



Industrial Doctoral School's Call for Applications for Doctoral Candidate Funding

The Industrial Doctoral School for Research and Innovation (IDS) opens up opportunities for research collaborations between university researchers and the private and public sectors through jointly-funded doctoral research projects. The nature of these collaborations can be described as follows: *'...various organisations, each with their respective purposes and motives, working together and achieving better results and thereby strengthening one another'*. In partnership with a company, third- or public-sector organisation, doctoral candidates work in IDS for four years to answer a research question that is both of mutual interest to the partners and important to future progress. IDS projects have a high level of scientific quality and the ambition is that they should generate public benefit, which lays a foundation for both competitiveness and development.

Terms and Conditions for Doctoral Candidate Funding

The funding provided by the university is equivalent to 50 % of the doctoral candidate's salary for a period of 48 months and 100 % of their trainee salary paid by IDS during their three-month job placement with the external partner. For a project to be approved, the remaining 50 % of the doctoral candidate's salary must be paid by the external party; that is, by the private, third- or public-sector organisation. This arrangement requires that contact has been established between the applying researcher and the intended external partner and that a letter of intent from the external partner be attached to the application as an annex. This year IDS offers an opportunity for applicants with non-profit external partners to apply for additional 25 % funding from the university. To apply, a specific annex needs to be enclosed that include the impact of increased funding and clear description of why the external part is unable to fund 50 % of the salary of the doctoral candidate.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

Researchers employed at Umeå University who have the right to act as the principal supervisor for a doctoral candidate may apply for doctoral candidate funding. IDS welcomes applications from researchers in all subject areas. The rules governing research supervision can be found in the document Admission Regulations for Doctoral Studies at Umeå University (*Antagningsordning för utbildning på forskarnivå som gäller vid Umeå universitet*). Researchers who apply for funding may not hold a direct or indirect stake in the external organisation, neither may they be otherwise involved in the external organisation in a way that could influence them in their role as the doctoral candidate's supervisor. Only one application per supervisor is permitted. Two researchers can submit applications with the same external partner provided that the projects are different.



Co-applicants

A person employed by the external partner must be included as a co-applicant in the application and is expected to be involved in the collaborative project throughout its duration and to act as a mentor to the doctoral candidate.

Costs and Funding Amounts

IDS will pay 50 % of the doctoral candidate's salary (in specific cases it can be 75 %) for the approved project for a period of 48 months, costs related to the courses taught by the school and the full salary payable to the doctoral candidate during their three-month job placement with the external partner. The external partner is obligated to pay 50 % of the doctoral candidate's salary (in specific cases it can be 75 %) and to provide full cost coverage for 48 months, including the customary salary increase that applies in accordance with the salary scale for doctoral candidates. The applicant must themselves secure funding for other costs related to the doctoral candidate, such as operating costs and travel expenses.

Project Administration/Management

Doctoral candidates working within IDS will be accepted to a position at one of Umeå University's departments. Reimbursement for expenses will be paid to the relevant department on the basis of invoices issued by the department to the Industrial Doctoral School.

What Must an Application Include?

Researchers who submit applications are responsible for ensuring that their application is complete, i.e. that the application form has been filled in correctly, that the correct annexes have been appended and that all the information requested has been included in accordance with the instructions. IDS will not accept supplementary information after the closing date for applications, with the exception of information specifically requested. If an applicant does not satisfy the requirements for the grant applied for or fails to follow the instructions, this may either be taken into consideration in the application's assessment, or the application may be rejected outright, and thus not be considered.

The application, which may be submitted in either Swedish or English, must include all the mandatory information as well as other information relevant to the application, including:

- descriptive information (use the attached template)
- a research plan
- a CV and publications list
- a letter of intent from the external partner.

For an application to be considered complete and to advance in the review process, the head of the relevant department must also have signed the application.



Descriptive Information

Applicants must use the attached template and also specify a project title and contact details. This section also includes room to specify the external partner with whom the applicant intends to collaborate and the co-applicant's name and contact details (i.e., the applicant applying on behalf of the external partner). Here, applicants must also state whether they are currently receiving, or have previously received, funding through the Industrial Doctoral School as well as describe any positions they may hold with the external partner. A further six sections must be completed, for which each entry must be no longer than 1,500 characters (incl. spaces), which is equivalent to approximately 220 words. These sections are as follows:

- I. **SUMMARY**, including the project's objective and scientific contribution.
- II. **DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERNAL PARTNER(S)**, with particular emphasis on their size, organisational and financial stability and independence from the University. Also describe any connections between the supervisor(s) and the external partner(s), such as ownership or formal managerial positions held.
- III. **RELEVANCE FOR THE EXTERNAL PARTNER(S)**. Describe how the project is linked to the external partner's/partners' operations, e.g. daily activities, vision, strategy and objectives.
- IV. **RELEVANCE FOR SOCIETY**. Describe the project's significance for the research field, the surrounding community and the internal and external partners in layman's terms.
- V. **THE DOCTORAL CANDIDATE'S WORK ENVIRONMENT**. Describe the scientific environment that the doctoral candidate will join (e.g., member of a research group or centre) and how they will interact with the external partner(s) (e.g., the environment at the external partner's premises).
- VI. **ETHICAL ASPECTS**. Describe the ethical aspects of the project. Also, state whether or not ethical approval has been granted, will be applied for, or is unnecessary. Note, all research projects have ethical aspects meaning that this section should not be discarded.

Research Plan

The research plan must consist of a brief but comprehensive description of the research assignment as adapted to suit a doctoral programme of 48 months' duration. It must be no longer than five A4 pages in 12-point Times New Roman font, including references.

The following information must be included in the research plan under separate headings and in the order specified below:

- **Objective and aims**. Describe the research project's overarching objective and specific aims.
- **Background**. Provide a summary of your own and others' research and previous results within the research field. Specify key references.



- **Significance.** Describe the novelty and potential impact of the scientific contribution in the project within the research field, short and long term.
- **Project description.** Provide a summary of the project in which you describe its theory, method, timetable and implementation.
- **Preliminary and/or expected outcomes.** Describe your own experiments and preliminary studies within the research field, if relevant. Describe the expected outcomes.

Provide any other information that you consider relevant to your application under a separate heading. This may include information concerning:

- **Equipment/data.** Describe the basic equipment/data needed for the project that the doctoral candidate may use.
- **International and domestic collaboration.** Describe your own and the group's collaboration with foreign and Swedish researchers/research groups.

CV and Publications

Attach the CV's of the applicant and co-applicant, which must be no longer than two A4 pages in 12-point Times New Roman font each. You will be asked to provide a publications list separately. The CV's of co-supervisors could be attached, if it is considered merits for the application.

Provide the required information according to these numbered headings and in this order (any items that are not relevant may be left blank):

1. **University degree(s):** year awarded, subject area and institution
2. **Doctoral degree:** year awarded, discipline/subject area, institution, dissertation title and supervisor's name
3. **Postdoctoral positions:** year and placement
4. **Appointment as a senior lecturer (docentur):** year
5. **Current position:** duration of employment, degree of research involved in the position
6. **Previous positions:** type and duration of employment
7. **Hiatuses in research career.** Here you have the opportunity to explain any significant hiatuses in your time as an active researcher that have affected your ability to obtain qualifications, e.g. those caused by parental leave, periods spent working as a house officer or registrar for those in clinical occupations, time spent in positions of responsibility, or other reasons of a similar nature. Specify the length of each respective hiatus.
8. **Supervision:** doctoral candidates and postdocs whom you have supervised; name and year



9. **External and internal funding.** Describe external and internal funding granted for your research. State if you were main- or co-applicant.

10. **Any other information relevant to the application.**

Publications/Work

Attach your publications list for the period 2010–2018, where the five publications that you consider most relevant to the project application are marked with an asterisk (*) in each respective list. Sort the publications under numbered headings in the following order:

1. **Peer-reviewed original articles**
2. **Peer-reviewed conference contributions**, where the results used have not been included in other publications
3. **Monographs**
4. **Research review articles**
5. **Books & book chapters**
6. **Patents**, specify registration dates
7. **Open-access computer programs, databases or other products/services developed by you**
8. **Popular science articles/presentations**
9. **Other**

Letter of Intent from External Partner

Attach a signed letter of intent from the external partner that confirms the project's relevance to their operations, shows that they intend to support the doctoral research project financially, if approved, and that they are willing to accommodate the doctoral candidate at their workplace.

Assessment

How the Application Is Assessed

IDS' steering committee comprises the application review panel. All applications are reviewed by at least three committee members and are assessed based on the following criteria:

- Scientific quality (objective and aims, method, expected outcomes)
- Relevance for the external partner (link to external operations, willingness to provide financial support, room for the doctoral candidate)
- Scientific impact (innovativeness, originality, fresh approach)
- Social relevance (significance for the surrounding community and internal/external partner)



- The doctoral candidate's work environment (scientific environment and interaction with external partner)
- Feasibility (scope, location/equipment/materials, scientific plausibility).

Applicants' qualifications and scientific independence will also be evaluated as will the external partner's stability (organisational and financial). We consider it very important that applicants not be involved in the external party's organisation in a way that could affect the researcher in their role as the doctoral candidate's supervisor. Potential applications for additional 25 % funding of the doctoral candidate's salary will be processed after the assessment according to above criteria. In order to be granted additional 25 % funding for the salary from the university, it is required that the steering committee conclude that the external partner does not have the financial ability to cover 50 % of the doctoral candidate's salary *and* that necessary IDS funds exist.

Measures for Handling Conflicts of Interest

Members of the steering committee are required to report any conflicts of interest related to the applications they are assigned to review. In cases where a conflict of interest exists, a different reviewer will be appointed. Where a conflict of interest exists, the member whom the conflict of interest concerns will leave the meeting venue while the matter is being considered. Any conflicts of interest are noted in a special record. Members of the committee and the director may themselves submit an application in the capacity of principal applicant, be proposed as assistant supervisors, or be co-applicants in the capacity of an external partner, but, in such cases, must report conflicts of interest during the review process of their own application.

One example of another situation in which a conflict of interest exists is when a reviewer has recently collaborated closely with an applicant. A conflict of interest can also arise as a result of opposition or competition between a reviewer and the applicant undergoing review.

Gender Equality Strategy

Gender equality is used as a deciding factor in prioritising applications that are of equal merit. This means that when applications are awarded the same general assessment concerning their quality, applications received from members of the under-represented gender will be prioritised.

Decisions

Decisions concerning the allocation of funding will be published on IDS' website at the end of the annual round of calls for applications, as well as given via personal contact. Applicants whose applications were approved will also be contacted personally in order to obtain more information. Researchers and partners who have been granted project funding will have two months to submit a binding financial commitment from the external partner(s).



When and How Should Applications be Submitted?

The application should be sent electronically to the registrar at Umeå University (registrator@umu.se). The closing date for the application is Sunday the 16th of September 2018. Mark the e-mail and application with Dnr: FS 2.1.6-1043-18.

Contact

Questions concerning applications

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