

Elite centre

About the mean

A Principal Investigator (PI) from the SDU faculty with the primary ownership of the elite centre manages the elite centre. The PI cooperates with one or more Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PI's) from other SDU faculties.

Each elite centre will receive a grant of up to 10 MDKK over four years. The faculty has maximum two-thirds of the 10 MDKK at its disposal, so at least one-third of the 10 MDKK must be allocated to the collaborative faculty/faculties.

The grant of up to 10 MDKK per elite centre must finance i.a. a PhD and a postdoc. The grant cannot finance buy out of assistant professors, associate professors and professors.

Additionally, the grant may not go to payroll funds outside SDU.

Application process

When applying for establishment of an elite centre, each faculty schedules a transparent process for preparation of two competitive applications.

The applications must be sent to the SDU Climate Cluster (SCC) via e-mail: scc@sdu.dk. Subsequently, they are forwarded to an external review panel for evaluation.

The individual faculty and the SCC secretariat agree upon deadlines for applications.

One-pager and suggestions for professional, external review experts

Approx. 6 months before the deadline for the application, the faculty sends a one-pager about each upcoming application to scc@sdu.dk.

The one-pager must contain the interdisciplinary research idea, the connection between the research idea and the SCC's mission to work towards a climate neutral society, keywords, the PI and Co-PI/Co-PI's.

The one-pager must be accompanied by a proposal for relevant professional external experts, whom the PI and Co-PI's suggest are included in the external review panel.

We recommend a professional expert for each main subject area that form part of the project. The experts may not be present or former business parts to the PI or Co-PI's.

The SCC secretariat will set up the external review panel based on the received one-pagers. The received suggestions for external experts will form part of the considerations about the final composition of the review panel.

The same review panel will evaluate the two competitive applications from the same faculty. One external review panel per faculty will be set up.

Decision on the winning application

The external review panel evaluates the two applications and decides on the winning application.

You can read more about the evaluation criteria and process in the section about Review process for elite centre applications at the bottom of the document.

Application formalities

An application guide can be taken from Application template for Elite centre.

The applications must comply with the requirements for the extent specified in the template and written in English.

The applications must be sent to the SCC secretariat by e-mail to scc@sdu.dk before the application deadline agreed upon. The deadline will be determined by the faculty and the SCC secretariat.

Reporting to SDU Climate Cluster

Each elite centre must report on progress after the first, second and third life years of the project. The reporting will be forwarded to the external review panel.

It is possible to stop the project at the review of the reporting about the second and third life years if the progress of the project is considered inadequate. SDU's executive board makes this decision.

The annual reporting must be filled in a reporting template and uploaded on the SCC's website. The reporting relates to:

- The progress of the project, i.a. cf. the predefined work packages and milestones, if any
- Expenses of the project till now compared to the budget in the application
- The results and output of the project such as publications, lectures, external funding etc.

After the fourth live year of the project, a final reporting about the progress and results of the project must be worked out for the head of the SCC. A template for the final reporting must be uploaded on the SCC's website.

The PI must send a status about the external funding and publications of the project to the head of SCC two years after the final reporting. The status must be sent by e-mail to scc@sdu.dk.

Cooperation with the SDU Climate Cluster

In cooperation with the SCC, each elite centre must compose a brief text for the SCC's website about research idea, potential cooperation horizon and contact information.

The publications of the project team must be co-registered as SCC-publications. Further information will be forwarded to the elite centre.

The SCC's journalist will interview the project team in connection with the start-up of the project, during the project and at the completion of the project. The purpose is knowledge sharing about SDU Climate Cluster, research projects in progress and final results.

During the living years of the elite centre, the researchers from the project team must share knowledge about the project in a SCC context approx. once a year. This may be an article, a podcast, a SCC-event or as part of another interdisciplinary SDU knowledge sharing. This part can be discussed with the SCC secretariat.

The PI's and Co-PI's of the five elite centres will be asked to join a cluster dialogue forum with e.g. the head of the SCC and the SCC secretariat.

Review process for elite centre applications

Establishment of the external review panel

Based on the received one-pager and suggestions for professional experts cf. the section Application process (above) the SCC will evaluate the composition of the external panels.

In the selection of the panel members, the SCC will focus on the ability of the external panel to cover both applications from a faculty and evaluate in relation to the interdisciplinary cooperation. Therefore, the size of the panels may vary depending on how far the two applications are from each other in terms of professional competences and the extent of the interdisciplinarity.

The work of the review panel

The panel members use a scoring sheet for evaluation of the applications (see the end of the document).

Two-part evaluation meeting:

The panel interviews the two applying PI's (approx. 45 minutes per PI: 20 minutes for presentation and 25 minutes for questions).

Concluding consolidation where the written scoring of the panel members will be examined, discussed and compared to the PI-interview. Subsequently, the final common scoring of the two applications together with comments and recommendations for the two applications will follow. The chair of the panel will sum up the panel's evaluation of the two applications and its recommendation of the application to receive an elite centre grant. The chair of the panel will inform the SCC secretariat about this evaluation and recommendation.

Feedback and communication about the decision

The head of the SCC will pass on the final scoring and evaluation of the review panel to the two PI's inclusive of information about which application that receives the elite centre grant. Afterwards, a start-up meeting between the head of the SCC and the winning PI will be planned.

The scoring sheet for the review panel's evaluation of the elite centre applications

Each member of the panel must give scores to all applications based on the below evaluation criteria and scoring sheet.

The applications must be scored on a scale from 1-6, where 6 is the best. Excellence is weighted 50%, Impact is weighted 30% and Implementation is weighted 20%.

EXCELLENCE (weighted 50%)

- To what extent is the proposed **work** ambitious and goes beyond the current state-of-the-art in the field?
- To what extent is the proposed **methodology** excellent and goes beyond the current state-of-the-art in the field?
- To what extent will expertise and methods from **different disciplines** be brought together and integrated?
- How are the quality and appropriateness of the **PI's existing professional experience** in relation to the research proposal?

IMPACT (weighted 30%)

- To what extent is the contribution and the expected outcome of the project contributing to the **expected impact of the SCC**?
- To what extent will the project outcomes contribute to the **development of novel research as well as economic and societal**?
- To what extent **do you see the potential to generate substantial external funding** of the project?

IMPLEMENTATION (weighted 20%)

- To what extent do the proposed **PIs have the capabilities to successfully implement** the proposed project?
- To what extent are the **participants complementing one another** (and cover real interdisciplinarity, where appropriate)?
- How is the **quality and effectiveness of the work plan** (including deliverables and milestones)?
- To what extent are **efforts assigned to work packages** (including timing and duration of the different work packages) appropriate and outlined sufficiently outlined in a GANNT chart?

Enclosures for Elite centre applications

- Application template
- CV template
- Gantt chart