

Theme Call 2021

INSTRUCTIONS

The Lund Institute of advanced Neutron and X-ray Science (LINXS) invites proposals for a new Theme relating to the application of x-ray and neutron based science on any topic related to the LINXS focus areas (hard matter, soft matter, life science). We welcome original, innovative and pioneering proposals that will advance science using x-ray and neutron techniques and involve cross- and trans-disciplinary interactions between experimentalists, theoreticians and modellers to provide new perspectives. We particularly encourage Theme proposals that expand the scope of neutron and x-ray based research into new areas and to address new research questions.

WHAT IS LINXS

LINXS is an advanced study institute whose mission is to promote science and education focusing on the use of neutrons and x-rays, to attract world-leading scientists for short-term focused research visits, and to create national and international networks.

WHAT IS A THEME

LINXS works under strategic focus areas reflecting broad research priorities: Soft Matter, Life Science and Hard Matter. Within these focus areas, the activities of LINXS are organised into Themes that usually run for 3 years and aim to bring research communities together. A Theme is connected to one or more of the focus areas. The research focus of a theme relates to the development and application of neutron and x-ray techniques to answer scientific questions and considers data acquisition, experiments, data analysis, simulation and theory. A Theme is coordinated by a Core Group and the activities are organised within and by Working Groups with specific foci.

LINXS welcomes applications from research groups at partner organisations who would like to drive funded activities under a Theme framework as well as support the realisation of the LINXS mission.

LINXS intends to regularly open calls for Themes depending on budget availability and future calls will be opened in different science areas.

ELIGIBILITY - WHO CAN APPLY

LINXS welcomes applications for Themes from the community at LINXS partner organisations. The current partner is Lund University. Anyone with tenure, tenure-track or a permanent position at partner organisations can apply as the lead applicant for a Theme. Researchers from non-partner organisations can, and are encouraged, to be involved in a Theme application, but not as lead applicant.

LINXS welcomes applicants with diverse backgrounds and experiences. We regard gender equality and diversity as a strength and an asset.

RELEVANCE – CONTRIBUTION TO LINXS MISSION

The evaluation will consider the potential contribution of the Theme and its proposed activities to the LINXS mission. A Theme should involve research using and developing x-ray and neutron techniques and reach across different scientific domains. A key goal should be to open up and develop new user groups and new interactions between different user/development groups through relevant and strategic Theme activities.

Anyone wishing to apply is encouraged to contact someone from the LINXS management to discuss their idea prior to submission.

PROCEDURE

The call follows a two-stage application process:

- The Stage 1 consists of the submission of a concept application by the lead applicant using a template – this is a short application describing the key aspects of the proposed Theme. One or two applications will be selected, through an external and independent evaluation procedure, and invited to proceed to Stage 2. No new call will be published for Stage 2.
- The Stage 2 consists of a more developed version of the application, which includes a development plan with the timeline of operations, the descriptions of foreseen working groups and potential members, the level of engagement of the Core Group and Working Group members, and details on foreseen activities. Stage 2 applications will be evaluated based on their scientific ambition and scope. One Theme will be selected.
- The application should be written in English due to the external evaluation procedure.
- Applications are officially submitted by email in one searchable pdf file to submissions@linxs.lu.se
- An acknowledgement of receipt is sent to the lead applicant.

TIMELINE

- Deadline for Stage 1 applications: 2021-06-18 17:00 PM CET
- Invitation to Stage 2: until 2021-09-03
- Deadline for Stage 2 applications: 2021-10-29 17:00 PM CET
- Final decision date: until 2021-12-03
- Earliest date for Theme start: 2022-01-01

COSTS THAT CAN BE COVERED

Applicants are encouraged to contact LINXS for more information on costs that can be covered. Please note that approval of the Theme does not entail approval of any submitted potential costs. Decisions on the Theme costs covered in the LINXS budget, and the activity plan, are made on a yearly basis following budgetary discussions with all LINXS Themes.

Personnel costs: Typically, a contribution can be made to the salary of the lead applicant and 1-3 key participants (such as Core Group members and/or Working Group leaders), as long as they are employed at the partner organisation. Core Group and Working Group members from external organisations may have travel and accommodation related to LINXS work covered.

Activity costs: conferences (including hosting and travel of keynote speakers), Core Group and Working Group meetings, workshops, hackathons, sabbaticals (hosting and travel of guest researchers), schools, seminars, training and outreach. The list is non-extensive and LINXS welcomes activity ideas that contribute to the success of the Theme.

REPORTING AND EVALUATION

Each Theme is expected to report annually, listing activities and scientific achievements, as well as a final report at the end of the Theme duration. The final report should list the Themes' scientific contribution, societal impact and research activities. All Core Group members are also expected to take part in survey and evaluation activities.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Applications will not be distributed or publicised by LINXS, but are not, in principle, confidential. LINXS does not encourage the inclusion of confidential material.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The LINXS Management will gather the applications received and check the formal eligibility of applications. All timely and eligible applications will be sent to an external independent Evaluation Committee (EC) consisting of international experts in the LINXS focus area (i.e., soft matter, hard matter, and life science).

The EC will evaluate and rank all applications (description, participants, and activities) according to the set evaluation criteria, which include:

1. Scientific excellence, impact and timeliness, and potential to contribute to the advancement of and breakthroughs with x-ray and neutron science at large-scale facilities.
2. Relevance to one or more of the LINXS focus areas, and potential to bring different scientific communities together and exploit interdisciplinary, intersectorial and/or inter-methodological engagement.
3. Potential to enhance existing user communities and/or open up new user communities (including industry and public sector, if relevant) for synchrotron and neutron-based science (premium on both).
4. Relevance to the LINXS mission, and strategic complementarity in relation to existing Themes and the diversity of activities at LINXS.
5. Excellence, networks and capacity of the suggested Core Group and potential Working Groups. It is expected that these include members external to partner organisations (currently Lund University). The target (but not a requirement) is 50% fellows from non-partner organisations active in Core and Working Groups.
6. Emphasis will also be given to horizontal criteria (as applicable): sustainable development, environmental aspects, equal opportunities & non-discrimination, and gender equality.

The EC submits their Stage 1 recommendation and selection to the LINXS management group which formally decides and invites applications to Stage 2. The EC may suggest modifications or merging of proposals with the aim of developing a strong and balanced scientific programme at LINXS.

The Stage 2 evaluation is performed by the LINXS management group with the advice of the EC, considering budget availability and operational capacity. The formal decision is made by the LINXS management group.

CONTACT PERSONS

Potential lead applicants are encouraged to contact the LINXS management in order to discuss their ideas prior to submission, the relevant contacts are:

Stephen Hall (LINXS Director, stephen.hall@linxs.lu.se)

Marie Skepö (LINXS Vice-Director, marie.skepo@linxs.lu.se)

Oxana Klementieva (LINXS co-director, oxana.klementieva@linxs.lu.se)

Anna Ntinidou (LINXS Head of Administration, anna.ntinidou@linxs.lu.se)

LAST APPLICATION DATE STAGE 1

18 June 2021 17:00 PM CET