

Strategic plan for research and third-cycle education at SOL, 2022–2027

The Centre for Languages and Literature (SOL) is Sweden's largest university institution for education and research in languages, linguistics, general literary studies and area studies. About 100 researchers and about 100 doctoral students work here. SOL has a unique breadth, depth and excellence in its research, covering more than 30 subjects and 20 or so third-cycle education programmes.

SOL currently conducts high-quality, leading research that is of fundamental significance to our understanding of society, culture, literature and language. It involves a multifaceted understanding and knowledge of human beings and their various contexts in a changing world, with synchronic and diachronic perspectives within and across languages and cultures. Research at SOL is fundamental and crucial, both for interpreting and understanding our world per se and for allowing other disciplines to develop both now and in the future.

Research is conducted as both thesis projects and research projects within and across disciplines, and largely in interdisciplinary research groups and research networks. Both research excellence and research depth are reflected in the fact that SOL has a number of leading specialists in a range of research domains. The breadth of research at SOL encompasses a number of aspects of language, linguistics, general literary studies, film, theatre, artistic research and area studies, as well as research in interdisciplinary environments that bring together subjects from both SOL and non-SOL disciplines. SOL's subject breadth and interdisciplinary collaborations are a prerequisite for Lund University's strong national and international position. Examples of interdisciplinary collaborations include medical humanities, speech therapy and memory research. This breadth and interdisciplinarity is also a key tool for addressing the complex societal challenges of today and tomorrow. See also

Strategisk plan för HT-fakulteterna 2019–2024 [*Strategic plan for the HT Faculties, 2019–2024*]:

<https://www.ht.lu.se/om-fakulteterna/policydokument-och-planer/>

Strategisk plan för Lunds universitet 2017–2026 [*Strategic plan for Lund University, 2017–2026*]:

<https://www.lu.se/om-universitetet/vision-mal-och-strategier>

SOL's strategic work aims to strengthen research collaborations with opportunities for excellence, breadth and depth. Examples of interdisciplinary areas for collaboration include language learning, language documentation, memory studies, migration studies, comparative literature studies, older texts and literatures, second-language didactics, discourse analysis, cognitive science in a broad sense and medical humanities. These examples are not exhaustive, and new areas for collaboration are constantly being developed. Research in subject didactics has been given special priority, with recruitment of no fewer than three professors.

SOL has been making a determined effort to provide a clear framework for research appointments. This work will be continued and enhanced, not least to build sustainable and long-term research environments. This means that researchers are being recruited for collaborations with SOL's senior lecturers, researchers and professors. SOL takes great pains to clearly protect the research time of researchers who undertake teaching posts. Safeguarding research time is essential if SOL is to achieve its goal of conducting internationally leading research that promotes excellence, breadth and depth. This is also linked to SOL's lofty ambitions as an employer offering a good working environment that stimulates creativity and commitment.

The **aim** is to ensure that SOL's researchers, senior lecturers and professors have the conditions they need to create stable, sustainable and extremely vibrant research environments with internationally leading research. This also gives them freedom and flexibility in planning their

working hours so that they can do a good job when it comes to research and teaching. SOL strives to maintain close and clear links between research and teaching so that more opportunities are created for both research-based teaching and teaching-based research.

While SOL works with strong research environments, most of our research will continue to be carried out by researchers and teachers outside these environments. Individual excellent researchers also need to be highlighted and given the best conditions so that they can produce internationally leading research.

Priority areas for SOL during the period are:

- strategic human resources policies leading to recruitment for excellence, breadth and depth
- increased highlighting of SOL's research both in-house and externally
- strategic partnerships with the wider community, as both collaborative projects and research projects
- strategic and thoughtful use of SOL's excellence, breadth and depth for interdisciplinary research
- established research groups on the research front, through both faculty-funded research and external direct government funding
- optimal administrative support for researchers throughout their work on externally funded research projects (during the application phase, implementation and reporting)
- new research initiatives and themes
- participation in national and international research networks
- internationalisation of third-cycle education through both third-cycle courses and stays at international universities (through ERASMUS exchanges, for example)
- good conditions for high-quality research for SOL researchers
- monitoring of research activities
- strategic use of funding from HT Libraries' research librarians and Humanities Lab staff when devising new research projects
- more doctoral studentships, both faculty-funded and externally funded
- theoretical and methodological developments within and between research subjects

Specific measurable objectives for the period 2022–2027

During the period, SOL shall

- have recruited at least 10 professors based on the HT Faculties' professorial programmes.
- have recruited at least 10 junior researchers to career-development positions (postdocs, deputy associate professors).
- have increased the proportion of teachers in permanent posts and reduced the proportion of temporary and fixed-term contracts.
- be highly successful on an international level in at least three research domains, such as through success in international calls for proposals.
- have developed and established clear procedures for supporting researchers' applications for external funding, thereby increasing the number of successful project applications.
- have expanded its research breadth by establishing at least three new well-specified collaborations, such as by being represented in a research theme at the Pufendorf Institute, Lund University.
- recruit research staff in subjects where research is lacking.

- increase the proportion of research appointments with clear affiliation to any of the research environments at SOL.
- have developed and established clear procedures for safeguarding researchers' conditions and planning for faculty-funded research. For professors, this follow-up must be based on the specific expectations of the HT Faculties as regards professors.
- have established clear procedures and fora in order to highlight research of various kinds.
- have received at least three externally funded doctoral studentships.

SOL is conducting extensive recruitment of the research leaders of tomorrow during this period. At least five new professors are expected to have been installed by 2024, followed by another five by 2027. SOL has helped to clarify the responsibilities and duties of professors at the HT Faculties, and this is reflected in its recruitment efforts. SOL also recruits internationally leading senior lecturers, postdocs and deputy associate professors. Recruitment is taking place in both subject areas of all sizes, increasing both excellence and depth.

The **aim** of these recruitments of research leaders is to create stable and extremely vibrant subject and research environments with internationally leading research in a number of domains. Both successful individual researchers and research groups with faculty-funded research and externally funded research from foundations, funds, national research councils and EU research programmes can be found here. Research is conducted both in individual subjects and in various interdisciplinary collaborations within and outside SOL. This is made possible by the unique, multifaceted subject environment at SOL, and also by the outstanding research infrastructure at the HT Faculties, not least the Humanities Lab.