



To:

- All Faculties
- University Museum

Reference
2017/2485

Date
Bergen, 13 February 2017

Call for SPIRE proposals 2017

We herewith invite applicants to apply for funding to the University of Bergen's Strategic Programme for International Research and Education (SPIRE) in 2017. The programme aims to support the UiB strategy and plan of action for international activities 2016-2022.

Applicants are particularly encouraged to apply for funding for collaborations with UiB's strategic partners in international networks and Nordic centres abroad (see Appendix in the enclosed Guidelines for Applicants), and collaboration with partners in Brazil, Russia, India, China South Africa (BRICS countries), Japan and low- and middle-income countries. See enclosed SPIRE Guidelines for Applicants, list of networks and list of low- and middle-income countries.

Please find enclosed:

- Guidelines for Applicants
- Application Form

Applicants must use the enclosed SPIRE Application Form when applying for funding.

Only UiB academic staff members can apply for SPIRE funding. Applications should be forwarded from the Department to the Faculty. The Faculty submits all applications received to the Division of Research Administration (see Guidelines for Applicants, p. 3).

Note: Only applications that have been assessed, ranked and submitted by the Faculty within the application deadline will be considered for funding.

The Faculty's deadline for submission of all applications to the Division of Research Administration is **Friday 5 May, 2017.**

Regards

Heidi A. Espedal
Managing director

Bjørn Erik Andersen
Senior Adviser

Enclosure:

- 2017 SPIRE Guidelines for Applicants
- 2017 SPIRE Application Form (Word-format)



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

SPIRE

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Strategic Programme for International Research and Education

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Key dates 2017

Application deadline: **Friday 5 May 2017**

Awards announced: **June 2017**

Purpose

The Strategic Programme for International Research and Education (SPIRE) aims to support the University of Bergen's Strategy and Action Plan for Internationalisation 2016-2022.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications built around collaborative research and/or learning and teaching initiatives linking the University with its strategic partners in international networks and Nordic centres abroad where UiB is a member [see **Appendix**]. Network projects with several partner institutions in the network are particularly welcomed.

However, the program also encourages establishment of contact and collaboration with other preferred international partners in Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS countries) and Japan, as well as partners in low- and middle-income countries.¹

Eligibility

This call is open to individual academic members of staff from all faculties, departments and centres within the University of Bergen.

Funding Categories

SPIRE will incorporate two possible funding streams for applicants:

(1) SPIRE International Networks/Partnerships Grant.

- Projects submitted for funding in this category will be based on the development of a new or recently started network collaboration with partner universities in the University's strategic international networks and Nordic centres abroad [see **Appendix**] or with other preferred international partners in the BRICS-countries, Japan and low- and middle-income countries.

- The funding should be considered "seed money" for initiation or development of novel collaborations in research and education. Typical activities to be supported under this funding stream are costs for arrangement of international workshops/conferences and travel for establishing contact and long term co-operation with new international partners.

- Maximum funding of NOK 100,000 per grant is available.

(2) SPIRE Visiting Researcher Grant.

- This grant provides funding to cover costs (travel, accommodation, subsistence, transport) for hosting a visiting researcher from abroad for a period of 1, 2 or 3 months. Visiting researchers from all countries are eligible for grants. There is no restriction on countries and partnerships.

- Visiting researchers must as a minimum be at postdoctoral level (PhD students are not eligible for grants).

- Maximum funding of NOK 15,000 per month per grant is available. In addition it is possible to apply for support to cover travel costs for the visiting researcher.

NOTE: SPIRE grant cannot be payed out as salary/scholarship to the visiting researcher.

¹ Includes the three categories «Least Developed Countries», «Other Low Income Countries» and «Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories» in [OECD's DAC List of ODA Recipients](#)

Application Process

The applicant must use the SPIRE Application Form when applying for a grant. The application must clearly identify the category of grant for which the applicant is applying.

Applications must be endorsed by signature of the Head of Department. In signing the application, the Head is indicating the Department's support for the project.

Submission of Applications

Duly signed applications from the Department must be forwarded to the relevant Faculty for assessment and ranking. The Faculty must rank the applications received in each of the funding categories 1 and 2.

The Faculty must forward all applications, duly assessed and ranked in each category, to the Division of Research Administration by the closing date Friday 5 May 2017.

NOTE: Applications that are incomplete or received after the closing date Friday 5 May 2017 will not be considered for funding.

Selection Process

Applications will be considered and selected by a committee headed by the Vice Rector for International Affairs.

In addition to the Faculty ranking of the applications in funding categories 1 and 2, the committee will judge and select applications by the following criteria:

- Application's correspondence with the purpose of SPIRE.
- Potential for building long-term international partnership at the academic unit.
- Strategic importance and tangible benefit to internationalisation of the UiB.

Allocation and use of funding

2017 SPIRE grants will be available for the recipients through one instalment to the Faculty. The funds may be expended in the period July 2017 – July 2018. As a rule, any unspent funds cannot be rolled forward beyond 31st July 2018 and should be returned to the Division of Research Administration.






Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a final report due by 31st October 2018. The report should be short (max 2 pages) and include an outline of the outcomes and benefits of the project, and an indication of the project's sustainability. There is a standard SPIRE report to be used for this purpose.

Recipients who fail to submit a final report may not receive funding in subsequent rounds.

Contact/Further information

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	University of Ghana, Ghana		China: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zhejiang University • Renmin University
	University of Cape Town, South-Africa		Chinese University of Hong Kong
	University of Nairobi, Kenya		National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
	Australia: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Sydney • University of Western Australia 		University of Basel, Switzerland
	University of Auckland, New Zealand		University of Bergen, Norway
	University of Alberta, Canada		Maastricht University, The Netherlands
	USA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Massachusetts – Amherst • University of Rochester 		UK: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Bristol • University of Leeds • University of Sheffield • University of Southampton • University of York

Note on WUN:

WUN offers a unique opportunity for development of collaboration and joint interdisciplinary research projects on **Global Challenges** with academics from 21 WUN member universities
<http://www.wun.ac.uk/wun/research/>

	<p>http://www.coimbra-group.eu/</p>
	<p>http://www.aurora-network.global/</p>
	<p>http://www.utrecht-network.org/</p>
	<p>http://www.uarctic.org/</p>

Note on Coimbra Group, Aurora Network, Utrecht Network and University of the Arctic:

The networks provide an opportunity for University of Bergen staff to create consortium for collaborations with network partners and compete for funding from European programmes.

Nordic Centres abroad

	<p>http://nordiccentre.net/</p>
	<p>http://www.nordiccentreindia.com/</p>
	<p>http://sanord.uwc.ac.za/Pages/default.aspx</p>

Note on Nordic Centre at Fudan University in China, Nordic Centre in India and Southern African-Nordic Centre:

The three Nordic centres abroad facilitate academic collaboration in research, education and teaching with both Nordic and local partners.