

# Appointed Liaison Officers

Coordinators with the responsibility to monitor and support the departments' and centres' collaborative projects are a part of the efforts to increase the University's collaboration with the community outside academia. They are included in a pilot project at Stockholm University funded by Vinnova.

In its strategies for 2015-2018, Stockholm University aims to be actively involved in broad collaboration in society. At the same time, Vinnova, Sweden's innovation agency, has been commissioned by the government to develop a model for allocating research funds based on how well the collaboration with the community outside academia works at Swedish universities. Special funding has been announced to develop collaboration at each university, and Stockholm University has been awarded funding to develop a support structure involving management, central functions, and departments. On this basis, the Vice-Chancellor has commissioned the External Relations and Communications Office to start and run a pilot project with appointed Liaison Officers placed throughout the core operations.

## Part of the University's collaboration support

On 1 September 2015, ten appointed Liaison Officers began their assignments which constitute 20 per cent of a full-time position. (Since then, the project has expanded and now includes 13 positions, some of them on 10 %.) They work at section level or, where there is no section structure, with groups of departments (see below). The appointed Liaison Officers are a part of the University's collaboration support and an important resource for the University's and the academic areas' collaborative development. They monitor the collaborative projects that are carried out at the departments, identify success factors and obstacles, act as sounding boards for teachers and researchers, and help create opportunities for new projects. To assist them in this work, the Liaison Officers have access to central resources at the External Relations and Communications Office.

The model is partly inspired by the alumni work, where almost every department today has an appointed Alumni Officer who collaborates with the Alumni Coordinator. One difference is that the specific duties of the Liaison Officers vary depending on the needs and priorities of each department.

## An extended pilot project

The original pilot project extended over four semesters, formally ending by May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017. However, with the help of additional local funding, the project will now continue to December, 2018. After an evaluation, it may be further extended or even made permanent. In terms of merit, the appointment as a Liaison Officer is comparable to being a director of studies. Contact persons for the project at the External Relations and Communications Office are Petra Norling, [petra.norling@su.se](mailto:petra.norling@su.se), and Eva Klasson Wehler, [eva.klasson.wehler@su.se](mailto:eva.klasson.wehler@su.se).

## Liaison Officers at all faculties

For a current list of appointed Liaison Officers and their areas of responsibility, see the main project page <http://www.su.se/medarbetare/r%C3%A5d-st%C3%B6d/samverkan/lokala-samverkanskoordinatorer/lokala-samverkanskoordinatorer-1.274252>.