Pedagogical development for curiosity and creativity at Umeå University -PUNKTUM

Call for project proposals

From 2008 to 2011 the Flex project at Umeå University funded a number of development projects with a focus on online/flexible courses. In order to continue to promote pedagogical development at Umeå University the University Board decided to perpetuate these funds and to include all forms of course delivery. The funds are managed and distributed by the Centre for Teaching and Learning (UPL) at Umeå University, and will be used for projects whose aim is to promote the development of creative and flexible approaches to learning and learning environments at Umeå University.

The purpose and aim of the 2015 call for applications

The call for proposals aims to stimulate development in one or more of the following areas:

- student active learning
- long-term change/pedagogical development of the institution or programme
- increased accessibility and diversity in programmes and/or courses

Funds can be applied for, for example, to develop new teaching methods, educational models, e-learning, to enhance the quality of an existing course or an existing programme and to increase educational collaboration within or outside the university.

Applications for funding must contain clear and concrete issues and describe the purpose of the project linked to one or more of the above areas. In addition, the project application should describe measurable goals and what activities will be undertaken to achieve these goals. The application must also describe the effects that the project is expected to have.

The project application must contain an accurate budget. After completion of the project a final report shall be submitted and the project results reported at Umeå University's pedagogical conference or other appropriate university educational conference. Project proposals must be fully completed to be assessed.

Application

Applications for the 2015 funds can be made by all units at Umeå University providing education at the undergraduate and/or graduate levels. The application must be signed by the Head of Dept. or Unit and Dean. Templates for project application and budget can be downloaded from the project website: http://www.upl.umu.se/projekt/punktum

Please note that applications for project funding may not include funds for the purchase of technology in the form of software or hardware, travel or conference participation.

If the application includes development work within the framework of a programme then it shall also be signed by the chairperson of the program committee.

At least 20% of the total project cost will be financed by the institution/department implementing the project, which should also include the overhead costs at all levels. Departments and/or the faculty also have the option to co-finance the project by covering overhead costs.

The schedule for the application process is as follows:

Information: January 29, at 13:00 to 14:00, location: Triple Helix

Application Workshops: by appointment

Application deadline: April 17, 2015 at. 24:00

Planned deadline for a decision on funding: May 25, 2015

Planned earliest date of project: July 1, subject to any changes.

Application Workshops provide an opportunity to discuss applications with members of the Punktum working group at Umeå University. Time for such a reservation can be booked via Claire Englund, claire.englund@umu.se

Applications should be sent electronically to the Registrar via the following email address: medel@diarie.umu.se. In the subject line of the e-mail please state the reference number: FS 2.1.6-1-15. Applications must be in PDF format and be received no later than 24:00 hrs, 17 April 2015.

The original documents signed by the Head of Department/Unit and the Dean and if applicable the chairman of the program committee should be sent by internal mail to Claire Englund, Centre for Teaching and Learning (UPL).

Assessment process and assessment criteria

Applications submitted are assessed by the project working group in consultation with the project reference group consisting of representatives from all faculties and the teacher training college and student unions. The reference group makes the final decision on the allocation of project funds.

Project applications are evaluated and ranked based on the following criteria:

- The project aim is related to the purpose and aim of the call
- The project has clear and specific goals that are evaluable
- The project describes the activities that will be implemented and how they are expected to lead to the desired goals
- The project describes the effects that the project is expected to have for the educational activities of the department or programme
- The project has a collective expertise and an appropriate methodology and approach. The project plan is realistic in relation to the schedule and budget
- A detailed description of the evaluation process included, stating how and when the project will be evaluated

Projects granted funding will receive 50% of allocated funds at the start of the project. The remaining funds are paid when the final report has been submitted and approved.

Reporting and dissemination

A written final report that includes evaluation of the project is to be submitted. The report will be published in a project anthology. The project will also be presented at Umeå University's pedagogical conference or at a suitable university educational conference. All the final reports of the projects will be published on the Punktum home page.

All projects receiving funds will have an opportunity to exchange ideas, discuss project implementation, conclusions, evaluation and more with an educational developer from UPL.