

Universitetet i Agder
Serviceboks 422
4604 KRISTIANSAND S

Kronprinsens gate 9
Postboks 1708 Vika
0121 Oslo
Tlf: 21 02 18 00
Faks: 21 02 18 01
postmottak@nokut.no
www.nokut.no

Saksbehandler: Helen Bråten
Dir. tlf: 21 02 18 27

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SFU: Vurdering av søknad Centre for Research, Innovation and Coordination of Mathematics Teaching: MatRIC

Det vises til Universitetet i Agder sin søknad, Centre for Research, Innovation and Coordination of Mathematics Teaching: MatRIC, om status som senter for fremragende utdanning.

En komité bestående av seks personer, ledet av Professor Duncan Lawson, har gjennomført første runde i vurdering av de 24 innkomne søknadene. Følgende vurdering ble gjort av søknaden fra Universitetet i Agder:

Concept

The proposal is concerned with improving the teaching of mathematics on “user programmes” (i.e. programmes in other subjects such as engineering and economics). The Centre will create networks that bring together university mathematics teachers, teachers from “user programmes” and employers of graduates from “user programmes.” A key goal is that as a result of their work there will be “motivated students who enjoy mathematics and appreciate the relevance of mathematics”.

Strengths and weaknesses

This is a well-written proposal that makes a good case for existing excellence. The proposal made good use of external evidence to support its claims across a variety of subject areas. The quality assurance systems are strong and there appears to be rigorous consideration of feedback received from students. A range of teaching and learning methods are employed. More explanation could have been given about the nature of some of the more innovative forms (for example digital simulations) and there was little evidence of evaluation of these approaches.

The proposers have a good pedigree of integrating mathematics and mathematics education (something which often does not seem to happen) and this close integration of educational research should be an asset to the proposal. However, it appeared that most of the proposed SFU team’s principal research strengths relate to teaching of mathematics in schools rather than in higher education to “user programmes”. A weakness of the proposal (which may be related to the previous point) is that it does not

appear to build well on the substantial volume of work internationally that has been carried out previously (particularly in mathematical modelling and engineering mathematics). The networking element of the proposal, alongside the ideas of providing funding to individuals to visit international centres of excellence and “seed money” for small scale projects, provide good opportunities for involving others in the work of the centre.

Grade: 5
Site visit: Yes

Søknaden ble vurdert på en skala fra 1-6, hvor 1 beskriver dårlig kvalitet og 6 fremragende.

Søknaden fra Universitetet i Agder går videre til neste runde som blant annet omfatter institusjonsbesøk. Institusjonsbesøket vil foregå 27. september.

Program for institusjonsbesøk er lagt ved. I programmet er det ført inn noen overordnede temaer for intervjuene. Temaene er kun ment som en pekepinn på hva dere kan forvente samtalen skal dreie seg om. På bakgrunn av temaene vil det utarbeides konkrete spørsmål til intervjuene.

Intervjuene skal være gruppeintervjuer. Vi ønsker følgende deltakere:

- 6-8 studenter hvorav maksimalt tre kan være tillitsvalgte studenter
- 4-5 avtakere
- 6-8 ansatte: undervisere og eventuelt administrativ/teknisk personale om relevant
- 4 ledere: senterledelsen og ledelsen av institusjonen

Navn på deltakerne for gruppeintervjuene bes sendes inn sammen med supplerende informasjon.

Samtlige søkere som går videre i vurderingsprosessen bes om å sende inn supplerende dokumentasjon før komiteens besøk. Dokumentene skal være NOKUT i hende senest 2. september kl. 12.00.

Universitetet i Agder bes om å sende inn følgende supplerende dokumentasjon:

1. Project Plan

A more detailed project plan (a maximum of three pages) should be provided which includes the key milestones / deliverables of the project with timescales.

2. Monitoring and Measures of Success

A brief (maximum one page) statement outlining how progress against the project plan will be monitored and a description of overall measures of success (at the end of the programme, what evidence will the proposers use to determine if they have been successful in achieving their aims).

3. Dissemination Strategy

All proposals included some information about dissemination – it is crucial to the overall success of the SFU Programme that each SFU is effective in its dissemination. Proposers should provide a Dissemination Strategy (of no more than three pages) which describes dissemination in four areas: locally within the host institution(s); regionally; nationally within Norway; and internationally.

4. Collaboration with NTNU

Describe further the nature of the proposed collaboration with NTNU and outline how this will work noting that the NTNU proposal has not been successful in progressing to the second round of SFU selection.

5. *At several points, reference is made to expertise and innovations in the use of digital and video simulation packages. Has any of this work been published and/or are examples available on the internet?*

Vi takker for interessen Universitetet i Agder har vist ved å sende inn søknad om å bli Senter for fremragende utdanning.

Ole-Jacob Skodvin
avdelingsdirektør

Helen Bråten
rådgiver