



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET

TEKNAT 2023/138

Panel instructions

Research evaluation of the Faculty of
Science and Technology

Established by the Faculty Board 2024-04-23

Table of contents

Background	3
Evaluation of research and research environment at the Faculty	3
Review of Base Financing	4
Method of evaluation	4
The role of the panel	5
The role of the chair	6
The role of the host	6
The panel report	6
Confidentiality and trust	6
More information	6

Background

The Vice-Chancellor of Uppsala University has initiated an overall evaluation of the university's research (Quality and Renewal 2024, or KoF24) with the purpose of strengthening the ability to conduct research and education of highest quality and relevance. This evaluation is the University's fourth self-initiated research evaluation. The evaluation is intended to be forward-looking and quality-focused, with the goals of identifying unexploited potentials and opportunities for renewal.

The KoF24 research evaluation includes the following two parts:

1. A University-wide evaluation on strengths, weaknesses, needs and development areas, relating to research infrastructure and to interdisciplinarity and multidisciplinary research. This part of the evaluation is undertaken at central/university-wide level.
2. An evaluation of research and research environments conducted by the three disciplinary domains (humanities and social sciences, medicine and pharmacy, and science and technology).

The panels will only focus on the second part (evaluation of research and research environment of the Disciplinary Domain of Science and Technology/Faculty of Science and Technology).

Evaluation of research and research environment at the Faculty

The evaluation is process-focused, apart from the research environment evaluation which includes both process and quality. The evaluation is to include the following four aspects:

1. Development and renewal of research and research environment (process and quality)
2. Engagement and collaboration with society (process only)
3. Recruitment, career opportunities and career support (process only)
4. Connection between research and education (process only)

The faculty's objectives of the evaluation process are to:

- Maintain and strengthen our research through self-evaluations, external panel input, and developing plans for the future
- Strengthen our collegial culture through discussions at all levels and involving all research staff
- Improve our internal understanding by seeing and discussing how we are organized and work
- Improve our resource usage through the bottom-up development and prioritization of plans for the future

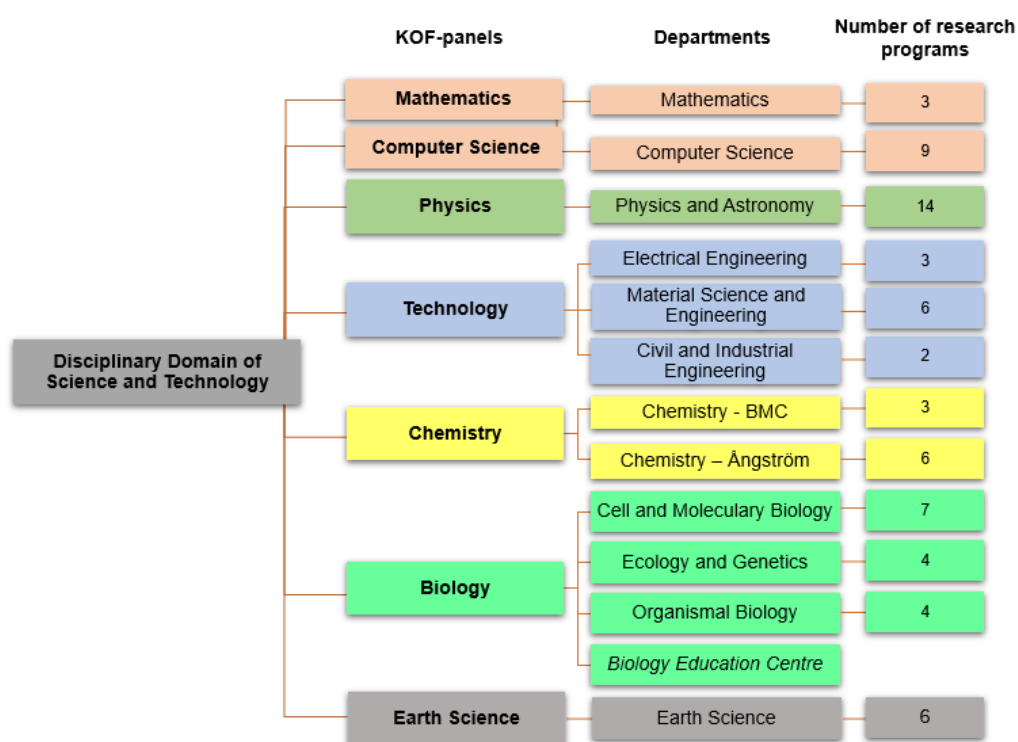
Review of Base Financing

The Faculty of Science and Technology has decided to combine the KoF24 research evaluation process at faculty level with the faculty Review of its Base Financing (in Swedish ÖB), since the data and reflections needed for both processes are very similar. The ÖB process is the Faculty’s regular (every 5 years) review of our allocation of base funding to the Faculty’s research programs and overall review of the research program structure as a whole.

The KoF24 evaluation results will be part of the material for the Faculty’s base financing review. In particular, the panel will only conduct an assessment of the scientific quality of the faculty’s research programs and departments, and is not part of the distribution of base funding.

Method of evaluation

For KoF24 the evaluation units are the 67 research programs and 12 departments. The departments are grouped into seven sections (Mathematics and Computer Science divided in two), and each section is being evaluated by one panel. The panels consist of 5-9 highly regarded international and national experts, including one chair.



UPPSALA UNIVERSITY

The panels conduct their assessment through a site-visit between October 1-4 (Mathematics panel October 2-4) where they will meet and interview each evaluation unit within their section.

Before the visit, the panel members will receive background material in advance consisting of:

- Department self-evaluations
- Program self-evaluations
- Results from a bibliometric analysis
- Personnel data for 2022
- Financial data for 2022 and 2023

The chair of the panel can make requests for complementary information. This information is given if possible according to time and availability.

The role of the panel

The primary role of the panel is to conduct a scientific assessment of the faculty's research programs and departments based on the background material and the on-site meetings.

The panel will:

- provide input on strengths and weaknesses,
- identify opportunities and propose developments based on the faculty vision and goals¹,
- provide constructive feedback on where to improve,
- identify possible future initiatives among the forward-looking proposals and assess their potential for enhancement and feasibility,
- identify possible organizational changes that have a significant potential to strengthen the Faculty's research and have a meaningful effect on its activities,
- provide an assessment of the quality of ongoing research.

The panel will work as a group to attain collective assessments, and at the same time make use of the complementary expertise among the members. The panel will conduct an assessment on the first aspect, research and research environment, at both program and department level. The assessment on the second to fourth aspect, career paths, collaboration and outreach and connection between research and teaching, will mostly be carried out at department level.

¹ TEKNAT 2020/31 Vision and goals. Faculty of Science and Technology.

The role of the chair

In addition to serving as an expert, the panel chair will coordinate the work of the panel and take the responsibility for the final report. The chair can, if so desired, assign lead readers for each program. The panel chair has the responsibility to ensure that the work of the panel is carried out professionally.

On the last day of the site-visit, all panel chairs will have a joint meeting with the Faculty Management and give Faculty-wide feedback on overall organization.

The role of the host

Each panel is assigned a host to support the panel before and during the visit. The host is either a section dean at the Faculty or an assigned professor. The host will answer section-specific questions from panel members and the chair before and during the panel visit and address any misunderstandings. During the panel visit, the host will be a neutral observer and be present during the panel interviews to assist the panel.

The panel report

To help with preparation for the on-site visit and final report, all panel members will receive report templates together with the evaluation units' self-evaluations. The final report will be based on this report template and be a summary of the panel's assessment from reading the self-evaluations, interviews with the evaluation units, and discussions within the panel.

The final report will be submitted to the Faculty no later than October 31, 2024.

Confidentiality and trust

The panel members accept not to misuse non-public information that is disclosed to him/her through the evaluation. In accordance with Swedish legislation, the panel reports will be public once they are submitted in their final form. All working documents are private. The panel members are required to declare any conflict of interest with respect to the subjects of the evaluation.

More information

To get a deeper understanding of how the Faculty works and how research is funded in Sweden, the panel will receive comprehensive information about:

- Uppsala University and the Faculty of Science and Technology
- An introductory film on how the faculty works and how research in the faculty is organized
- The Swedish research funding system
- The Faculty's definition of collaboration (third stream) activities