

## CALL Call for project proposal

*The Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) supports and coordinates research projects with high scientific potential through the Strategic Research Area (SRA): Middle East in the Contemporary World (MECW). This call is for a new MECW three-year-research project that encourages interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers from different disciplines at Lund University. Project proposals should address novel interdisciplinary research questions related to the [MECW research program](#). All project members will have institutional affiliation with CMES and perform the research at CMES. Office space, meeting rooms and modern technical facilities are provided for.*

- **Applicant:** 2-4 Principal Investigators with doctoral degrees from different disciplines and with employment at Lund University.
- **Grant period:** 3 years
- **Application deadline:** 1 December 2024
- **Submission:** [ansokan@cme.lu.se](mailto:ansokan@cme.lu.se)
- **Start of project:** 1 March 2025
- **End of project:** 28 February 2028
- **Budget:** maximum 1 700 000 SEK/year (+ post-doc position)
- **Notification of decision:** 10 January 2025

### Instructions

It is important that the application is complete. Incomplete applications will not be considered eligible for funding. Proposal should be written in English, Times New Roman, font size 12, single line spacing. The application must include the following sections:

- Abstract** (max 250 words): purpose, aims, project organisation (time plan, scientific approach) significance of the proposed project
- Project proposal**
  - Title
  - Word count: (maximum 3 000 words excl references)

3. Purpose and aims
4. State-of-the-art
5. Significance, scientific novelty and relevance to the Middle East
6. Theory and scientific method (research design: method, data collection)
7. Time plan, milestones and implementation
8. Project organisation (clarify how each one of the research team will contribute to the implementation of the project)
9. National and international research collaboration (a wider network of collaborating researchers can be linked to the project). International scholars are welcome to participate in the research but have no obligations to CMES and their expertise cannot be decisive for the feasibility of the project.
10. Publication and dissemination plan

**C. Budget**

The budget should include costs for salaries, travel, material and other costs, including a brief justification of costs. The salaries are to be calculated based on monthly salary plus employer benefits (excluding post-doc position). Indirect costs (OH) are not to be included in the budget. Indirect costs at Lund University and faculty level are automatically added to the requested funds. Overhead is not paid to the departments as CMES provides the workspace and administrative services.

**D. CV and list of publications** (maximum 10 of the most important publications) of each researcher in the project team.

**E. Statement:** If the project proposal has been applied for or will be applied for elsewhere this should be mentioned in the application. In case research funding is received elsewhere for the same project, CMES funding will be withdrawn.

**F.** The applicant should ensure that the research is compatible with the [ethical guidelines of the Swedish Research Council](#) and that ethical review is carried if necessary.

**G. Signatures and supportive letters from head of department** approving the conditions for funding should be enclosed to the application. If a postdoc position is requested, a supportive letter from Head of Department about employment should be enclosed to the application.

**H. Submission of application:** [ansokan@cme.lu.se](mailto:ansokan@cme.lu.se)

### Conditions for research funding

- Project researchers are expected to work in the CMES environment and will be provided office space at CMES. As well, researchers are expected to participate and contribute to ongoing activities, seminars and events at CMES.
- All publications generated from the project must include an **acknowledgement** of funding: “This research is supported by the MECW-research program and the Centre for Advanced Middle Eastern Studies, Lund University”.
- All publications and conference proceedings related to the project should be registered in the Lund University data base **LUCRIS**.
- Research funded by CMES should strive to be published **Open Access** (extra costs for Open Access are supported by Lund University Central Library and CMES).
- The research grant must not merely constitute auxiliary funding for current operations or other projects in progress.
- The research funding is not paid to a project group as regular research funding. The researchers’ salaries are paid through the CMES, and the financial and administrative services are provided by the CMES staff. On completion of a project (the last day of the project time), the project will no longer have access to the funds. Any remaining funding will remain with CMES.
- The economic arrangement assumes that the main applicant and co-applicants take a **leave of absence** from their positions, which corresponds to the working hours at CMES. If a researcher change employer during the project period, they can remain in the group but without payment. If a participant is unable to perform the research at CMES, the remuneration will cease. The project can, if possible, replace the participant with another employee at LU.
- Employment at Lund University must be secured to cover the entire project period. Note that researchers already funded by CMES during the project period cannot apply. If a post-doc position is requested, CMES will fund the position for two years, but only during the grant period of the project.
- After approval by the Head of Department and principal supervisor, doctoral students are welcome to be part of a project, but without remuneration. As unpaid members, they have no obligations to CMES. The composition of the project in terms of expertise can therefore not decisively be based on the knowledge contributed by a doctoral student.
- The applicants should present a mid-term report about project progress after 18 months.
- Three months after the funding ends, the researcher is to submit a final report on the conducted research.

## **Decision**

Applications that fulfil all the conditions stated above are sent out for external peer reviewing, which will assess the novelty, relevance and feasibility of the proposal. The final decision is taken by CMES management. Applicants will be informed by email 10 January 2025 and the successful project proposal will later be posted on CMES website. If you have questions or need further information, please contact:

**Karin Aggestam**, Director, [karin.agggestam@svet.lu.se](mailto:karin.agggestam@svet.lu.se)

**Ronny Berndtsson**, Deputy Director, [ronny.berndtsson@tvrl.lth.se](mailto:ronny.berndtsson@tvrl.lth.se)

*We look forward to receiving your application!*