Kvantum Institute research project call in the strategic focus areas *Creating Sustainability Through Materials and Systems*, and *Earth and Near-Space System and Environmental Change*

**Deadline for project applications is January 10th, 2020**

**Kvantum Institute**

The University of Oulu’s strategy strengthens its role as a high-level international science and innovation university that contributes to solving global challenges through the selected focus areas of research. Tackling the identified global challenges requires multidisciplinary approaches and research excellence. The University of Oulu supports the strategy through evaluation of its research, as well as regular open calls and external evaluation of projects coordinated by the University’s four focus institutes.

Focus institute Kvantum supports high-quality research and coordinates multidisciplinary research activities and doctoral training on the University's strategic focus areas *Creating sustainability through materials and systems* and *Earth and near-space system and environmental change*. Kvantum promotes interdisciplinary networking as well as national and international research cooperation.

**Call for new Kvantum Institute projects**

Kvantum Institute is now calling for new research projects for the four-year period of 1/2021 – 12/2024. *The call is open for only those Principal Investigators (PIs) who submitted the preregistration documents for the call in June 2019*. The new Kvantum research projects should address the following global challenges recognised in the strategy of the University of Oulu: *Creating Sustainability Through Materials and Systems* or *Earth, or Near-Space System and Environmental Change*.

In the focus area “*Creating Sustainability Through Materials and Systems*” the research contributes to sustainable use of natural resources by creating smart solutions that are based on and combine our expertise in different fields. These range from fundamental materials science to the production and use of superior materials and (bio)catalytic systems, bioeconomics and circular economics, cleantech, ICT, and open data solutions.

In the focus area “*Earth and Near-Space System and Environmental Change*”
the research seeks to understand the near-Earth space, Earth’s atmosphere and the Earth’s changing environment. This research includes studies at Oulu campus, the Sodankylä Geophysical Observatory and the Oulanka Research station. Geoscience and biosciences focus on boreal and Arctic systems.

The proposed research projects should represent well-focused research of high international quality. The PIs should be highly recognized in their field of science and have high-quality scientific as well as a demonstrated ability to gain notable external funding for research. The responsible PI and project’s other researchers must work at the University of Oulu. In the case of responsible PI and other researchers not working at the University of Oulu, affiliations with the University must be negotiated by the end of 2020.

The responsible PIs who submitted their preregistration documents for this call are welcome to submit the application as instructed below. We accept only one application per responsible PI. Researchers can participate as a PI (responsible PI or co-PI) only in one application. The selected projects will be targeted for strategic support in the form of doctoral student and post-doctoral positions. The positions will be filled according to the procedures approved by the University’s HR services.

Application documents listed in the “Instructions for the Kvantum research project applications” should be combined in the order shown and submitted as a single combined pdf-file. The file should be named with the responsible PI’s lastnameFirstname-Kvantum_application and sent electronically to the Registry of the University of Oulu (kirjaamo(at)oulu.fi) by January 10th, 2020.

Instructions for the Kvantum research project 2021 – 2024 application (https://notio.oulu.fi/fi/Tiedoteliitteet/KVANTUM_project_application_instructions_2014102019.docx)

Selection procedure of projects

For the first round, an independent international scientific evaluation panel nominated by the Rector of the University of Oulu will evaluate all the applications. For the second round, the panel will select 26 of the applications to be presented during the panel’s site visit at the University of Oulu in spring 2020. The evaluation process is based on criteria similar to those used by the Academy of Finland. These include scientific quality, innovativeness and novelty value of the research as well as its impact within the scientific community, competence of research team in terms of project implementation, feasibility of research plan (incl. research ethics), quality of research environment and collaborative networks, researcher mobility and researcher training and added value of collaboration as in the latest Academy Project evaluation guide. In addition, the suitability to Kvantum focus area(s) will be evaluated.

The final decision of Kvantum projects will be made by the Rector of the University of Oulu according to the recommendations of the evaluation panel. The doctoral student and post-doctoral positions will be directed to the projects in the ranking order based on the external evaluation process.

For further information please contact:

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