

Call for ELLIIT focus period proposals 2023-24

The ELLIIT focus period program is an ambitious guest and exchange program for international top-level researchers. The objective is to create environments where ELLIIT researchers can work under optimal circumstances in collaboration with other internationally established scientists around a specific (usually cross-disciplinary) research topic. This is done by gathering researchers from relevant scientific communities to stimulate cross-fertilization and new ideas. During a 5-week focus period, usually around April or October, ten visiting scholars will be hosted in addition to the regular ELLIIT faculty, postdocs and PhD students. A typical visit is 3-5 weeks. In the middle of each focus period, there is a 3-day workshop with approximately 25 invited world leading speakers.

ELLIIT is now inviting proposals by potential organizers willing to host focus periods in the spring or autumn of 2023 or 2024. A proposal should include (a) Description of the research area, (b) Name of responsible organizer, co-organizers and local administrator (c) Suggested names of scientific program committee (d) Motivation of the topic and relevance for ELLIIT.

The organization of an ELLIIT focus period has the following steps.

1) Decision by the ELLIIT Program Management Group

The proposals are evaluated by the focus program office based on relevance, excellence, and impact that makes a recommendation to the ELLIIT PMG who decides. Once the proposal has been accepted by the ELLIIT PMG and the dates have been settled it is time to proceed with the next step.

2) The ELLIIT focus program office invites the scientific program committee

The aim of the scientific program committee is to secure highest conceivable international excellence for the focus periods of ELLIIT. Without the committee, it would be very difficult to attract world leading researchers from an area where we have no local activity and even harder to persuade those researchers to spend an extended time period at the ELLIIT university. The optimal scientific program committee has a spread of competence and contacts, scientifically and geographically, and consists of people with a high degree of international visibility giving credibility to speaker invitations. Committee members need to be active in the process of suggesting names of invitees. Ideally at least one member of the scientific program committee should agree to come for an extended stay in the ELLIIT environment during the focus period.

3) The ELLIIT focus program office invites workshop speakers

The list of invitees is prepared by the organizer together with the scientific committee based on scientific excellence, with an aim for balance in geography, age and gender. All invitees are expected to stay for at least the three workshop days, suggest other relevant researchers to invite, and are invited to write a contribution for a book (tentatively published by Springer). *Speaker invitations include airfare (economy, with different limits for Europe, US and Asia) and accommodation.* Invitees who cannot personally extend their stay beyond the workshop are encouraged to nominate a young researcher who would compete for an invitation as visiting scholar during the focus period.

4) Public announcement

The ELLIIT focus program office announces the focus period on the ELLIIT web page and in appropriate newsletters. The organizer should look for ways to reach other relevant scientific communities by other means. The announcement invites young researchers to express their interest to attend the ELLIIT focus period as visiting scholars.

5) The ELLIIT focus program office sends invitations to visiting scholars

Based on nominations and applications the organizer selects visiting scholars to be invited. *Visiting scholars are offered free accommodation, office space and free workshop registration, but no travel reimbursement.* To maximize the time for interaction and to use the accommodation units efficiently, all visiting scholars are asked to stay for at least half the focus period plus the workshop (usually 3 weeks).

6) The ELLIIT focus program office opens the workshop for registration by additional participants

The workshops have room for 60-80 participants. There is usually room for about 25-45 participants in addition to the invited speakers and visiting scholars. These slots are offered to ELLIIT researchers in the first place, free of charge. Other participants could be accepted against a registration fee.

7) The organizer makes a seminar schedule for the visiting scholars

All visiting scholars are asked to give seminars outside the workshop. Already the first or second day of the 5-week period the seminars by visiting scholars start. The organizer is responsible for assigning hosts for the visitors, making a schedule of meetings with local researchers and organizing social events. The schedule is announced to visitors and local researchers well before the start of the focus period.

Budget: ELLIIT has a fixed budget of 250kkr to cover time for the organizer and a local administrator. In addition to this, the ELLIIT focus program office will cover costs for guests and facilities at a prespecified rate.

The application should be saved as a single PDF file, which is to be sent to Angela Sanseverino at the address elliit-info@liu.se

Deadline for proposals: November 8, 2021

For questions, please contact the ELLIIT focus program directors [Anders Rantzer](#) (LU) and [Fredrik Heintz](#) (LiU) or coordinators [Eva Westin](#) (LU) and [Tove Kvarnström](#) (LiU).