



Early career researcher

Date: 14.06.2024

Sandpit Programme by Leeds-UiO 2024, Call

We would like to invite you to join our Interdisciplinary Sandpit Programme during the fall of 2024 on the topic of **Sustainable Environment, Climate and/or Energy**. It is designed to introduce academics to new ways of thinking and working, with the ultimate goal of creating long-term shifts in attitude towards openness, breadth and vision in collaboration. It aims to develop the competencies required to initiate and develop interdisciplinary working, knowledge exchange, innovative activity and creative thinking. The program has been developed by Samantha Aspinall and is designed and chaired by the the Horizons Institute at the University of Leeds. UiO:Energy and Environment will be the co-organizer of this event.

What is the Sandpit Programme/Scheme?

The Programme is a series of two in-person and online events over a three-month period bringing together people from different disciplines to allow you to network with other academics, build a strong network, develop ideas together, and apply for pump priming¹ to further explore and mature these ideas. The sessions are a mix of inspiring talks as well as short, facilitated sessions that provides lots of time to collaborate.

What are the opportunities?

We anticipate that projects will emerge from the ideations and networking opportunities that we will be facilitating through the Sandpit Programme. We will offer pump priming funding to support the exploration of the best ideas further.

Do you want to:

- Have real space and time to reflect about yourself and your work?
- Meet academics, who you would never normally meet?
- Build up trusted friendships to allow you to work together?
- Understand how working with other disciplines from the very concept of a project can vastly enrich your research and excite funders?

If this sounds interesting, we encourage you to apply. As mentioned, the broad theme is “Sustainable Environment, Climate and/or Energy”, and it is open to ALL disciplines.

¹ Awarded to help researchers undertake the pilot work needed to generate data that can be used as the basis of a more substantial grant application.



Who is it for?

It is open to participants from different disciplines who can commit to participate during the in-person sessions and in addition be in contact with your dedicated group members over the three months period to develop interdisciplinary skills and approaches, to develop an external profile and potentially to see how ideas can progress along the innovation pipeline.

Who is eligible to apply?

The Programme is open to all early and mid-career researchers (up to 10 years after completion of PhD degree) who are either holding a permanent position at the University of Oslo or permanent researchers affiliated with one of the members of Oslo Science City or CIENS. Please note that candidates in tenure track or permanent researcher positions are also regarded as qualified.

We define an early-career academic as someone who is:

- Within ten years of their PhD award, or equivalent **professional** training.

Unfortunately, Postdoctoral Researchers and Temporary Research Fellows are not eligible to apply for this specific programme.

The programme provides flexibility in terms of how it awards places on its programme related to career breaks, maternity/paternity leaving and the like. Please contact the team at katinka@energi.uio.no to discuss if you are eligible to apply for the programme if you are unsure.

Application and selection procedure

Participants will complete an application form which will be reviewed by an interdisciplinary panel. UiO:Energy and Environment and the University of Leeds are looking for early to mid-career academics with an interest in interdisciplinary research. Reciprocal and mutual learning are essential to the Sandpit Programme.

Before applying, please consider the following:

- You must be able to commit to the whole programme (see detailed timeline below). There will be two 2-days sessions, and in addition you are required to be active online in between the sessions.
- All attendees must be eligible to apply for funding from external research sources (RCN- and EU-funding).
- You must hold an academic contract in a permanent position (see above)

Selection will be based on your background and motivation. After a brief screening of the applications, you will receive a confirmation of your participation by August 27.

Please apply here: <https://nettskjema.no/a/433261>.



We provide you the gift of time and space to stop and reflect about your work and how it might develop through collaborating with other early career researchers. Join us for a creative Sandpit within the topic of Sustainable Environment, Climate and Energy during the fall of 2024.

We highly encourage participants to take advantage of the hotel accommodations provided during the workshop, as it offers a unique opportunity to step away from your daily routine and immerse yourself in a different way of thinking. The tranquil location, just a short distance from Oslo city center, offers an ideal environment for reflection and creative exploration. In case you are unable to do so, kindly provide a reason.

Overview of timeline



Information about cost

For applicants from the University of Oslo:

- The University of Oslo will cover all expenses related to the two 2-days sessions, including overnight stay. Your Department/Centre/Museum must cover travel to/from the venue and the time set aside to participate in the program.

For applicants from collaborating research institutions:

- The University of Oslo will cover all expenses related to the academic part of the program, including per-diem. Your home institution must cover the costs related to overnight stay during the two 2-days sessions, travel costs and your time.
 - o Approximately NOK 1400 per night (highly recommended).

We look forward to meeting you,
Samantha Aspinall, Abigail Rowson, Vebjørn Bakken, Katinka Grønli and Ingvild Budal Jacobsen.