

# NORPART

## Call for applications 2018

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### 1 INVITATION

The Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education (SIU) is pleased to issue this call for applications for funding of long-term projects between higher education institutions in Norway and selected developing countries under the Norwegian Partnership Programme for Global Academic Cooperation (NORPART).

NORPART is funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and is administered by SIU. The programme addresses both higher education policy and development policy goals.

The programme supports academic partnerships and student mobility with an emphasis on the Master level.

The call is open to five-year project cooperation with a project period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023. Each project may be awarded up to NOK 5 million.

**The final deadline for submitting applications is 31 May 2018, at 15:00 Norwegian time (CEST).** The applications should be prepared jointly by the applicant institution in Norway and the project partner(s).

A minimum of NOK 90 million are made available through this call for applications.\*

Below you will find more information on the aim, objectives and funding framework of NORPART, eligibility and selection criteria, and an outline of the administrative process of project selection under the programme.

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\* The programme budget is dependent on annual allocations by the Norwegian Parliament (the Storting).

## **2 AIM, OBJECTIVES AND FUNDING FRAMEWORK OF THE PROGRAMME**

### **2.1 Aim and objectives**

The *overall aim* of NORPART is to enhance the quality of higher education in Norway and developing countries through academic cooperation and mutual student mobility.

#### *Objectives*

The programme shall lead to:

- Strengthened partnerships for education and research between developing countries and Norway
- Increased quality and internationalisation of academic programmes at participating institutions
- Increased mobility of students from developing countries to Norway, including mobility in connection with work placements
- Increased mobility of students from Norway to developing countries, including mobility in connection with work placements

NORPART will support close academic cooperation and mutual student mobility between higher education institutions in Norway and the partner countries, based on common academic interests and strategic priorities of the institutions.

Student mobility through academic partnerships is a core element in the programme, with emphasis on the mobility of students from partner countries to Norway. Mobile students will prosper academically and gain an international understanding, intercultural competence and access to international networks. They will bring new perspectives back to their home institutions, thus contributing to *internationalisation at home*.

Academic partnerships will benefit both mobile and non-mobile students. Educational cooperation facilitates knowledge sharing, network building and the development of better and more relevant academic programmes. This will lead to enhanced quality of higher education and will strengthen the partners in a long-term perspective. International cooperation will connect the partners closer to global knowledge production and strengthen the education and research at the institutions, better enabling them to effectively address local and global challenges.

### **2.2 Expected project results**

SIU will monitor project results and the degree to which project activities contribute to achieve the objectives of the programme. Applicants are requested to describe the expected results of

the project as specifically as possible. Project results that may contribute to achieving the objectives of the programme include, but are not limited to:

- Jointly developed courses, educational methods and curricula embedded in study programmes at participating institutions
- Improved learning outcomes from study programmes, and among students participating in joint project activities and student mobility
- Better links between higher education and research
- Better links between higher education and employers or social enterprises
- Increased internationalisation of study programmes/internationalisation at home in Norway and in partner countries
- Student mobility between partner countries and Norway, including mobility in connection with work placements
- Credit transfer for students participating in educational activities at participating institutions

In order to increase the projects' contributions to the aim and objectives of NORPART, the projects are expected to disseminate project results, best practices, experiences, and lessons learned, within and outside the institutions involved in the project.

### **2.3 Project funding and activities**

Support may be granted to activities that contribute to fulfil the programme's objectives. The applicant should design the project in the way they consider best suited to achieve the project goals and the programme's objectives. Activities may include all fields of education, and involve multiple fields and disciplines (multidisciplinary projects).

The focus of the projects shall be on the Master level. PhD and Bachelor level activities may also be included, but student mobility at Bachelor level cannot be funded by the programme.

All projects shall include plans for mutual student mobility, with substantial numbers of mobile students from partner countries to Norway for stays of minimum 3 months' duration.

The projects should make every effort to recruit at least 50 per cent female students for mobility in all directions under the framework of the partnerships.

Student mobility stays of 3-12 months' duration at the Master level and 3-18 months at the PhD level will be possible from institutions in developing countries and Norway, through bilateral exchange agreements, sandwich programmes or joint degrees. The purpose of the mobility may be participation in classes, courses, supervision, fieldwork, research activities, etc.

Stays of less than three months may also be covered in relation to other project activities. Student work placements relevant to the academic programmes may also be supported.

The number of mobile students to and from Norway does not have to be balanced and the purpose and length of the mobility stays may differ between the institutions.

In so far as possible, the academic degrees of the students from developing countries shall be issued at a partner university in a developing country or as a joint degree, and an individual student's stay(s) in Norway shall not exceed a total of 12 months at the Master level or 18 months at the PhD level. However, in cases where a partner institution does not yet offer an accredited study programme at the relevant level, a Norwegian institution may issue the degree and the mobility period(s) in Norway may be extended to a maximum of 18 months at the Master level or 24 months at the PhD level. In such cases, the application must clarify the reasons for this, and a description of plans/strategies for developing relevant academic programmes at the partner institution must be included in the application.

The proposed budget may include funds for salaries and indirect expenses. The costs of salaries, remuneration of consultants, honorariums, and indirect costs cannot exceed 20 per cent of the total project budget. The funds may be shared between the applicant and the partner institutions, based on agreement between the institutions.

Please note that investments in scientific equipment and infrastructure are not eligible costs and may not be included in the application. The same applies to costs related to research activities not clearly linked to educational activities.

For more information on eligible project activities, please see the attached "Budget guidelines" and "Guidelines for applicants". The budget guidelines include specifications of length of stays and rates for support to mobility.

The project budget included in the application must only include funds applied for through this call. SIU may reduce the amount awarded based on assessment of the individual applications.

### 3 ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

#### 3.1 Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible, applications must meet the following requirements:

- The **applicant** must be an accredited Norwegian higher education institution.
- The application must include at least one **partner** that is an accredited higher education institution in one of the NORPART partner countries (see Appendix 1).
- A **curriculum vitae** (CV) for the project coordinator must be uploaded.
- Applications must be written in English and be submitted fully completed, including attachments, through SIU's online platform for applications and reporting ([Espresso](#)) within the call's final deadline.
- All project activities described in the application must be completed within the project period defined under item 1 above.

**Please note** that failure to meet the above requirements will lead to dismissal of the application.

#### 3.2 Selection criteria

The eligible applications' relative strength will be assessed on the degree to which they are deemed able to meet the following selection criteria:

- The project's relevance to the overall aim and objectives of the programme
- The quality of the project design, including:
  - the application's overall clarity and quality
  - correspondence between project goals, proposed activities, budget allocations and expected project results
  - demonstration of cost-effectiveness
  - the sustainability of the project results
  - the project's feasibility, including the feasibility of the plans for student mobility
- The quality of the partnership, including:
  - complementarity, experience and expertise of the project team
  - level of formalised commitment
  - potential for long-term collaboration between the partners
  - the degree to which the partnership is based on mutual academic interests and capacity within relevant academic programmes at the participating institutions

- documented synergies with other funding programmes, such as Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, other international and regional programmes for higher education and research in the partner countries, NORHED, NORGLOBAL and other Norwegian-funded programmes

In line with the Sustainable Development Goals' commitment to leave no one behind, the following cross-cutting issues will be assessed as they pertain to all the three abovementioned selection criteria: Gender perspectives and gender equality in project activities; female participation in project activities, including student mobility; inclusive practices towards indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable or marginalised groups of society; and transparency and anti-corruption measures.

**Please note** that the selection criteria correspond to various compulsory fields in the online Espresso application form, and that the application's ability to meet these relative criteria will be assessed on the basis of the description provided. In order to ensure coherence and a logical order in the description of your project, please read the relevant help texts in the online application form as well as the "Guidelines for applicants" carefully. Remaining questions may be directed to SIU.

#### **4 COMPOSITION OF THE PARTNERSHIP**

The application may include higher education institutions, public or private enterprises, research institutes, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or other organisations in Norway or in the NORPART partner countries. At least one partner must be an accredited higher education institution in a NORPART partner country (cf. item 3.1 above). Partners outside Norway or the NORPART partner countries may in certain cases be included, provided that they bring essential added value, but play a limited role in the project as a whole.

#### **5 ATTACHMENTS**

In addition to a CV for the project coordinator (cf. item 3.1. above), applications should include **Letters of Commitment** from all partners, documenting interest in and commitment to the project by leadership at relevant level. The Letters of Commitment will be assessed as part of the application. Applications without such letters from partners are at a competitive disadvantage, but are still eligible. Other types of attachments will not be taken into consideration.

## **6 ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS**

### **6.1 Assessment of applications and response to applicants**

Each application will be assessed by SIU and at least one external evaluator on the basis of its individual merits with regard to the selection criteria set out above (item 3.2), and its relative standing to other competing applications. Applications will be evaluated on a scale from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest). SIU uses the evaluators' assessment as a basis on which to recommend grant allocation.

The applications and recommendations are submitted to the NORPART programme board for grant allocation. The programme board selects projects for grant allocation based on the selection criteria set out above (item 3.2). As part of the assessment, the programme board may also take into consideration the geographic, academic and/or institutional distribution of the projects.

In case the applicant has received a similar grant from SIU in recent years, the programme board may also take into consideration past performance, such as quality in the implementation of the previous project(s) and financial management.

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of the application process, tentatively in November 2018.

### **6.2 Contracts and reporting obligations**

The applicant will be required to enter into a contract with SIU. The contract will be subject to SIU's standard terms and conditions, and must be signed by a representative holding the requisite authority to legally bind the applicant. The obligations on part of the applicant include an obligation to submit progress reports, project accounts and a final report on completion of the project.

Until a binding contract has been entered into, SIU reserves the right to at any time revisit any evaluation and decision on the basis of newly discovered facts which may adversely affect the planned implementation of a project.

## **7 CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further information on the programme or how to apply, please contact SIU by email ([norpart@siu.no](mailto:norpart@siu.no)) or by telephone (+47 55 30 38 00).

## Appendix 1: Eligible NORPART Partner countries:

Afghanistan	Angola
Bangladesh	Bolivia
Burkina Faso	Cameroon
Colombia	Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo	East Timor
Egypt	Ethiopia
Ghana	Guatemala
Haiti	Indonesia
Kenya	Liberia
Madagascar	Malawi
Mali	Mozambique
Myanmar	Nepal
Nicaragua	Niger
Pakistan	Palestine
Peru	Rwanda
Somalia	South Sudan
Sri Lanka	Sudan
Tanzania	Uganda
Vietnam	Zambia
Zimbabwe	