



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

Vice-Chancellor

DECISION

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STYR 2021/2396

18 November 2021

Assignment regarding the notification of interest in profile areas at Lund University

Background on profile areas

The government intends to introduce a new model for quality-based resource allocation and profiling (prop. 2020/21:60). The government's aim for the new model is to promote high-quality research. The government also wants to promote strategic profiling and prioritisation of research where the conditions are best for research of the highest international quality. According to the government, the profile areas are to be high-quality strategic research investments that are defined by the universities involved.

On 1 June 2021, the Swedish Research Council and other research councils presented a proposal concerning the possible organisation and implementation of the new model. A profile area is to include research, external engagement and education in a collective high-quality knowledge environment with a clear development perspective. The government, according to the budget proposal for 2022, intends to give the research councils the continued task, in consultation with higher education institutions, to further develop the model to enable its introduction in 2024.

Lund University has worked on profiling, renewal and quality enhancement for a long time. The University recently conducted the RQ20 quality evaluation of research and in 2020 adopted a Strategy for Lund University's Strategic Research Areas 2020-2030. Lund University therefore has good prerequisites for working on these issues.

Lund University will utilise its strengths in the best possible way to create profile areas that will be successful in the application, as well as helping to move the University's research, education and external engagement forwards. Lund University has therefore started internal work concerning which profile areas Lund University will include in its application. The Vice-chancellor's Management Council discussed profiling and the process for identifying profile areas at its away days on 16–17 September 2021 and its meeting on 28 October 2021. Based on the discussion, pro vice-chancellor Per Mickwitz has drawn up a proposal regarding the process and criteria for Lund University's profile areas.

The proposal is that pro vice-chancellor Per Mickwitz, within the framework of his assignment, shall, with the support of Research Services, implement a process involving an open notification of interest in potential profile areas, propose profile areas, and formulate the University's application for profile areas.

Decision

The University decides to give pro vice-chancellor Per Mickwitz the assignment to:

- draw up management rules for, and implement, a process involving an open notification of interest in order to identify potential profile areas for Lund University. In the event of the research councils changing the criteria or other conditions in the call for applications regarding profile areas, the University's process will be adapted to the new conditions,
- make a proposal to the vice-chancellor, after close dialogue with the faculties, regarding which profile areas are to be included in the University's application for profile areas,
- write the University's application for profile areas with the intention of submitting it in October 2022 or the date stated in the call for applications,
- continuously keep the rest of the University Management, the Vice-chancellor's Management Council and Research Board informed about the implementation of the process as well as support the vice-chancellor's reporting to the University Board about the profiling work.

The decision on this matter was taken by the undersigned vice-chancellor in the presence of the deputy university director Torun Forslid after a hearing with a representative of Lund University's Students' Unions and a presentation by research liaison officer Tina Trollås, Research Services.

Erik Renström

Copies sent to:

All faculty offices

Research Board

Education Board

Research Programmes Board

External Engagement Council

Lund University Students' Unions

Employee organisations

Head of the Research, Collaboration and Innovation Division

Head of Research Services