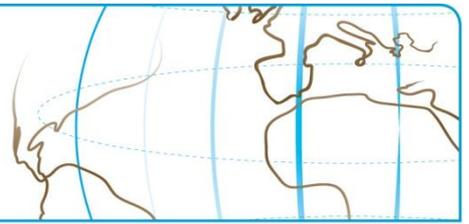


CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in
Education – SIU

Support for the development of International Joint Degrees

Each project may be awarded up to 500 000 NOK

The deadline for applications is 16 April 2012

Norway's Ministry of Education and Research promotes the development of international joint degrees at Master's and PhD level.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Research the Norwegian Centre for International Cooperation in Education invites applications for the development of new joint degrees from Norwegian higher education institutions in cooperation with international partners.

Projects may be granted support for a period of up to two years, with a maximum annual allocation of NOK 250 000. Anticipated start-up time for the new joint degree programmes is autumn, 2014.

The application must be submitted online and the application form will be available at <http://espresso.siu.no>

The application deadline is Friday **16 April 2012**.

There will be another call for proposals in the second half of 2012.

Please find the full call text attached.

More information is available at www.siu.no on 10 January 2012.

Support for the Development of International Joint Degrees – Call for proposals January 2012

1. Background and purpose

Report no. 14 (2008-2009) to the Storting regarding Internationalisation of Education in Norway identifies the development of international joint degrees as central to the further internationalisation of Norwegian higher education. Cooperation on joint degrees constitutes an important way to improve the quality and relevance of Norwegian higher education and is expected to strengthen Norwegian higher education institutions' appeal as a partner for cooperation for foreign institutions and a study destination for students in other countries. An additional advantage of joint degrees is that exchange of students is more closely linked to research and other academic cooperation.

The call invites Norwegian educational institutions, in cooperation with international partner institutions, to apply for funding in order to develop joint degrees which should be ready to accept students by the autumn semester 2014.

The call is for projects aimed at the development of *new* joint degrees between institutions with already established collaboration.

2. Eligibility

Applications should include at least one Norwegian and one foreign institution. Institutions may, however, include other participants in the collaboration.

All accredited higher education institutions in Norway may apply together with nationally accredited partner institution(s) outside of Norway.

The Norwegian institution coordinates the application process and signs a contract with SIU on behalf of the institutions taking part in the cooperation.

The partnership should be based on an established collaboration. Allocated funds may be used for the *development* and *establishment* of joint degrees, and institutions must therefore cover the expenses for running of the programmes with their ordinary budgets.

The call applies to joint degrees at master and PhD levels.

At the master's degree level, joint degrees should consist of 120 ECTS. For experience-based study programmes, 90 ECTS are accepted.

Applications within all fields and disciplines are welcome, including multidisciplinary projects.

The following requirements apply to "joint degrees":

- It is possible to apply for funding to develop a programme which will be documented by one common diploma. If the partner institution comes from a country in which obtaining a common diploma is deemed to be impossible, programmes documented through two (double degrees) or more diploma (multiple degrees) may be accepted.
- At the master's degree level, no institution may contribute less than 30 ECTS. A corresponding responsibility rate should be reflected in joint degrees at PhD level.

3. Institutional support

The development of joint degrees requires cooperation between the various levels at the institutions. It is essential that the cooperation is based on a desire for further academic development. At the same time, the development of joint degrees poses significant challenges at the administrative level. In addition to presenting plans for academic development, all applications should therefore refer to institutional support.

Applications must be approved and signed by the legal representative of the institutions. Applicants must demonstrate which administrative, scientific and financial resources the institutions will contribute themselves, in the development of the joint degrees.

4. Requirements, priorities and selection criteria

The key criterion guiding the evaluation of the application will be to what extent the proposed study programme represents an *added value* for the involved institutions and their students. The following issues are central:

- Will the joint degree help the institutions develop a more integrated approach to cooperation in which education and other academic cooperation are tied more closely together?
- To which extent does the joint degree contribute to strengthening the relevance, quality and appeal of the education offered?
- To which extent does the joint degree profit from the complementary strengths of the partners and represent renewal relative to study programmes that already exist at the partner institutions?

In addition, feasibility and sustainability will be central criteria for assessing the projects' quality.

Feasibility:

- correlation between budget/resources and plans
- the knowledge of and considerations taken of different countries' legislation and educational systems as reflected in the project plan - all proposed study programmes should be eligible for approval in the countries where they are to be offered, and in accordance with national provisions for quality assurance

Sustainability:

- adequate support and priority at the institutions
- plans for recruiting students
- contributions from the cooperating institution will count favourably toward the assessment of the sustainability of the cooperation

All applications must demonstrate where the project stands in relation to the institution's international strategies.

5. Application procedures

All proposals must include objectives, activities, work plans, budget requirements and reflections on the sustainability and risk factors of the project/cooperation.

Applications must be submitted through SIUs administrative system for applications and reporting, Espresso: <http://espresso.siu.no>. Project participants at both Norwegian and foreign institutions may cooperate on the application.

In addition to the online application, two documents must be submitted to SIU:

- A **signature page**, available in Espresso when the application is submitted. This page must be signed by the project coordinator and the legal representative of the Norwegian institution, normally the Vice-Chancellor/Rector.

- A **letter of intent** from the partner institutions. The letter of intent should be project specific and signed by the project coordinator and the legal representative of the partner institution, normally the Vice-Chancellor/Rector.

The final deadline for applications is April 16, 2012 at 15.00/3 pm Norwegian time.

The signature page and letter of intent must be mailed to SIU and postmarked on or before 01.05.2012. Incomplete applications, late applications and applications without signature form and/or letter of intent will not be processed.

6. Financial guidelines

Funding to develop a joint degree may be given for up to two years. The maximum amount per project per year is NOK 250,000, with the maximum amount per project totalling NOK 500,000.

The grant may cover the following costs:

Travel expenses

Travel expenses necessary for the development of the study programme. Expenses for Norwegian and foreign institutions are registered separately. Travel expenses for both Norwegian and foreign participants may be estimated according to the official Norwegian regulations (Statens reiseregulativ).

Dissemination/networking/conferences/seminars/workshops

Costs other than travel costs related to meetings, networking, workshops etc.

Other costs related to the development of the joint degree

Other specific costs related to the development of the new study programme.

General administration costs

General administration costs can represent maximum 10 per cent of the total budget.

Funds are paid in their entirety to the Norwegian applicant institution. The funds may, however, also cover costs of the foreign collaborating institutions. How the funds are to be used and distributed between the participating institutions should be clearly stated in the application.

7. Selection procedures

A committee with members from higher education institutions will be appointed to select projects for funding. The selection will be aided by evaluations from external experts.

The board of SIU will handle complaints regarding the process of awarding the program funds. Please refer to SIU's Complaint Regulations¹ on www.siu.no

8. Reporting procedures

All recipients of funding are obliged to submit annual progress reports to SIU using the online reporting system, as well as a final report at the program's completion.

SIU is responsible for reporting to the Ministry of Education and Research.

¹ SIU's Complaint Regulations are under revision, and this may affect the procedures for complaints from 2012. The current Complaint Regulations are valid until the new Regulations are in effect.