |       |       |       |
| Meeting Costs |       |       |       |
| Consumables |       |       |       |
| Other costs |       |       |       |
| Total cost of the project |  |  |  |
| **Amount applied for (this application)** |       |       |       |
| Co-financing (other sources) |       |       |       |

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| Section H – Signatures |
| SignatureMain applicant, employed at Umeå University | SignatureRepresentative of an external partner |

1 The project must be completed and the final report must be submitted by 30 November 2026.

2 Specify the objective you consider most relevant to your project. More information about the UN's Sustainable Development Goals can be found at <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>
(in Swedish <https://www.globalamalen.se/>)

3 The maximum amount that can be applied for is SEK 85,000 (including overhead costs).

4 The funds may be used for e.g. travel expenses, meeting costs, salary for the academic part and consumables. Examples of non-eligible costs include per diem (traktamente) and the purchase of equipment.