



UiO:Life Science convergence environments

Information meetings December 8th + 10th 2020

Carl Henrik Gørbitz, director



UiO • Life Science
University of Oslo

What is UiO:Life Science?



UiO:Life Science is an interdisciplinary strategic area that will strengthen quality and interaction in research; recruit, educate and develop talents; and promote innovation in the life sciences related to environment and health. UiO:Life Science is the largest priority area at UiO. A planned life sciences building is a significant aspect of the priority area.



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[The new life science building at UiO in 2024](#)

Norway's largest university building. Thematic research areas for the building have been proposed.

Research

- [What are UiO's fields of research in](#)

About UiO:Life Science

- [What is UiO:Life Science?](#)

Contact

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News and events

- [Research News](#)

- [Events](#)

- [Funding](#)

- [News](#)

- [Newsletter](#)

News and events

[Norwegian](#)

News

[UiO's central information site about the coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)



[Agnete Fredriksen receives the Research Council of Norway's innovation award and donates the prize money to SPARK Norway](#)

Nov. 25, 2020 5:08 PM

The Research Council has announced that the innovation award goes to founder and scientific director Agnete Fredriksen in Vaccibody.



[Join a new round of funding of interdisciplinary research groups](#)

Nov. 3, 2020 9:55 AM

UiO:Life Science funds 14 convergence environments that address major challenges within life sciences related to health, environment and sustainable growth. A new application round has started. Researchers from all units at UiO are welcome to participate.

Convergence
environments

SPARK
Norway

Open call

Inter-
nationalization
support

Conference
& event
support

Summer
projects

UiO:Life Science – 14 convergence environments



Six 2017–2021

Environmental toxins, fetal development, artificial cells, the immune system, artificial organs, personalized cancer treatment.

Eight 2019–2023

Diabetes, organ donation, consciousness, the immune system, evidence in rape cases, mental disorders, medicinal plants, cancer.

[News and events](#)[Funding](#)[2020](#)[2019](#)

Call for new convergence environments

UiO:Life Science is happy to announce the third call for convergence environments. We expect to fund six applications this time.

Purpose

UiO:Life Science convergence environments give UiO's best researchers within life sciences the opportunity to reach ambitious scientific goals through interdisciplinary collaboration. Research in the convergence environments must be innovative and have major potential to generate groundbreaking results. The convergence environments work with complex problems where coordinated research efforts across disciplines are essential to achieving their objectives. The specific goals are to:

- Perform excellent interdisciplinary science and research (“beyond state-of-the-art”)
- Recruit, educate and develop talents
- Promote innovation in the life sciences related to environment and health

Who is eligible to apply?

The project leader must have a permanent research position at UiO

Who can participate in the application?

Other principal investigators may come from UiO, University hospitals or other cooperating institutions

What kind of funding is provided?

- 3-4 position, at least one PhD (four years) and at least one post doc (three years)
- Running expenses:
 - Up to NOK 200 000 per position per year for costly experimental work
 - Up to NOK 50 000 for theoretical positions
 - Up to NOK 150 000 per year for other activities for the convergence consortium

One year of competence-giving compulsory work

Employed at UiO

No own contribution required

Letters of intent from host institutions

21 Jan 2021



Sign up for work-
shops
Create profile

26 Mar 2021



Proposal deadline
(phase 1)

7 June 2021



Full application
deadline
(phase 2)

4 Nov 2021



Funding decision
by the UiO:Life
Science board

10 Nov 2021



Announcement
of results

2 May 2022



Project start

Profile: short description of scientific background and fields of interest
Background material for workshops

Workshops (speed-dating events)
February 18th and March 2nd 2021

One member of each team must be present

Phase 1 proposals (sketches, 4 pages)

- No scientific evaluation, no exclusions
- Used by UiO:Life Science to select **experts** and **review panel members**
- Feedback provided within three weeks (merging, off-target, other issues)



Eivind Engebretsen, Faculty of Medicine
Vice-Dean of Postgraduate Studies

Career development for PhD candidates and postdocs

Hanne Scholz, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences
Leader of the convergence environment *Artificial Biomimetic systems – the Niche of Islet Organoids (ABINO)* and member of CoE *Hybrid Technology Hub*

Organizing collaboration in a working convergence environment

Helge Jordheim, Department of Culture Studies and Oriental Languages

Designing good projects for humanities and social science workpackages

Full application (10 pages)

Each application first sent to an expert suggested by the applicant team

Qualitative assessments (no grading)

The applications with expert comments sent to members of the review panel

Each application will be evaluated by three reviewers

One should have good knowledge of the research field

Typically at least one reviewer is more peripheral to the subject

Expect to fund six
new convergence
environments

Two-step digital evaluation:

1. Selection of 10-12 finalist applications (September 24th 2021)

2. Project leaders of the finalists give short presentations of their applications.

Will subsequently be interviewed by the review panel (October 26th and 27th 2021)

Decision made by the UiO:Life Science board
(November 4th 2021/announced November 10th)

*May deviate from the final
ranking by the review panel*

Assessment

Grading scheme

9-10: excellent

7-8: very good

5-6: good

1-4: poor

See call for detailed
assessment criteria

Applications are given one grade each for the three evaluated subheadings:

Research (50 %)

Impact and implementation (38 %)

Responsible research and innovation (RRI) (12 %)

Percentages in parentheses are used to determine **the overall grade**

Bonus points

On top of the overall grade, each application will receive a bonus according to the following scheme:

Criterion	Bonus	Evaluated by
The project is associated with one of the <u>thematic areas within life sciences</u>	0.0 – 0.2	Review panel
Results from the project may generate a foundation for new innovations	0.0 – 0.1	Review panel
The project involves principal investigators from more than two faculties*	0.0 – 0.2	UiO:Life Science administration

* +0.1 for three faculties, + 0.2 for four (or more) faculties

Thematic areas within life sciences

Antimicrobial resistance

A sustainable life span

Neuroscience

Personalised medicine

Enabling health technologies



UiO : Life Science
University of Oslo

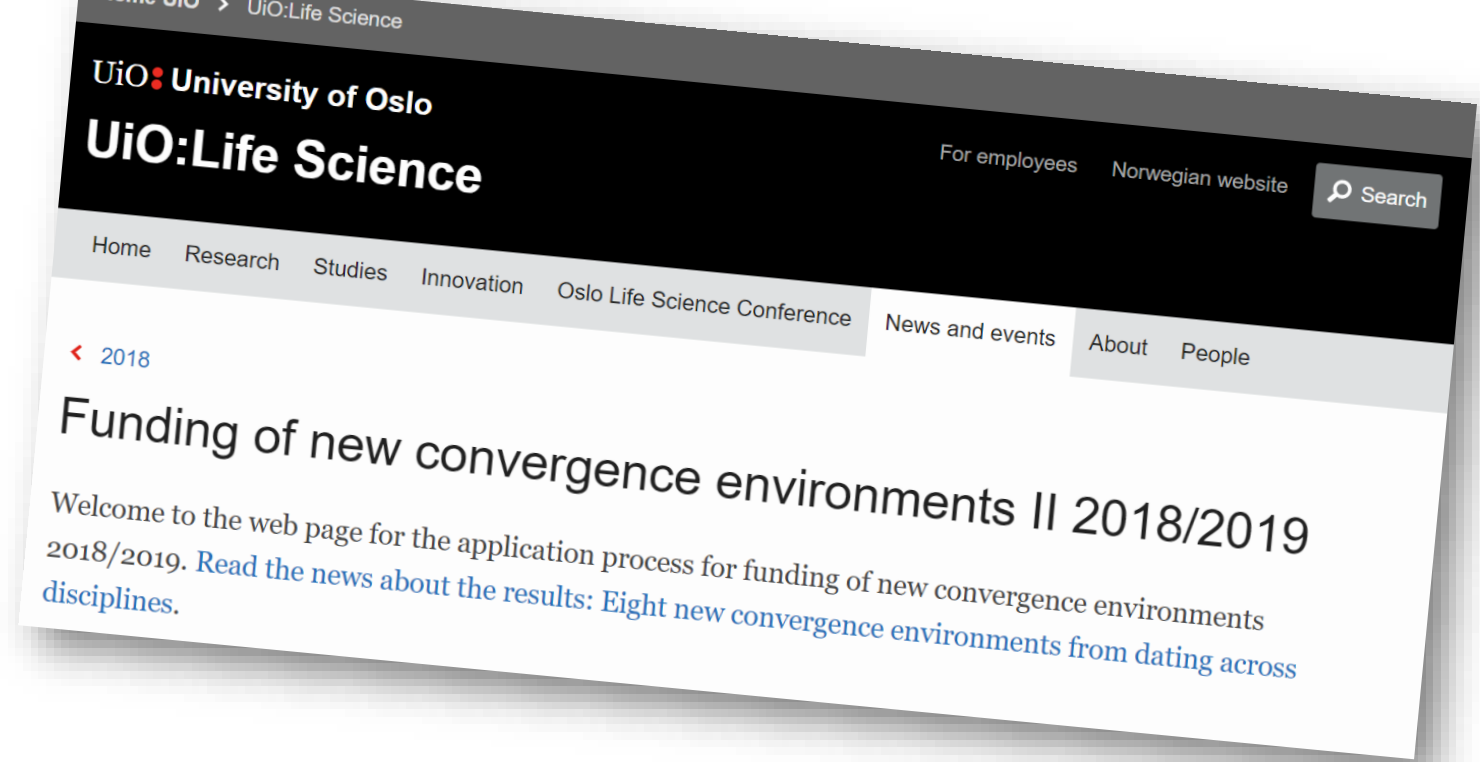
Recommendation for thematic areas within
life sciences in the new life science building
at the University of Oslo



What is new compared to the last call?

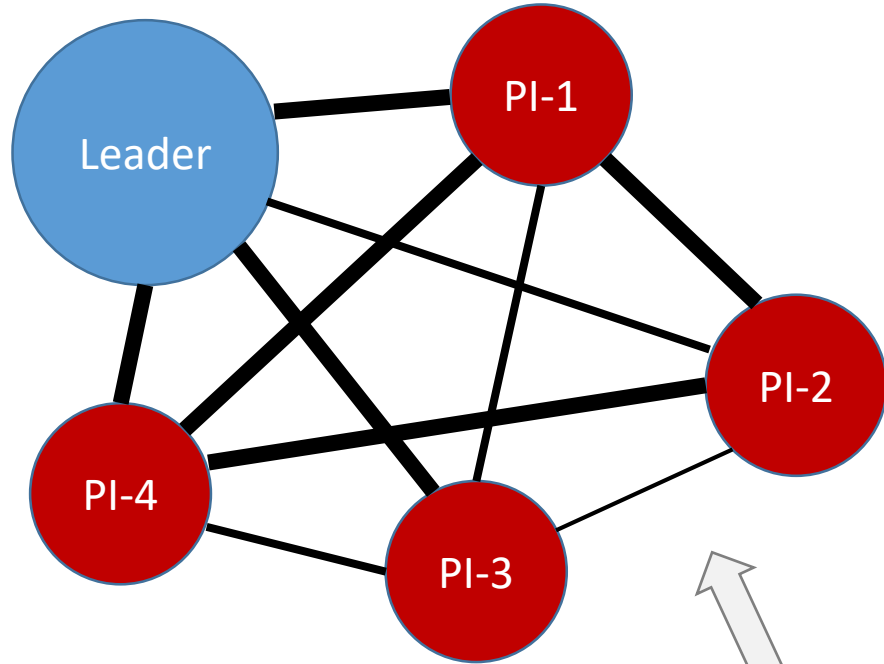
Most important changes:

- All positions get a full year for career development
- Updated assessment criteria
 - Thematic areas in life sciences
 - Less directed towards senior project leaders
 - After-life/culture
 - Plans to attract external funding
 - Creation of meeting places
 - Sustainability
- Two-step digital evaluation process in phase 2



What characterizes a good convergence environment application?

Excellence



True convergence

Lasting impact



Dedicated and motivated project leader

Virtual centers, no physical co-location is required



On interdisciplinarity:

Most scientists are aware of the term, and many will have used it. But how many are truly engaged in it? Done correctly, it is not mere multidisciplinary work — a collection of people tackling a problem using their specific skills — but a synthesis of different approaches into something unique. = **convergence**

Editorial *Nature* 16 September 2015