Call
Grants for Research Infrastructure 2025

Faculty of Medicine
FS 2.1.6-1689-24

2024-11-06
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GRANTS FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR 2025[1]

General information
The Faculty of Medicine at Umeå University hereby announces 1-year funding support for costs related to research infrastructure. This includes establishing new infrastructure, such as new purchases, further development, or upgrading and supplementing existing infrastructure. The funding also covers operating costs for established research infrastructure.

The call aims to strengthen the competitiveness and quality of the Faculty's research. Previous calls have resulted in grants in the range of 200-1500 KSEK.
For 2025 a total of up to 6 000 000 SEK is announced. The application deadline is *31 January 2024, 14.00 CET*.

Eligibility and other requirements
Umeå University's Rules for Research Infrastructures (FS 1.1-2087-23) defines a research infrastructure as:
- a facility (equipment, installation, database, knowledge base, virtual resource or other resource) and the associated human competence necessary to carry out research of the highest quality.

and which
- can be used by more than one research group at Umeå University or other higher education institutions/external partners.
- is available to all researchers at Umeå University on the same terms.
- can offer user support, training courses or education at different levels that are linked to the research infrastructure.
- has a responsible host department or faculty, and a clear management and organizational structure.
- has a long-term plan for usage, development, evaluation and decommissioning.

Eligible to apply are researchers (individual and groups) from the Faculty of Medicine.
The research infrastructure must be openly accessible for use by the Faculty's researchers, and made visible on UMU-webpages in accordance with the UMU's rules.
The funds aim to help establish and maintain research infrastructure (namely equipment, installation, database, knowledge banks, or other resource with affiliated staff), that is in demand and necessary to conduct high-quality research.
Researchers at the Faculty of Medicine (individual and groups) are welcome to apply for research infrastructure within the following categories. Accurate categorization will aid the reviewing process and help the reviewers better assess the application. Please note that one application may only target one of these categories, but a researcher may submit up to two applications.

Application categories:
A. New equipment
B. Add-on to existing equipment.
C. Building a database/biobank infrastructure with ongoing data collection
D. Add-on or improved access to existing database/biobank (to enrich content or improve data quality or data access)

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[1] This document has been translated from Swedish to English. In case of divergence of meaning between the versions, the Swedish wording shall prevail.

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E. Staff and other operating costs for running an infrastructure

Categories A-D encompass new purchases, further development, or upgrading/supplementing of infrastructure that will benefit several research groups at the Faculty of Medicine, and Umeå University.

The application should represent both breadth and competence and should demonstrate that the funding is expected to produce synergy effects regarding quality and activity for the Faculty's research.

All or part of the costs of the infrastructure can be applied for and co-financing must be specified. Equipment is expected to have a depreciation period (*avskrivningstid*) of three to eight (3-8) years and is to be managed by the respective department.

Note that these funds cannot be used for operating costs or accessibility of the infrastructure (for example salaries for operation, regular service agreements etc.).

The future costs of the specified infrastructure must, as far as possible, be financed through user fees and external grants.

Category E represents a budget support for operating of established research infrastructure. Funds can be applied for costs related to operating, such as service agreements or personnel, that currently cannot be covered via user fees. These funds cannot be used to upgrade an existing infrastructure.

The need for funding support must be clearly motivated, and the future needs as well as an action plan should be described. The application should demonstrate accessibility, usage, output, and benefit of the research infrastructure as well as demonstrate that the funding invested by the Faculty is expected to deliver synergies in quality and activity of the research at the Faculty. It is vital that the application includes description of the infrastructure activities, a comprehensive budget, and a financing plan.

If the infrastructure has previously received grants from earlier calls from the Faculty, then a clear accounting of how those funds have been utilized must be presented.

Note that the national research infrastructures that are co-funded by the University, and the Faculty, to cover the salaries and operating costs for the national parts of the facilities are not eligible to apply for budget support for these costs in category E. Should the application concern local participation of a national research infrastructure, it should then be clarified.

Application process

Application should be in English and follow the given instructions. The number of co-applicants per application is limited to five (5).

Application is made in the Faculty's portal in Researchweb – https://researchweb.org/is/umu – latest **by 31 January 2025, 14.00 CET**.

Only applications that are complete, written per the instructions, and submitted before the deadline will be considered.

Assessment and decision

Applications will be assessed and prioritized by a review panel appointed by the Faculty's Strategic Board for Research (FON).

The review panel evaluates the applications per the following criteria (scoring scale in parenthesis):

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- **Potential and Quality (1-7)** Is the infrastructure unique? State-of-the-art? Useful for scientific output? Will it increase quality and impact of research at the faculty? Can similar data be obtained by other, already present, infrastructure at UmU, or nationally?
- **Feasibility (1-7)** Is it realistic that new users will have access and can utilize the infrastructure? Do the applicants have the competence and experience to establish and operate the infrastructure? Is the organization realistic for the infrastructure to be sustainable and accessible? Is the financial plan sustainable and are the user-fees fair?
- **Breadth (1-5)** Will the research infrastructure benefit a large number of research projects? Are several Faculty research areas dependent on the infrastructure?

FON intends to make a final decision on fund allocation within three months of the application deadline.

For questions concerning the call contact the Faculty Office of Medicine via: **research.med@umu.se**.

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Application Instructions

The application should be in English.

Your personal details, and the publication list will be added to the application from your Researchweb profile. Ensure therefore that your profile in Researchweb is updated.

Applications that are not complete or not per the instructions will be deemed ineligible.

The application consists of two distinct parts: a questionnaire to be filled online (part 1) and a single pdf document (part 2).

Part 1: General information and assessment questions.
You will be asked to answer a number of questions on the application portal. Here you will first provide all general information about the infrastructure, including information on the type of application, amount applied for and description of the research environment.

In the second part of the application form, you will be asked to answer a few questions. These are structured according to the assessment criteria provided in the call, and will guide the reviewers when grading and ranking your application.

Part 2: Application file. The application file is to be submitted as a single pdf, containing the following:
1) **Description of quality and potential of the infrastructure** (max 2 A4 pages, Arial, font size 11, margins 2.5 cm).

Describe briefly the infrastructure, including its potential, its area of application as well as the benefit for research in various areas. Note: If the application concerns an add-on (categories B or D), describe how this specific add-on will give additional functionality).

2) **A brief CV for applicant and co-applicants** (Max 1 A4 page per applicant)

Provide a 1-page CV for each applicant. The 1-page CV should highlight the applicants competence and experience to establish and operate the infrastructure.

3) **A publication list from the applicant and co-applicants**

Select a total of 10 publications from applicant and co-applicants, with relevance to the application. You should state, for each of the ten most important publications, your contributions to the publication (this must not exceed four lines per publication).
Mark the applicant(S) name in the list of authors in bold. Include number of citations for the publication, and the Impact Factor for the journal during the year of the intended publication.

4) **Budget and budget justification**

In the budget section, state the total amount applied for in this application, together with a short justification. Describe co-funding (planned or readily acquired). If your application concerns equipment (categories A or B), state the total cost of the purchase here.

Additionally provide following information:

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For categories A and B: describe in general terms how the costs for running and maintenance of the equipment will be covered in the coming years.

For categories C, D and E: provide a long-term budget (previous year balance sheet and budget for 2-10 years, depending on the type of application), including costs (salaries, operating costs etc.) and funding (from all sources) to show that the infrastructure will eventually be financially independent.

For categories C, D and E: have previous applications for funding to the Faculty of Medicine been approved for the infrastructure applied for during the last 3 years? If yes, detail how the previous funding was used and how it has improved the research output of the infrastructure. *(max 1 A4 page).*

For category D*: also give the following information:
- Explain why data collection is necessary
- Give a motivation for the size of the data collection, e.g. a power analysis
- Provide a time plan, including information on when data collection was started and when it will be completed
- Describe recruitment and data collection done during previous years in relation to target (if applicable)

For category E: Describe why the costs cannot currently be fully funded by users and their research projects, or by the infrastructure environment itself.

5) Attestation from the Head of Department

Provide attestation from the main applicant's Head of Department (and from Head of Office where applicable) certifying that:

- the application is supported,
- the application has undergone peer-review at the department.

Applications that are not complete or not per the instructions will be deemed ineligible.

Application must be completed in the Faculty's application portal Researchweb – https://researchweb.org/is/umu – **latest by 31 January 2025, 14.00 CET**.

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Application Part 1: General information and assessment questions

To facilitate assessment by the reviewers considering the evaluation criteria, please answer the following questions:

General information

Name of infrastructure that is being applied for.

Which department will be the host department? And if this is a physical infrastructure, where will it be located?

Is this part of an already existing infrastructure registered on the UMU website of research infrastructures? Yes/no

If yes, briefly describe how the infrastructure is part of a larger infrastructure, facility or environment.

Please check the category that best describes the application (only one category can be selected per application)

- A. New equipment
- B. Add-on to existing equipment.
- C. Building a database/biobank infrastructure with ongoing data collection
- D. Add-on or improved access to existing database/biobank (to enrich content or improve data quality or data access)
- E. Staff and other operating costs for running an infrastructure

Total funding applied for this infrastructure:

Potential and Quality

Describe how the infrastructure (or its add-on if category B or D) will give value to Umeå University, and particularly the Faculty of Medicine.

- *How will the infrastructure increase the quality and impact of research at the Faculty of Medicine?*
- *How unique is the functionality of the proposed infrastructure? Can similar functionality be obtained elsewhere and if so, are there other reasons why the infrastructure would benefit to UMU.*
- *What is the estimated scientific output and the expected number of users?*
- *Explain when the infrastructure will become useful and result in publications and for how long the infrastructure is expected to give value to UMU?*

Breadth

List users/research groups at the Faculty of Medicine that will benefit from the applied grant. *(For add-ons (categories B and D), only list users that will benefit from the add-on).*

Describe how users get access to the infrastructure, including website and system for booking

Describe if there are any restrictions on availability for different types of users or if availability depends on prioritization and if so, how the prioritization is done.

For categories B-E: Provide a list of users that have been actively using the infrastructure. *(If the application concerns only a part of a larger infrastructure, report only users from the relevant part)*

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For categories B-E: Provide a <u>list of publications</u> from the last 3 years, where the infrastructure has been used. *(If the application concerns only a part of a larger infrastructure, report only publications from that part)*

Feasibility

Explain why the applicants have the competence and experience to establish and operate the infrastructure.

Briefly describe how the infrastructure will be managed, including how new users will be trained (if applicable) and how the infrastructure will be maintained (e.g. service, upgrades, database management)

Describe user fees (principles for user fees and total amount per year)

Describe funding of the infrastructure and (if applicable) the infrastructure environment

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