

Berkeley

Peder Sather Center
for Advanced Study

Request for Proposals: Academic Year 2014-2015

Background and Purpose

The primary mission of the Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study (henceforth the Center) is to strengthen ongoing research collaborations and foster the development of new research collaborations between faculty at the University of California, Berkeley (henceforth UC Berkeley) and from the consortium of eight participating Norwegian academic institutions. The Center's funding enables UC Berkeley faculty to conduct exploratory and cutting-edge research in tandem with leading researchers from the following eight Norwegian higher education institutions in collaboration with The Norwegian Research Council:

BI Norwegian Business School (BI)
Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
University of Agder (UiA)
University of Bergen (UiB)
University of Oslo (UiO)
University of Stavanger (UiS)
University of Tromsø (UiT)

The Center will select projects for support and also serve as an administrative hub for these partnerships. The Center will also use its financial resources to support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, graduate student exchanges, postdoctoral fellow exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, and the undertaking of core research activities such as data collection and analysis.

Funding Areas

No field will be excluded from consideration and applications from all fields and disciplines are welcomed.

Projects selected for support can fall anywhere along the disciplinary spectrum, including the arts, the humanities, the social sciences, education, business, law, engineering, design, urban planning, mathematical sciences, physical sciences, life sciences, medical sciences, biology, as well as other professional fields.

Funding Packages

The Center will make approximately \$700,000 available for projects each year. The funding packages will come in two different forms:

1. Seed Grants (between \$5K [29K NOK] and \$20K [116K NOK]). These grants would support research geared towards exploring the possibility of undertaking a full-scale collaborative project.
 - Seed grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies.
 - The term of the seed grants will extend from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2015.
2. A limited number of Full Grants (between \$25K [145K NOK] and \$75K [435K NOK] in total).
 - These grants can support activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.
 - The term of the full grants will extend from July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2016.

Funding Terms and Fundable Activities

- Each grant will be awarded jointly to the Principal Investigators as a group; this funding will be managed out of the Peder Sather Center in coordination with our Norwegian University Partners. Given that the Peder Sather Center is a UC Berkeley-housed entity, the UC Berkeley Principal Investigator will be responsible for approving the grant funds to his or her team members at Berkeley and in Norway.
- Funds **may** be used to defray the following kinds of expenses:
 - Travel and living expenses for eligible PIs and team members related directly to the undertaking of projects.
 - Support to hire or provide stipends to team members beyond the Joint PI's (such as graduate students and postdoctoral fellows).
 - Costs incurred in the course of executing pilot studies or exploratory studies.
- Funds **may not** be used to defray the following kinds of expenses:
 - Salary or stipends for faculty members involved in projects (including the Principal Investigators).
 - Purchase of equipment used to carry out projects (engaging in rental agreements and/or contracting with external vendors is allowed, however).
 - Costs incurred in the publication or dissemination of results.
 - Expenses related to family members who accompany researchers on research trips
 - Expenses that normally would not be covered in Norway, will normally not be covered at Berkeley either.
- "Full Grant" recipients must submit a short progress report to the Center's Executive Director by January 1st of each year of the grant's term. "Seed Grant" recipients must submit a progress report by May 1st of the year they completed their work.

Funding Eligibility

- Eligible collaborating applicants from both UC Berkeley and Norwegian consortium institutions must be in contact with one another prior to applying for funds, and have a mandatory letter of commitment signed by both parties.
- There must be at least one Principal Investigator from UC Berkeley and one from a Norwegian consortium institution.
- Principal Investigators from UC Berkeley must be ladder-rank faculty (i.e. hold Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor titles); no substitutions may be made.
- Principal Investigators from Norwegian consortium institutions must hold the position of either postdoktor (on the condition that the individual is able to document consistent employment at the consortium institution for the duration of the project), førsteamanuensis or professor (i.e. hold positions equivalent to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor titles in the US).
- Members of research teams who are not Principal Investigators themselves can hold other positions such as lecturer, visiting scholar, postdoctoral fellow, or graduate student. In order to receive indirect funding, however, research team members must be affiliated in some way with the participating institutions. Nonaffiliated team members are not eligible to receive direct or indirect support from the Center.

Selection Criteria

The Center's executive committee (five members from UC Berkeley and five members from the participating Norwegian institutions) will evaluate the proposals with input from experts drawn from the participating institutions. The primary selection criterion will be scholarly and/or scientific merit as determined by the executive committee in conjunction with subject-matter experts where appropriate. Scholarly and scientific merit includes the following three components:

- 1) The **promise** of the proposed project **for the advancement of scholarly knowledge and/or scientific inquiry.**
 - The project has the potential to enhance our understanding of common problems and issues.
 - It demonstrates originality.
 - The merits of the co-PIs are commensurate with the project's goals.
- 2) The **feasibility** of executing the proposed study within the proposed time frame.
 - The project is, at once, ambitious in terms of its scholarly goals, and at the same time, is realistic for the scope the proposal encompasses.
 - The project is well-organized; the timeline is sound; and there are adequate resources in place for the plans it articulates.
 - The stage of the project reflects the mission and purpose of the Peder Sather Center Program; preference will be given to projects their early and exploratory phases.
- 3) **Impact** of the project.
 - The project has the potential to make a significant contribution to a field of knowledge.
 - It represents a true collaboration between UC Berkeley and Norway, which has the potential to grow/expand over time.
 - The project has a high degree of likelihood of obtaining complementary funding from other sources beyond the Center and/or the potential for "spinoff" projects.

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In addition, while the proposals will be judged equally on their merits, one or more of the following criteria may be applied in the selection process:

- The career stage of the Principal Investigators (projects including team members in an early stage of their careers [i.e. PhD students and postdoctoral fellows], will be given preference);
- The reasonable distribution of Principal Investigators among the Norwegian consortium institutions;
- The extent to which the project creates new synergies between the Norwegian academic communities and the academic community at UC Berkeley; and
- Previous support from the Peder Sather Center may be taken into consideration.

Selection Timeline

Dissemination Phase

- November 15, 2013 – Initial announcement of Request for Proposals (RFP) disseminated to participating institutions.
- January 1, 2014 – Second announcement of Request for Proposals (RFP) disseminated to participating institutions.
- January 1, 2014 – Online application will be available on the Peder Sather Center Web site.
- February 1, 2014 – Electronically submitted proposals due to the Center.

Evaluation Phase

- February 1, 2014 – May, 2014 – Evaluation of proposals and decisions regarding funding.
- July 5th, 2014 – Disbursement of grants to grant recipients.

As the Center's resources are limited and many projects require substantial funds, we ask that applicants indicate whether they have applied for funding for the same project from other sources at the time of application. If applicants receive funding during the evaluation period, they are asked to update us regarding this additional funding.

Application Instructions

The application form will appear on the Peder Sather Center website after January 1st.

Please note that at least one PI from UC Berkeley and at least one PI from a Norwegian consortium institution must complete the [attestation of commitment form](#).

Apart from standard contact information and the like, the application process shall include the following **information**:

- Type of grant (Seed/Full)
- Subject area (Arts & Humanities; Social Sciences [which includes Education, Business, and Law]; Engineering and Design; Mathematical and Physical Sciences; and Life and Medical Sciences.)

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- Amount applied for (USD)
- Timeline (project start and end dates)
- Title
- Main purpose (max 200 words)

In addition, the **narrative** section shall include the following:

- An explanation of how the proposal will contribute to science and/or scholarship (max 200 words)
- An explanation of why the project is feasible (max 200 words)
- An explanation of the impact of the project (max 200 words)

Appendixes shall include:

- Project description and plan (max 5 pages, font size 11 or greater)
- Budget (using PSC budget template)
- CVs of PIs
- List of researchers planned to be involved

All correspondence about the application should be sent to Interim Executive Director Anne Marie Sanders at the following email address: director.sathercenter@berkeley.edu.

Contact Information:

Executive Director
Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study
director.sathercenter@berkeley.edu