Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study

Background and Purpose

The primary mission of the Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study (henceforth the Center) is to strengthen ongoing research collaborations and foster the development of new research collaborations between faculty at the University of California, Berkeley (henceforth UC Berkeley) and from the consortium of eight participating Norwegian academic institutions. The Center’s funding enables UC Berkeley faculty to conduct exploratory and cutting-edge research in tandem with leading researchers from the following eight Norwegian higher education institutions in collaboration with The Norwegian Research Council:

- BI Norwegian Business School (BI)
- Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)
- University of Agder (UiA)
- University of Bergen (UiB)
- University of Oslo (UiO)
- University of Stavanger (UiS)
- University of Tromsø (UiT)

The Center will select projects for support and also serve as an administrative hub for these partnerships. In this capacity, the Center will use its financial resources to support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, graduate student exchanges, postdoctoral fellow exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, and the undertaking of core research activities such as data collection and analysis.

Funding Areas

No field will be excluded from consideration and applications from all fields and disciplines are welcomed.

Projects selected for support can fall anywhere along the disciplinary spectrum, including the arts, the humanities, the social sciences, education, the physical sciences, biology, engineering, urban planning, as well as business and other professional fields. Possible research collaborations include but are not limited to research partnerships in brain science, smart building technology, climate research, human rights, cultural history, and economics and business.

Funding Packages

The Center will make approximately $500-600K available for projects each year. The funding packages will come in two different forms:

1. Seed Grants (between $5K [29K NOK] and $20K [116K NOK]). These grants would support research geared towards exploring the possibility of undertaking a full-scale collaborative project.
   - Seed grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies.
   - The term of the seed grants will extend from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2014.

- These grants can support activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.
  - The term of the full grants will extend from July 1, 2013 to July 1, 2015 or July 1, 2016.

**Funding Terms and Fundable Activities**

- Each grant will be awarded jointly to the Principal Investigators as a group, but the funds will be disbursed directly to the UC Berkeley partner, as the funds are held by this institution. The UC Berkeley Principal Investigator will be responsible for allocating the grant funds to his or her team members at Berkeley and in Norway.

- Funds **may** be used to defray the following kinds of expenses:
  - Travel and living expenses for eligible PIs and team members related directly to the undertaking of projects.
  - Support for team members (such as graduate students and postdoctoral fellows).
  - Costs incurred in the course of executing pilot studies or exploratory studies.

- Funds **may not** be used to defray the following kinds of expenses:
  - Salary or stipends for faculty members involved in projects (including the Principal Investigators).
  - Purchase of equipment used to carry out projects.
  - Costs incurred in the publication or dissemination of results.

- Grant recipients must submit a short progress report to the Center’s Executive Director by January 1st of each year of the grant’s term.

**Funding Eligibility**

- Eligible collaborating applicants from both UC Berkeley and Norwegian consortium institutions must be in contact with one another prior to applying for funds, and have a mandatory letter of commitment signed by both parties.

- There must be at least one Principal Investigator from UC Berkeley and one from a Norwegian consortium institution.

- Principal Investigators from UC Berkeley must be ladder-rank faculty (i.e. hold Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor titles).

- Principal Investigators from Norwegian consortium institutions must hold the position of either postdoktor, førsteamanuensis or professor (i.e. hold positions equivalent to Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, or Professor titles in the US).
Members of research teams who are not Principal Investigators themselves can hold other positions such as lecturer, visiting scholar, postdoctoral fellow, or graduate student. In order to receive indirect funding, however, research team members must be affiliated in some way with the participating institutions. Nonaffiliated team members are not eligible to receive direct or indirect support from the Center.

**Selection Criteria**

The Center’s executive committee (five members from UC Berkeley and five members from the participating Norwegian institutions) will evaluate the proposals with input from experts drawn from the participating institutions. The primary selection criterion will be scholarly and/or scientific merit as determined by the executive committee in conjunction with subject-matter experts where appropriate. Scholarly and scientific merit includes the following two components:

- The promise of the proposed project for the advancement of scholarly knowledge, and/or scientific inquiry.
- The feasibility of executing the proposed study within the proposed time frame.

Where proposals are judged equal on their merits, one or more of the following criteria may be applied in the selection process.

- The potential of the project to enhance our understanding of common problems and issues.
- The prospects for obtaining complementary funding from other sources beyond the Center.
- The stage of the project (projects in their early and exploratory phases will be given preference).
- The career stage of the Principal Investigators (projects including team members in an early stage of their careers [i.e. PhD students and postdoctoral fellows], will be given preference).
- The reasonable distribution of Principal Investigators among the Norwegian consortium institutions.
- The extent to which the project creates new synergies between the Norwegian academic communities and the academic community at UC Berkeley.

**Selection Timeline**

**Dissemination Phase**

- December 2012 – Initial announcement of Request for Proposals (RFP) disseminated to participating institutions.
- January 19, 2013 – Second announcement of Request for Proposals (RFP) disseminated to participating institutions.
- February 19, 2013 – Third and final announcement of Request for Proposals (RFP) disseminated to participating institutions.
Request for Proposals - Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study

Evaluation Phase

- July 5th, 2013 – Disbursement of grants to grant recipients.

As the Center’s resources are limited and many projects require substantial funds, we ask that applicants indicate whether they have applied for funding for the same project from other sources at the time of application. If applicants receive funding during the evaluation period, they are asked to update us regarding this additional funding.

Application Instructions

There are six elements to the completed application. Two of the elements, the application form and the attestation of commitment, appear in the Peder Sather Center website at the following urls: http://sathercenter.berkeley.edu/test-form/ and http://sathercenter.berkeley.edu/attestation-of-commitment/. These forms must be completed online. Please note that at least one PI from UC Berkeley and at least one PI from a Norwegian consortium institution must complete the attestation of commitment form.

The other four elements are documents that must be uploaded to the website on the application form. It is recommended that these files be uploaded as PSFs. The documents are the following:

1. A brief narrative (3-4 single-spaced pages, including figures but excluding references) setting out the following:
   (a) The general agenda of the proposed project
   (b) The topics, themes, questions, or issues to be studied in the proposed project (whether exploratory or mature)
   (c) The method(s) and/or framework(s) to be used in the investigation(s)
   (d) The anticipated outcome of the project in terms of research plans or actual findings
   (e) The fundable activities the investigators would like the Center to support (for example, “we will hold a two-day workshop in Tromsø in June 2014 where the PIs and four other team members discuss the results of our exploratory study and directions for future research”)

2. An itemized budget and budget narrative explaining how the funding will be allocated.

3. A project timeline that is consistent with the conditions outlined in the "Funding Terms" section on page 2. This timeline should list the milestones necessary to complete the study in the allotted time.

4. A C.V. for each Principal Investigator.

All correspondence about the application should be sent to Jeremy Schulz at the following email address: director.sathercenter@berkeley.edu.

Contact Information
Jeremy Schulz
Executive Director
Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study
director.sathercenter@berkeley.edu