



Umeå University's handling of applications for grants for research infrastructure of national interest 2027

General information on the call and the process:

Applications to [The Swedish Research Council's Council for Research Infrastructure \(VR-RFI\)](#) for **grants for research infrastructure of national interest** are organisational applications, meaning the Vice-Chancellor (VC) must give final approval.

Applications are therefore managed as follows:

- **Within UMU**, applications are coordinated at university-wide level by RIS and approved by the VC. The main processing is though done at the department and faculty level.
- **Universities and other applicant organisations** coordinate parts of the application process, including when **official requests and responses concerning participation in consortia**, and **letters of support from the VCs**, are to be sent.

Both processes, including key dates, deadlines and responsible parties, are described in the table on page 2-3 of this document. [The call is open from 2026-12-02 to 2027-02-16](#). Detailed information is available on VR's website and will also be provided at a [digital information meeting on 2 Nov 2026, 10:00-12:00](#). Important to note is that this is a targeted call; a [list of the infrastructures eligible to apply has been published on VR's website](#). Umeå University is involved in 17 of these infrastructures, as lead applicant for two (CORS and ArchLab) and as co-applicant for 15. At the lead applicant organisation, a researcher or equivalent is expected to serve as **Lead Application Coordinator**. Similarly, each participating organisation must appoint a researcher or equivalent as its **Application Coordinator**.

Co-funding of applications at UMU:

- **VR-RFI and Umeå University each fund half of the awarded amount.**
- **For UMU:s share, 70% is funded at university-wide level and 30% at faculty level.**

It is therefore very important that the budget and scope of the application are approved well in advance by the department and faculty (which in turn coordinates with University Management). For existing infrastructures, the amount applied for should be approximately the same as in the previous application, plus indexation (maximum 20%). Larger increases must be negotiated with the relevant faculty well in advance, i.e. starting in October. For infrastructures applying for this type of funding for the first time, it is particularly important to begin consultations with the faculty well in advance, i.e. in October 2026.

Contact persons at each level:

At university-wide level, Deputy VC for research Thomas Olofsson, supported by Research Infrastructure (RI) Officer Insa Wemheuer, is overall responsible for the preparatory process.

- Main contact address is researchinfrastructure@umu.se

At faculty level, the principal contacts for the infrastructures are the RIS members: Deans for Research Xavier de Luna (Samfak), Phil Buckland (Humfak) and Johan Olofsson (Teknat), and, for Medfak, M-RIS Chair Marta Bally with Deputy Dean Ronnie Berntsson in cc. Official requests and responses concerning participation, application sections and letters of support received (see table) are forwarded to Kansliet with Deans for Research/Chair of M-RIS, Deputy Dean Medfak and the Application Coordinators in cc.



UMU:s Organisation Account Administrator in Prisma who must open and approve applications where UMU is lead applicant is Agneta Hånell Plamboeck. ArchLab and CORS are expected to contact her for that, copying in the RI Officer.

Timeline and deadlines

Date	What happens	Responsible party
2 Nov 2026, Mon, 10-12	VR-RFI information meeting on the call	VR-RFI
Oct-Nov	Consortia begin work on the applications.	Lead Application Coordinators
6 Nov 2026, 14-15	VR-RFI Research Infrastructure Call 2027 - Kick-off session for UMU Application Coordinators	Deputy VC, Phil Buckland, Paolo Bientinesi, member of VR-RFI's advisory group RÅG C
11 Nov 2026	Initial draft budget is sent to the relevant faculty	UMU Application Coordinators
18 Nov 2026	Overall discussion at a RIS meeting	RIS
2 Dec 2026	Call opens. Detailed instructions published.	VR-RFI
7 Dec 2026	For research infrastructures where UMU is lead applicant, information for the request to prospective partners (see below) sent to Deputy VC and RI Officer.	Host faculty
10 Dec 2026	Requests to participate in applications are sent between the prospective consortium partners. - Where UMU is lead applicant, the request is sent on behalf of the VC. - Where UMU is co-applicant, incoming requests are forwarded to faculty and application coordinators.	RI officer after consultation with the Deputy VC who consults the VC
14 Dec 2026, 17:00	Faculty responses concerning applications where UMU is co-applicant emailed to Deputy VC & RI Officer (see below)	Relevant faculty
15 Dec 2026	Overall discussion at RIS meeting	RIS
17 Dec 2026, Thu	Responses to invitations to participate in applications for sent to the lead applicant organisations. - Where UMU is co-applicant, response sent to lead applicant. - Where UMU is lead applicant, responses are forwarded to faculty and Application Coordinators.	RI Officer, following a decision by and on behalf of the VC
17 Dec 2026, 15:30-16:30	"VR grants for research infrastructure: evaluation process and criteria" session for UMU Application Coordinators	Paolo Bientinesi, member of VR-RFI's advisory group RÅG C
January	The application is prepared by the participating organisations	Lead Application Coordinators
18 Jan 2027, Mon, 17:00	Where UMU is lead applicant, sections of the application & certificates emailed to Deputy VC and RI Officer (see below).	Relevant faculty
20 Jan 2027, Wed	Sections of the application circulated by the lead applicant within the prospective consortia: - Where UMU is the lead applicant, these are sent to the co-applicants. - Where UMU is a co-applicant, these are forwarded to the relevant faculty and Application Coordinators.	RI Officer, following a decision by and on behalf of the VC
1 Feb 2027, Mon	Where UMU is co-applicant, faculty certificates confirming participation emailed to Deputy VC & RI Officer (see below).	Relevant faculty



Thereafter	University management takes a final decision on participation in each application.	VC in consultation with the Deputy VC
9 Feb 2027, Tue	Official letters of support are emailed from co-applicant to lead applicant organisations (VR-RFI provides a template). • Where UMU is lead applicant, letters of support are forwarded to faculties and application coordinators • Where UMU is a co-applicant, letters of support are sent to the lead applicant organisation	RI Officer, following a decision by and on behalf of the VC
Thereafter	Where UMU is lead applicant, the application is approved in Prisma by the authorised UMU Account Administrator.	Lead Application Coordinator & UMU Account Administrator
16 Feb 2027	The call closes	VR-RFI

Supporting information for the request

Where UMU is the lead applicant, the supporting information for the request to prospective participating organisations must be sent by the host faculty to thomas.olofsson@umu.se with researchinfrastructure@umu.se in cc no later than 7 December 2026, and must include:

- a brief description of the planned infrastructure
- which organisations should be invited to join the application consortium
- confirmation that the faculty and the department(s) concerned are prepared to assume responsibility for the research infrastructure if the application is successful, including a willingness to prioritise and support it in the long term and to support the activities required for its maintenance and development
- confirmation that the faculty and department(s) concerned consider that the costs of UMU's share of the research infrastructure not covered by VR-RFI can be funded by UMU in accordance with the 70/30 principle (see above)

If units from more than one faculty participate in the infrastructure, the host faculty is expected to have ensured that the management of the other faculty/faculties supports the application initiative and is prepared to assume its share of responsibility for the planned infrastructure.

- The information may be provided either in the email or in an attached document.
- The Dean(s) do not need to sign a certificate but must be cc:ed into the email.

Response concerning participation in the request

Where UMU is co-applicant, host faculties must send clear answers (yes/no) regarding participation requests by email to thomas.olofsson@umu.se with researchinfrastructure@umu.se in cc no later than 14 December 2026.

- If units from more than one faculty participate in the infrastructure, the host faculty is expected to have ensured that the other faculty's management supports the position and is prepared to assume its share of responsibility for the planned infrastructure.
- The Dean(s) do not need to sign a certificate but must be copied into the email.

Sections of the application

Where UMU is lead applicant, the sections of the application circulated within the proposed consortia must be sent by the host faculty to thomas.olofsson@umu.se with researchinfrastructure@umu.se in cc no later than 18 January 2027, and must include:



- **Sections of the application to be submitted as an attached Word document**
 - o Budget (total and by partner), including a budget justification
 - *Please note that this budget must be final at an overall level, meaning that the amount applied for, its allocation between applicants, and the co-funding provided by each party should be definitive. However, minor adjustments regarding the distribution of amounts between different cost categories and similar items may still take place.*
 - o Objectives of the infrastructure, Scientific justification for the infrastructure, National interest, Implementation, governance and organisation
 - *Note that the exact parts of the application that must be submitted will most likely need to be updated once the call opens and the application guidelines and instructions are published. (may need to be updated when the call opens and instructions for the application are published)*
- A certificate signed by the Dean(s), confirming that the faculty or faculties support and approve all parts of the application, including:
 - o the budget
 - o that the University's share of the budget has been calculated correctly
 - o and that sufficient funds for co-funding the research infrastructure will be made available at faculty level if the application is successful.

If units from more than one faculty participate in the infrastructure, the host faculty is expected to have ensured that the management of the other faculty/faculties support(s) the position and is prepared to assume its/their share of responsibility for the planned infrastructure. Certificates from all faculties concerned must then be submitted.

Please feel free to use the template on the next page. It is based on Medfaks certificate from 2025 and therefore also includes wording for infrastructures involving more than one faculty.

Faculty certificate of participation as a co-applicant

Where UMU is a co-applicant, the host faculty (and any other participating faculty) must submit a certificate confirming participation as a co-applicant by email to thomas.olofsson@umu.se with researchinfrastructure@umu.se in cc no later than 1 February 2027.

The certificate must be signed by the Dean and certify that the faculty supports and approves all parts of the application, including:

- the budget,
- that the University's share of the budget has been calculated correctly
- that sufficient funds for co-funding the research infrastructure will be made available by the faculty if the application is successful.

As stated above, certificates from all faculties involved must be submitted. In other words, if units from another faculty/faculties participate in the infrastructure, all involved faculties must submit certificates.

Please feel free to use the template on the next page. It is based on Medfaks certificate from 2025 and therefore also includes wording for infrastructures involving more than one faculty.

Beslut

Dekan



2027-xx-xx

UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

Xyz fakulteten

xxx fakultetens medfinansiering av ansökan om bidrag till forskningsinfrastruktur av nationellt intresse 2027

xxx fakulteten ställer sig bakom den ansökan som infrastrukturen xyz kommer skicka in till VR-RFI och att Umeå universitet deltar i konsortiet/ att Umeå universitet är huvudsökande.

Förutsatt att Vetenskapsrådet medfinansierar enligt den föreslagna budgeten så ger fakulteten sitt stöd till den föreslagna budgeten och samfinansiering *enligt tidigare principer om fördelning mellan Teknisk-naturvetenskaplig fakultet och Medicinska fakulteten* för budgetåren 20xx till och med 20xx.

Beslut i ärendet har fattats av dekan, professor xxx xxx, efter föredragning av vxxx

(Namn dekan)

Expedieras till:

Forskningsdekan xyz

Controller xyz

Utredare Insa Wemheuer, Planeringsenheten

Registrator