

Postdoc funding for an initiative project in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

The Excellence Initiative Nano (EI Nano) welcomes applications for postdoc funding for an initiative project, with deadline **15 May 2022**.

We are looking for **one visionary project** with the potential to create a new research activity or platform in the field of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology at Chalmers. The funding involves two fully funded two-year postdoc positions plus some possible additional funding as detailed below.

We are particularly interested in projects creating or substantiating new collaborations at Chalmers, **bringing together different disciplines and creating networks**. The project should therefore be carried out by at least two, but favorably more, PIs of the EI Nano. The PIs hosting the two postdocs should be part of two distinct groups or even different departments. The proposed research direction should be at the international research front in the involved research areas and possibly open up new opportunities by combining them. Our funding scheme is furthermore meant to give the opportunity to **increase the internal and external visibility of the project** and to create opportunities for building up networks with the goal to establish a long-term research activity not only within the EI Nano but also externally. We therefore suggest the proposed project to be directly coupled to our yearly initiative seminar.

Details about the funding scheme

Project. The proposed project should be a new research activity with expected long-term high impact in the broad interdisciplinary field of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. We encourage proposals for cross-disciplinary projects and the proposed project should therefore involve at least two PIs of the EI Nano from different departments at Chalmers or at least from two clearly distinct research groups. The proposed research should be at the forefront of international research in the proposed areas and open up new opportunities by combining them. The proposal should clearly describe the scope of the project, how it connects to other research efforts at Chalmers but also in which way is it clearly distinct from existing activities. Please, also describe how the project is expected to evolve after the end of the funding period! The **agenda** of this research activity should become clear! This part of the proposal should be maximum three pages long and contain references to pertinent works.

Visibility. We believe that the successful establishment of a novel research direction or research platform at Chalmers will require making the project optimally visible - both internally at Chalmers but also externally. This will allow to embed the project in a larger research context, to

build up a network in the novel research field, possibly even with the scope to create connections for further funding opportunities in the future. We therefore strongly encourage the applicants to clearly explain in their proposal how they will guarantee this internal and external visibility and networking.

We suggest as an opportunity for the applicants and in particular also for the postdocs to be hired, to include the organization of the EI Nano Initiative seminar into this part of the proposal. The Initiative seminar of the EI Nano is a yearly 3-day workshop, with internationally recognized top-level invited speakers, addressing the EI Nano researchers (but favorably also inviting high school students in collaboration with Molecular Frontiers if this is possible and favorable topic-wise). See the EI Nano webpage for past events. This Initiative seminar, if part of the proposal, should hence relate to already established excellent research at Chalmers, but one session should be dedicated to the new proposed research activity.

In case that the proposal involves the organizational responsibility for the Initiative seminar – and only in this case! – the EI Nano provides funding and some administrative support for the organization of the event.

Funding. The funding period is 2023-2024. The funding includes two fully financed postdoc positions (up to 1.2MSEK per year and position). If the proposal contains the organization of the Initiative seminar, funding of up to 500kSEK can be granted for invitation of speakers, conference dinner, etc. Furthermore, funding for consumables etc. can be applied for up to 100kSEK per year, excluding depreciation costs which exceed the two-year funding period.

To optimally leverage the funding, we believe that a direct connection with additional, possibly already ongoing processes at the hosting department(s) is favorable and we encourage the applicants to seek for such possibilities. This could for example be the ongoing recruitment of (junior) faculty, investment in instrumentation, or similar. Note however that this is not a formal requirement!

Eligibility. At least two PIs need to act as main applicants and all EI Nano PIs can apply. Note that each PI can apply for being postdoc host in one proposal, only! Members of the steering group of the EI Nano are not eligible as hosts of the financed postdocs, but can still contribute to proposals. Also, involvement of applicants, which are not PIs of the EI Nano, is possible, however not as hosts of the postdocs either.

The application must contain

- A project description and a description of the involved people and their role (up to 3 pages)
- A detailed description of the funding applied for (and possible connections to other “investments”, new recruitments, additional funding, etc., at the hosting departments at Chalmers, if applicable). We welcome if also a list with names of possible postdoc candidates or a clearly described strategy for the rapid recruitment of excellent candidates is provided.

Note that you need to declare in your application all other funding from Chalmers (already granted or applied for), related to the same initiative.

- A comprehensive proposal for a topically broad Initiative Seminar. This should contain a list of the high-level speakers, that are intended to be invited. (1 page+list of speakers) Alternatively, this part of the proposal should contain a description on how visibility and networking will be guaranteed. The high-level speakers, that are intended to be invited, should already be listed in the proposal.

An application should be submitted as PDF-file by e-mail to michael.eriksson@chalmers.se, by May 15, 2021. Please write "EI Nano postdoc funding" in the subject line of the e-mail.

If you have any questions, please contact us via nano@chalmers.se.

Evaluation process and time plan

The projects will be evaluated by a part of the steering group of the EI Nano together with the heads of the four departments (BIO,K,F,MC2).

One of the projects will receive funding and the decision is expected to be taken in June 2022. Financing of the project starts in January 2023 and ends in December 2024.

The Initiative seminar – if part of the proposal – is supposed to be carried out in December 2023.

Please understand that we cannot systematically provide feedback on the proposals, independently on whether they were funded or not.

We are looking forward to inspiring research proposals,

Janine Spletstösser and Christoph Langhammer

NB: Upon receipt of your application, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. If you have not received the e-mail within 48 hours, please contact nano@chalmers.se without delay.