

December 9, 2025

**Junior Scientist Ideas Award.
Funding for seedling projects by students and postdocs.**

Do you have a research idea that you would like to try out?

Do you know what might be the next big thing?

All PhD students and postdocs within NanoLund are invited to propose a project and obtain seed funds to try out a new research idea.

- **Eligibility:** The proposer(s) (PhD student, postdoc) must currently be in a NanoLund research group. The applicants must hold an affiliation with Lund University. The position of the applicant at Lund University should last at least until 31 October 2026 (9 months from the application deadline).
- **Number of applicants:** The applications are usually individual, however, a team of up to three eligible applicants can apply for one joint project.
- **Amount:** Up to 100,000 kronor per seedling project.
- **Award:** The applicants of the granted projects will need to present their project at the NanoLund annual meeting (sometime in the autumn) and receive a “Junior Scientist Ideas Award” certificate.
- **Use of funds:** Funds may be used for whatever is needed to make the idea happen: for example, equipment, consumables, travel, or salary. (Any minor or major equipment purchased will become a University property).
- **Scope:** The project can be in any area of nanoscience. Directions that are complementary to existing research directions in NanoLund are explicitly encouraged.
- **Initiative is necessary:** The project must be the idea of, or be initiated by, the proposer (not by the advisor).
- **Permission:** The current advisor/group leader must have agreed to the project, including making time available to work on the project. It is important to discuss the project and the use of funds with the group leader. The 9-month project duration condition (see **Eligibility**) should be confirmed with the supervisor.
- **Proposal format.** See the next page.
- **Selection criteria: Originality** (is this a new idea, not previously funded?), **Initiative** (ideas of the applicant should be clearly visible in the project description and described in details in the Statement), **Feasibility** (can the project be carried out in the time available?), **Potential impact** (what new opportunities can this lead to?).
- **Number of awards:** We expect to fund approximately four projects
- **Project duration.** The project can start at any time during 2026.
- **Deadline:** January 28 (Wednesday), 2026

- **Submission** should be done via the webform:
https://www.nano.lu.se/webform/nanolund_seedling_projects_2026,
see more instructions there.
- **Selection process:** The proposals will be presented to the coordinator group and evaluated by a group of experienced senior researchers (the group will be selected after the proposals have been submitted to avoid conflict of interest). The final selection will then be proposed to the NanoLund Management group. In principle, it will be possible to get the award multiple times, but priorities might be given to new applicants. Only one application per applicant and call is allowed.
- The funding decision will be by the NanoLund management group. All proposers will receive feedback on their proposals to help in future applications.

Proposal format.

Note, that projects failing to follow the format rules given below will not be considered.

The application consists of a **Project description** (2 pages) and a **Statement of the Applicant's Own Scientific Contribution & Initiative** (maximum 150 words).

The project description is limited to no more than two A4 pages including figures and references with at least 2.5 cm margins. The font of the main text should not be smaller than 11 pt. The following information should be included:

1. Title
2. Main proposer, affiliation (division/group), email, phone
3. **Name, division and email of the senior scientist (advisor/group leader) who has agreed to host the project** as described, if successful. It is highly advisable to obtain feedback on the proposal from a senior scientist.
4. **Project description with the following information:**
 - Background and motivation
 - Specific question addressed/specific goal
 - **How is this a conceptually new project**, and not a continuation of already initiated research?
 - Why is this question/goal important for NanoLund? If successful, what might this lead to in the medium term?
 - How is this going to be realized?
 - Which **specific** outcomes will be obtained during the funding period? What will be the final result that is **achievable with the project funds applied for**?
 - Who else needs to contribute to the project?
5. Budget, using the following table (note that salary LKP and indirect costs (overhead) to the university mean that you need to apply for more money than the direct cost of the project). Travel expenses cannot be the main cost of the project.
6. Intended project start and end (can be any time).

Budget	Brief description of the intended use of funds	Direct cost (SEK) <i>(purchase cost of equipment, actual salary)</i>	Total cost (SEK)
Minor equipment*			<i>Multiply the direct cost by 1.5</i>
Consumables			<i>Multiply the direct cost by 1.5</i>
Salary			<i>Multiply the salary by 2.25</i>
Other			
			Total

* Different overhead rules apply to expensive equipment. Please contact Anneli Löfgren if you consider applying for equipment for more than about 50 000 kronor.

The **Statement of the Applicant's Own Scientific Contribution & Initiative** (maximum 150 words). It should be written after the project description, on page 3 of the file. It should enable the committee to assess whether the application qualifies for this call. Clearly describe your role in conceiving and developing the proposed research. Even if your contribution represents only part of the overall idea, it may still be sufficient for eligibility.

If you find it difficult to formulate this section using statements such as "I proposed...", "I developed...", or "I convinced my supervisor...", then this call is not appropriate for your application. Your supervisor must be aware of and agree with the text you submit in this statement.

Frequently encountered shortcomings:

- It is not possible to see that the proposal is based on (on or at least contains) the ideas of the applicant. Please, stress clearly which ideas are yours, for that use both the project description and the Statement of the Applicant's Own Scientific Contribution & Initiative
- The project appeared to be a continuation of already ongoing research, or the proposal did not make clear how far the project was novel to NanoLund.
- It was not clear how a successful project may lead to new capabilities or new research directions at NanoLund.
- The budget was incomplete. It is highly advisable to obtain feedback on your budget from an experienced scientist. It must be clear exactly how you plan to spend your money, and how this will facilitate the project. It must also be clear where numbers come from and how they are calculated (e.g. monthly salary, percent of the time, number of months).
- The proposal had unrealistically ambitious goals, or it was not clear what is expected to be achieved within the proposed budget.
- The proposal had overall low quality. We expect complete proposals that give a professional impression.

Questions: If you have any questions regarding this call, please contact info@nano.lu.se or Ivan Scheblykin (ivan.scheblykin@chemphys.lu.se)