

Call for ELLIIT focus period proposals 2026

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 at Lund University and October at Linköping University, ten to twenty 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 symposium with approximately 20 invited world leading speakers.

ELLIIT is now inviting proposals by potential organizers willing to host focus periods in the spring or autumn of 2026. 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, and (d) Motivation of the topic and relevance for ELLIIT.

Organization of an ELLIIT focus period has the following steps to be followed-up regularly.

1) Decision by the ELLIIT Program Group (PG)

The proposals are evaluated by the focus period program office based on relevance, excellence, and impact that makes a recommendation to the ELLIIT PG who decides. Once the proposal has been accepted by the ELLIIT PG, the exact dates of the 5-week period and 3-day symposium should be settled to proceed with the next step. This should be done before proceeding with invitations.

2) The ELLIIT focus program office invites the scientific program committee 14 months in advance

The aim of the scientific program committee is to secure the highest conceivable international excellence for the focus periods of ELLIIT. The scientific committee helps in attracting world-leading researchers and persuade researchers to spend an extended period of time with the ELLIIT university. The optimal scientific program committee has a spread of competence and contacts, scientifically and geographically, and consists of a diverse group with a high degree of international visibility giving credibility to speaker invitations. Committee members are normally also symposium speakers and need to be active in the process of suggesting other 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 symposium speakers 12 months in advance

The list of symposium speakers to invite 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 invited symposium speakers are expected to stay for at least the three symposium days. *Speaker invitations include airfare (economy, with different limits for Europe, US and Asia) and accommodation.* Speakers who cannot personally extend their stay beyond the symposium 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 period 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 8 months in advance:

Based on nominations and applications the organizer selects visiting scholars to be invited. *Visiting scholars are offered free accommodation, office space and free symposium 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 symposium (usually 3 weeks).

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

The symposium has room for 60-100 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.

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

All visiting scholars are asked to give seminars outside the symposium. 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.

8) Documentation and follow-up

Abstracts, group photo and slides from the symposium are posted on the ELLIIT website. One and three years after the focus period, participants are contacted by the focus period program office for contributions to a follow-up report.

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, including costs associated with the symposium, within a prespecified budget (750kkr).

Deadline for proposals: November 7, 2024

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.

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