

Rules for competing for SLU Umeå and Sparbanksstiftelsen Norrland's award for sustainable innovations. For utilization within soil and forest.

Introduction

By awarding an Innovation Award together with Sparbanksstiftelsen Norrland, SLU wants to contribute to an innovation-promoting culture that enables more of the university's collective knowledge to be transformed into useful innovations that can reach a market – and make a difference in society. Submitted ideas should have the potential to become an economically sustainable business.

How will the winners be selected?

Applications will be screened by a screening jury. The screening jury selects the 5-7 best entries, these are forwarded to the jury. The jury then decides on the winner. If needed, the jury will get to meet the finalists in order to assess the context of the innovation and how the person/persons can take the idea to a commercial phase or utilization in society. In that case, the finalists are expected to present a 15 minute pitch for the jury.

Format

To submit your contribution, your contribution must not exceed the limit of:

- Max 1000 words
- Max 3 pictures
- Max 60 sec movie

Team

Remember to include all team members under Co-Creators, see our guide *"How to add Co-Creators"*. The reason for this is to not lose any prizes as well as provide recognition and the opportunity for all team members to change the competition entry.

Language

You can submit in either Swedish or English.

Who is eligible to apply for the award?

Students as well as researchers and employees at SLU Umeå are welcome to apply, regardless of discipline.

The Award will be given to an idea with the potential to change the green industry. Ideas that have not yet been developed into a commercial product or service (for more details see heading Financing) are welcome to apply for the Innovation Award.

The nature of the ideas can take many forms and everyone is welcome, regardless of whether it is a product, service, method or something else that is not currently known.

You can compete as individuals or as teams, the prize money is then shared between the applicants. If there are several people behind an idea at least one of you must be a student, researcher or employee at SLU Umeå. Students must have at least 1 ECT at SLU Umeå during the academic year of the competition.

Please note that previous winners of this award, cannot enter the competition again with the same idea. This applies only to those who have received prize money, and not those who have received an honourable mention.

Financing

External financing or investments in the project idea must not have exceeded SEK 25,000 in total. Financing through sales to customers may not have exceeded SEK 25,000 until the end of the competition period.

Loans, financial support and grants are excluded from the above-mentioned amounts.

By financial support and grants, we mean:

- Scholarships
- Winnings or prize money from other competitions
- Business support from VINNOVA
- Innovation vouchers

The award

The Innovation Award is a scholarship of SEK 50,000. It is awarded to the researcher, employee or student who, according to the jury, has submitted the best idea. If there are several people behind the winning entry, the prize money will be divided between the applicants. Neither the decision of the screening jury nor the jury can be appealed.

The prize is personal and comes without the requirement for reporting back how the grant was used. However, we would like to receive a brief summary of how the prize affected the recipient's ability to continue their project 12 months after they've received the award.

The winner undertakes to present his winning contribution at the award ceremony as well as at a seminar aimed at Swedbank staff and other guests at Swedbank's premises. This seminar will take place 1-4 weeks after the award ceremony. Date for the seminar is booked in dialogue with the Innovation award winner/winners.

Secrecy

Applications for the innovation award will be handled confidentially and the innovation will remain the applicant's property even after the competition.

Own your idea

You can only apply for an innovation that is your own. If others have been involved in the advent of innovation or have worked on developing it, you need to reconcile with these before applying. Our recommendation is that if there are questions regarding who should apply, please apply together as the award is then shared between all applicants.

When you are unsure

In case of doubt regarding the competition rules, the organizers reserve the right to make final decisions regarding the above rules or situations.