



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

SPIRE

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Strategic Programme for International Research and Education

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Key dates 2016

Application deadline: **Friday 29 April 2016**

Awards announced: **May 2016**

Funding dispensed: **June 2016**

SPIRE – Strategic Programme for International Research and Education

Guidelines for Applicants

Purpose

The Strategic Programme for International Research and Education (SPIRE) aims to support the University of Bergen Internationalisation Strategy and raise the University's international profile. 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**].

Multilateral projects that partner with more than one institution 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.

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 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 and Japan.

- 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.

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 the applications, duly assessed and ranked, to the Division of Research Administration by the closing date Friday 29 April 2016.

NOTE: Applications that are incomplete or received after the closing date Friday 29 April 2016 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:

- Strategic importance and tangible benefit to internationalisation of the University and the academic unit.
- Potential for building long-term international partnership.
- Support from the Department.

Allocation of funding

2016 SPIRE grants will be available for the recipients through one instalment to the Faculties in June 2016. The funds may be expended in the period July 2016 – July 2017. As a rule, any unspent funds cannot be rolled forward beyond 31st July 2017 and must be returned to the Division of Research Administration.

Reporting

Recipients are required to submit a final report due by 31st October 2017. 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

Bjørn Erik Andersen
Senior Adviser International
Division of Research Management
Tel: 84985
E-mail: bjorn.andersen@uib.no

	University of Ghana		Zhejiang University
	University of Cape Town		Chinese University of Hong Kong
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Sydney • University of Western Australia 		University of Basel
	University of Auckland		University of Bergen
	University of Alberta		Maastricht University
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pennsylvania State University • University of Massachusetts Amherst • University of Rochester 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Bristol • University of Leeds • University of Sheffield • University of Southampton • University of York

WUN homepage: <http://www.wun.ac.uk/>

WUN provides opportunity for UiB researchers to collaborate with colleagues from 19 strong research universities spanning 5 continents on four **Global Challenges**:

Responding to Climate Change – Public Health – Understanding Cultures – Global Higher Education and Research

	<p>http://www.coimbra-group.eu/</p>
	<p>http://revistas.usc.es/gcompostela/en/index.html</p>
	<p>http://www.utrecht-network.org/en/site/home</p>
	<p>http://www.uarctic.org/</p>

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

The University of Bergen’s membership in the four university networks is important for developing collaborative projects and programs run by the member universities and for sharing experiences and best practice. The networks offer unique opportunities for University of Bergen staff to partner with European colleagues and create consortium for collaborations which are competitive for funding from European programmes. Besides, engagement in these networks provides an opportunity for influence on issues related to higher education policy in Europe and in the Arctic region.

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 the Nordic centres abroad

The University of Bergen is member of three Nordic centres, e.g. the Nordic Centre in Shanghai, China; the Nordic Centre in Delhi, India; and the Southern African-Nordic Centre in Cape Town, South Africa. The Nordic centres facilitate both cooperation between the Nordic member institutions and between the Nordic members and local partner institutions. In particular, collaborations on teaching and delivery of joint courses and programmes developed by the member institutions and offered to Nordic and local students, are important academic activities organised through the Nordic centres.