



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

Vice-Chancellor

Action plan for Lund University's cooperation with the United Kingdom 2019–2021

Approved by the vice-chancellor on 31 January 2019

The aim of the action plan

The present action plan for LU's cooperation with the UK aims to act as a tool in the University's strategic internationalisation work.

The action plan outlines the direction for LU's education and research cooperation with British higher education institutions and organisations for the next three years, and constitutes a basis for strategic choices and prioritisations. The action plan details goals and measures with a broad, long-term perspective. Brexit, the UK's probable exit from the EU, is however an important factor to take into account, and LU should act proactively and without delay to strengthen our cooperation with leading British higher education institutions.

At the end of the period, the action plan for LU's cooperation with the UK 2019–2021 is to be reviewed and revised for the next period.

The importance of the UK for Lund University

The UK is one of the world's leading research nations. Even though the country has barely 1% of the global population, it generates around 15% of the world's most cited research. British universities are attractive study and research destinations and several of them are ranked among the world's top-ten. British universities are very attractive partners in a large number of fields and contribute to most co-authored articles globally after the USA and China. As a partner, Sweden is ranked seventh in Europe and eleventh globally.

For LU, the UK is a major and important partner. The University currently has numerous, long-term and successful collaborations in both education and research. The UK is the most applied for exchange destination for Lund students and LU is the most popular Swedish study destination for Master's students with degrees from the UK. Within the EU's framework programme for research and innovation, the UK is LU's next-largest partner after Germany. Regarding co-publications, the UK shares second place with Germany after the USA as LU researchers' most important partner. LU has strong ties through its prioritised networks with several of the leading universities in the UK and has established a university-wide partnership with the University of Nottingham.

In view of a possible Brexit, British higher education institutions are showing an increased interest in developing and deepening bilateral cooperation. For LU, it is important to use this opportunity in a strategic way by strengthening ongoing

cooperation and signing new bilateral agreements with individual universities, initially with an emphasis on student exchanges. This is particularly important, as Brexit would entail a risk of reduced access to EU funding for mobility and education and research cooperation. Measures need to be taken to increase LU's visibility and drawing power both as a partner and as a research and study destination for British researchers and students. LU should endeavour to be an active speaking partner with national funders as part of its efforts to increase access to external funding for cooperation with the UK.

Goals and measures

A Utilise existing knowledge and strengthen expertise regarding cooperation with the UK

- 1) Set up an internal advisory group with expertise on Europe to develop cooperation with European higher education institutions and other organisations, and to implement the action plan for LU's cooperation with the UK.
- 2) Utilise LUCRIS as a strategic tool for highlighting and developing cooperation with the UK.
- 3) Review needs and resource planning relating to strategic support for developing cooperation with the UK.

B Strengthen cooperation with strategically selected universities and organisations in the UK and thereby utilise existing networks

- 1) Strengthen cooperation with leading universities and other organisations in the UK
 - a. Explore opportunities to develop cooperation with British high-ranked or LERU universities and research institutes in three groups.
 - i. Group 1: Strength. Develop deepened or university-wide partnerships with, for example:
 1. University of Oxford
 2. University of Cambridge
 3. Imperial College London
 4. University College London
 5. University of Edinburgh
 - ii. Group 2: Complementary/potential. Explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation with, for example:
 1. University of Manchester
 2. University of Exeter
 3. University of Nottingham
 - iii. Group 3: Specialist cooperation. Explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation between faculties with, for example:
 - a. London School of Economics
 - b. University of Glasgow
 - c. University of East Anglia
- 2) Evaluate how we can better utilise existing networks, among other things by highlighting and stimulating cooperation with British members in our prioritised networks, LERU and U21, as well as in faculty and department-specific networks.
- 3) Conduct delegation trips with, among others, the University Management.

C Promote research cooperation with researchers and universities in the UK

- 1) Strategically utilise funding tools for research cooperation, mobility and recruitment such as the EU framework programme for research and innovation, and Swedish and British funders that support international research cooperation
- 2) Increase the visibility of external funds for research cooperation at Swedish, British, European and international levels
- 3) Serve as an active dialogue partner to the Ministry of Education and Research and Swedish funders with an aim to strengthen access to research funding for cooperation with British researchers
- 4) Advertise funding for cooperation with selected British higher education institutions and within prioritised subject areas, i.e. subjects in line with LU's research strategy and the Government's research bill. Stimulus measures of this type should be instigated at all levels
- 5) Stimulate and support researcher and teaching staff mobility to (and from) the UK.

D Strengthen educational cooperation, student mobility and student recruitment

- 1) Strategically utilise funding tools for education cooperation
 - a. Erasmus +
 - i. Erasmus mobility for students, teaching staff and other staff
 - ii. Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters
 - iii. Strategic partnerships
 - iv. Knowledge alliances
 - v. Jean Monnet
 - vi. European Universities Initiative
- 2) Strengthen student mobility with the UK
 - a. Review current exchange agreements (SLUG/agreement projects)
 - b. The following universities may be attractive in terms of initiating or building exchange relations:
 - i. University of Oxford (Group 1)
 - ii. University of Manchester (Group 2)
 - iii. London School of Economics (Group 3)
 - c. Stimulate and support outgoing mobility for students and doctoral students to the UK
- 3) Prioritise the UK as a recruitment country for Master' students
- 4) Build up an alumni chapter in the UK
- 5) Investigate alternative funding tools for mobility to (and from) the UK.

E Communication plan

Draw up a communication plan

- 1) The internal aims are to:
 - a. Highlight the action plan
 - b. Advertise stimulus funding

- c. Highlight external funding for education and research cooperation at both national and European levels
 - d. Highlight research funding and funding opportunities in the UK
 - e. Highlight networks that include British partners (U21, LERU)
 - f. Provide information on LU's university-wide partnerships in the UK
 - g. Provide information on management delegations
 - h. Stimulate outgoing mobility.
- 2) The external aims are to:
- a. Highlight LU in the UK as an attractive partner, employer and study destination.
 - b. Highlight LU globally as an attractive employer for international researchers and study destination for students, who due to Brexit have decided against the UK.

F Proposals for first steps

- 1) Compose an internal advisory group for Europe (spring 2019)
- 2) Sign university-wide exchange agreements/MoUs with group 1 universities and commence analysis of which universities in group 2 and 3 are the best candidates for initiating or further developing exchange relations (2019)
- 3) Conduct a delegation trip to the UK (2019)
- 4) List the funding tools for education and research cooperation (2019)
- 5) Hold discussions with the Swedish Research Council, Vinnova, STINT and others on future funding of cooperation with British researchers (2019)
- 6) Instigate measures to increase LU's visibility as a study destination for British Master's students
- 7) Encourage LU teaching staff to utilise Erasmus exchanges to the UK
- 8) Encourage LU students to utilise Erasmus mobility for studies and placements in the UK.