



DFF – Thematic calls 2025

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Agenda

- ▶ **1. Welcome and introduction**
Matching of expectations
- ▶ **2. Overview of themes in 2025**
Two calls and 11 themes
- ▶ **3. Interview with committee chairs**
Three of the committee chairs
- ▶ **4. Political framework and new funding instrument**
Political agreement and new framework for your application (incl. information on Co-PI)
- ▶ **5. About the application**
General requirements, budget, etc.
- ▶ **6. How will my application be processed and evaluated?**
Assessment criteria and procedure
- ▶ **7. Introduction to e-grant**
Application form etc.
- ▶ **8. Statistics**



Matching of expectations

► Questions we often get:

- Does my research project fit the theme?
- How to create a good budget?
- How to write a good project description?
- What makes a good research team?
- How much salary should I apply for as PI or Co-PI?

► The hard truth:

The Office of DFF is not able (or even allowed) to comment on or give advice on the *scientific* content of applications



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What we do

DFF supports independent research based on

- researchers' own ideas
- within and across all main fields of science
- to researchers at all career stages
- in order to strengthen the international competitiveness of Danish research

Thematic research

- researcher's own ideas (bottom-up), although within a politically determined topic (top-down)

Overview of thematic calls 2025

2025

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

THEMATIC RESEARCH

- / Postdoctoral exchange programme in quantum research
- / Research on antisemitism
- / Research on artificial intelligence
- / Research on learning and well-being in primary schools
- / Research on vulnerability and poor well-being
- / Green research
- / Research in psychiatry
- / Strengthened research in specialized social services
- / Strengthened clinical and independent research
- / Research on elderly and ageing



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2025

OPSLAG AF TEMATISKE MIDLER TIL

ARKTISK FORSKNING – KLIMAFORANDRINGER OG BÆREDYGTIGE ARKTISKE SAMFUND



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**YET TO BE
ANNOUNCED!**

Overview on new DFF website



[Contact](#) [Danish](#) [Log in to e-grant](#)



[Apply for funding](#)

[Managing your grant](#)

[Our funded projects](#)

[About the fund](#)

DFF > [Apply for funding](#) > [Current funding opportunities](#)

Current funding opportunities

On this page, you will find an overview of the funding instruments that you can apply for via Independent Research Fund Denmark.

The list shows funding instruments that are open for applications. The list is structured with upcoming application deadlines first, so you can easily stay informed. If you wish to apply for a specific council or committee, please use the filter option. Please note that you can still access the full calls for proposals (PDF) under the selected funding instrument. If you need to access previous calls for proposals, you can find them on the page [Previous calls and guidelines](#).

Questions about your application?

Contact the secretariat
Weekdays from 9 am - 12 pm
Tel.: +45 72 31 82 00
Email: dff-opslag@ufm.dk

[Green research](#) [Postdoctoral Exchange Programme in Quantum Research](#) [Research on artificial intelligence](#)



Green research

Deadline for applications at 12:00 PM, 27. May 2025 | [Thematic committee](#)

The politically determined theme should support research projects within green research, which must be carried out by multiple researchers (applicant and Co-PI).



Research on artificial intelligence

Deadline for applications at 12:00 PM, 03. June 2025 | [Thematic committee](#)

The politically determined theme should support research projects on artificial intelligence, which must be carried out by multiple researchers (applicant and Co-PI).

Overview of themes (2025)

Political determined theme	Budget framework for DFF grant (excluding overhead)	Collective budget framework for the theme	Application deadline	Time of processing
Strengthened clinical and independent research	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 229,000,000	27 May 2025	September 2025
Green research	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 148,400,000	27 May 2025	October 2025
Research on elderly and ageing	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 14,800,000	3 June 2025	September 2025
Research on vulnerability and poor well-being	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 34,600,000	3 June 2025	September 2025
Research on learning and well-being in primary schools	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 34,600,000	3 June 2025	September 2025
Strengthened research in specialized social services	Up to DKK 8,000,000	DKK 39,600,000	3 June 2025	September 2025
Research on artificial intelligence	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 59,300,000	3 June 2025	October 2025
Research in psychiatry	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 148,400,000	3 June 2025	October 2025
Postdoctoral exchange programme in quantum research	Up to DKK 1,500,000	DKK 19,800,000	3 June 2025	November 2025
Research on antisemitism	Up to DKK 11,900,000 (including overhead)	DKK 11,900,000	3 June 2025	November 2025
Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities	Up to DKK 5,000,000	DKK 46,500,000	3 September 2025	November 2025

Interview with committee chairs April 1 2025



Ane Qvortrup

Professor, University of
Southern Denmark

Chair of thematic committee:
"Research on learning and
well-being in primary schools"



Mattias Strandh

Professor, Umeå University

Chair of thematic committee:
"Research on elderly,
vulnerability and poor
well-being"



Kaare Christensen

Professor, University of
Southern Denmark

Chair of thematic committee:
"Strengthened clinical and
independent research"

Interview with committee chairs April 2 2025



Ira Assent

Professor, Aarhus University

Chair of thematic committee:
"Research on artificial intelligence"



Jan O. Jeppesen

Professor, University of
Southern Denmark

Chair of thematic committee:
"Green research"



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Interview with committee chairs April 3 2025



Mikael Landén

Professor, University of
Gothenburg

Chair of thematic committee:
"Research in psychiatry"



Thomas Ingeman-Nielsen

Associate professor, Technical
University of Denmark

Chair of thematic committee:
"Arctic research"



Ulla-Karin Schön

Professor, Stockholm
University

Chair of thematic committee:
"Strengthened research in
specialized social services"

Political framework

Thematic research is politically determined

- An annual agreement on the distribution of the research reserve (the Danish government and political parties)
- Thematic research funds are allocated to DFF
- A principle of keeping at arm's length
 - Themes are formulated by politicians with certain intentions
 - Grants are awarded by the committee – using the politically determined theme description as guidance (criteria)

**DFF has funded
thematic research
since 2018**

**Themes may
– and do – vary
from year to year**

**Great political
attention towards
DFF's handling of
thematic funds**

Defined themes?

There are no (exact) definition of the relevant theme

- DFF encourages politicians to ensure broad themes with emphasis on and room for applicants' own ideas
- DFF's calls for proposals use the texts as formulated in the political agreement 1:1 (with few minor additions)
- Some themes have short descriptions of the theme

What should you do as an applicant?

- Explain clearly how your project addresses/relates to the given theme and how you define/understand it

What will the thematic committee do?

- Assess each application in relation to theme and criteria

Aftale om fordeling af forskningsreserven mv. i
2025

Mellem regeringen (Socialdemokratiet, Venstre
og Moderaterne) og Danmarksdemokraterne,
Socialistisk Folkeparti, Liberal Alliance, Det
Konservative Folkeparti, Enhedslisten, Dansk
Folkeparti, Radikale Venstre og Alternativet

1. november 2024



In other words: Make sure to address the following criterion:

Does the application sufficiently account for how the project addresses the theme applied for as described in the call for proposals, including the theme-specific requirements that apply to your application?



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DFF-Thematic (new instrument)

DFF introduces the funding instrument “DFF-Thematic”

The purpose of the new funding instrument is twofold:

1. Addressing and acknowledging the transformation of the politically determined themes, which to a greater extent than before concerns for, e.g., practice-oriented research, or interdisciplinary research, which requires a new instrument
2. Simultaneously, aiming at better targeting the fund's instruments across both independent and thematic research

DFF has introduced a new funding instrument called DFF-Thematic

The new funding instrument is available only for thematic calls

DFF-Thematic consists of a number of basic building blocks (apply to all themes) and relevant, additional building blocks relating to each specific theme

DFF-Thematic (new instrument)

Four basic building blocks

Co-PI required

Projects must have an applicant and a Co-PI. Both must have a PhD degree or similar qualifications (some themes have further requirements)

Project description

Application containing a project description and an appendix that describe the research project altogether, incl. relevance for theme, societal impact, (if relevant) collaboration with practice area, other theme-specific requirements.

Duration

Projects can have a duration of up to 5 years

Budget framework

Depends on the applied for theme, but typically up to DKK 5 million excluding overhead

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The new funding instrument is available only for thematic calls

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DFF-Thematic (new instrument)

Additional, theme-specific building blocks

Involvement

Some themes require applications to be practice-oriented and involve a relevant practice area; other themes require involvement of local communities

Collaboration

Some themes require collaboration by having the applicant and the Co-PI come from different research environments and/or research institutions

Multidisciplinary

Some themes require that applications are multidisciplinary, and that the applicant and Co-PI therefore must be from different research disciplines

Capacity building

Some themes require that applications include at least one PhD student or postdoctoral candidate in order for support research capacity building or similar

DFF has introduced a new funding instrument called DFF-Thematic

The new funding instrument is available only for thematic calls

DFF-Thematic consists of a number of basic building blocks (apply to all themes) and relevant, additional building blocks relating to each specific theme

Postdoctoral exchange programme in quantum research

Funding instrument: DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant (thematic)

- Purpose of strengthening the international mobility of younger talented researchers within the field of quantum research
- Budget: Up to DKK 1,500,000 excl. overhead
 - Possible to apply for an increase of DKK 55,000 for each accompanying family member (partners and minor children)
- Applicant must have PhD age (or similar qualifications) of max. 5 years or, if currently a PhD student, submit PhD thesis for defence within 12 months after the application deadline
- Spend 12 consecutive months at a research institution abroad
- Spend 12 months at the administrating institution (Danish, Faroese or Greenlandic research institution)
 - You may spend up to 6 months at the beginning and / or up to 12 months at the end of the project period at the administrating institution

DFF's new funding instrument "DFF-Thematic" does not apply for "Postdoctoral exchange programme in quantum research"

Instead, DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant must be applied for

DFF expects to grant approx. 8 applications for the theme "Postdoctoral exchange programme in quantum research"



About the application

General requirements, budget etc.



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Preparation before applying

Start well in advance!

- Read the Call for Proposals thoroughly – there is a great chance of finding the answers you might be looking for
- Find the right application form in e-grant and open it early on
 - It is possible to re-open and re-submit your application up until the deadline
- Find the necessary DFF templates
 - Templates for project description, appendix, budget (in e-grant) and budget confirmation
 - <https://dff.dk/en/apply-for-funding/see-what-you-can-apply-for/templates-for-your-application/>

Three useful tips before applying:

1. Read the Call for Proposals

2. Read the Call for Proposals

3. Read the Call for Proposals

General requirements

- Applications must be written in **English**
- Applicants (and Co-PIs for DFF-Thematic) must have obtained a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications
- Applications must be initiated and submitted in **e-grant** by the **researcher responsible** (applicant) for the project and responsible to the fund in relation to the submitted project

No requirements

- Citizenship
- Location of research institutions, e.g. administrating institution
- Geographic location of research activities
- Employment prior to applying or obtaining a DFF grant



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Budget

Please note that you must use the DFF budget template!

- Your budget must account for the entire project period and describe the activities to be funded
- You can apply for funding to cover **all expenses that are directly attributable to the project**, and which are **relevant** and **necessary** for the completion of the project, including:
 - Scientific/academic salaries (VIP)
 - Technical/administrative salaries (TAP)
 - Equipment expenses (exceeding DKK 500,000 excluding overhead/administration expenses)
 - Operating expenses (including equipment expenses up to DKK 500,000 excluding overhead/ administration expenses)
 - Overhead/administration expenses (calculation based on the overhead percentage)

Please confer the budget section in the call (5.3.7)

You find the budget template directly in e-grant in your application form (“Upload budget” step)

Make sure to comply with the budget amount limits for the respective funding instruments

Budget

Specific exceptions

- DFF does *not* fund expenses towards Open Access
- Items covered by institutions' overhead: normal work PC's, general software, and other general work tools etc.

Make sure

- That you argue for all expenses; DFF can cut all unspecified expenses
- To have proportionality between the project's costs and the expected scientific output
- To account for all funding from other sources and co-financing (both active and non-active participants)
- To start early!

Please confer the budget section in the call (5.3.7)

You find the budget template directly in e-grant in your application form (“Upload budget” step)

Make sure to comply with the budget amount limits for the respective funding instruments

Budget

Typical question regarding practice-oriented projects:

- *Can I apply for funding for buy-out of project participants, which are not categorised as VIP or TAP, e.g. professionals such as nurses, pedagogues, teachers, etc.?*
- Yes. You can apply for funding for compensation of the working hours during which they contribute to the project, so that they can be relieved from their regular work tasks and participate in the project
- The funds must be stated as operating expenses, e.g. as remuneration
- Expenses must be described in the budget, including the number of working hours for which compensation is sought as well as the relevance of these expenses to the project

Budget


Typical question regarding clinical projects:

- *Can I apply for funding for fees related to the research ethical assessment of my application, which may be required before the start of the project (if funded)?*
- Yes. You can apply for all expenses that are directly attributable to the project, and which are relevant and necessary for the completion of the project
- DFF considers such fees to be directly attributable to the project
- The national rules concerning such fees for non-commercial projects has changed in January 2024 – and non-commercial projects are no longer exempted from these fees

Budget

Typical question regarding Arctic projects:

- *Can I apply for funding for interpreting assistance or special rights holders and stakeholders in Arctic projects?*
- Yes. You can apply for funding for compensation of the working hours during which they contribute to the project, so that they can be relieved from their regular work tasks and participate in the project
- It is possible to apply for necessary additional expenditures for travel and stay, e.g. in relation to the participation of persons from the local population and/or Indigenous Peoples
- Funds to cover interpreting assistance can also be applied for
- The funds must be stated as operating expenses, e.g. as remuneration



How will my application be processed and evaluated?

Assessment criteria and procedure for evaluation



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Formal requirements

Mandatory appendix overview	DFF-Thematic	DFF- International Postdoc (thematic)
B10: Project description (DFF template recommended) <u>DFF-Thematic</u> : max. 6 A4 pages (max. 18.000 characters) <u>DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant</u> : max. 5 A4 pages (max. 15.000 characters)	X	X
B10a: Appendix (DFF template recommended) <u>DFF-Thematic</u> : max. 1 A4 page (max. 3.000 characters) <i>(for Arctic research <u>only</u>: max. 2 A4 pages (max. 6,000 characters))</i> <u>DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant</u> : max. 1 A4 page (max. 3.000 characters)	X	X
B11: List of references (to project description and appendix – one joint file)	X	X
Budget (DFF template mandatory)	X	X
B20: Applicant's CV Max. 2 A4 pages (max. 6,000 characters)	X	X
B21: Applicant's list of publications	X	X
B22: Applicant's PhD diploma - or documentation for a) positive assistant professorship evaluation, or b) qualifications corresponding to PhD level achieved in another manner, or c) declaration from supervisor on submission of PhD thesis within 12 months of the application deadline (PhD students)	-	X
B25: Co-PI's CV Max. 2 A4 pages	X	-
B26: Co-PI's list of publications	X	-
B40: CV and list of publications for academic hosts (DFF-International Postdoc) and other named participants	*	X
B51: Another host institution (than administrating institution)	*	X
B90: Budget confirmation (DFF template mandatory)	X	X

Please note that there are 9 other types of appendices, which must be attached, if they are relevant for your application

See the overview in the call for proposals, section 5.3.2

Formal requirements

Your application must comply with a number of general requirements before given active consideration.

Typical mistakes:

- Submitting too late
- Submitting applications with a project description or an appendix that is too long or even missing
- Applications with missing or too long CVs
- Applications with missing list of publications

Please confer section 6.1 in the call for proposals for the full list of requirements

DFF will not obtain further information or supplementary application materials after the application deadline

Your application will be rejected administratively, if it doesn't comply with the requirements

Application and assessment

All applications will be assessed according to the criteria listed in the call for proposals:

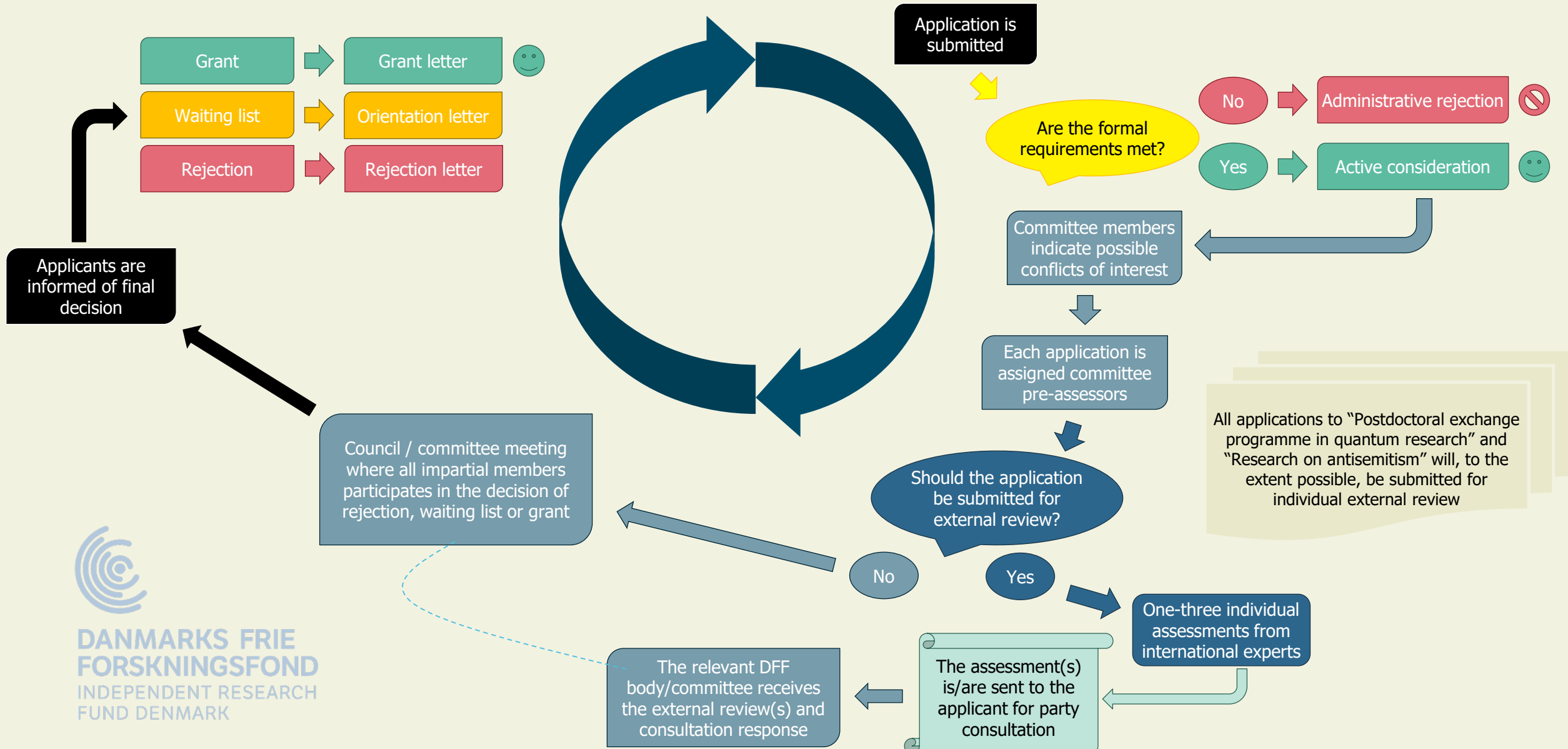
- Fulfillment of theme's objectives and requirements for instrument
- Scientific quality of the project
- Scientific qualifications of the applicant, Co-PI and participant(s)
- Feasibility
- Publication and dissemination of results
- Other assessment criteria

A broad range of
assessment criteria

Each application is
assessed individually
and given a concrete
and overall evaluation,
where the various
criteria can be met to a
greater or lesser extent

Please note that the
competition is fierce

Assessment procedure for thematic calls



E-grant and statistics



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Application form in e-grant

Once again: Start well in advance!

- Many different fields must be filled in with different information
- Your application does not just consist of a project description and your CV – a number of other appendices are relevant
- Make sure to submit your application in good time before the application deadline

Periods of leave

- When calculating your PhD age, certain types of documentable leave **must** be deducted
- Periods of leave that must be deducted include:
 - Pregnancy, maternity, paternity, parental, adoption leave
 - Bereavement leave
 - Formal leave to care for a close relative who is seriously ill or dying (care's leave)
 - Long-term sick leave of a minimum of 21 consecutive days
 - Military service
 - Clinical employment, which have constituted a necessary part of the course of an education during which the time for research has been very limited
 - Full-time humanitarian aid work in a foreign country

See section 5.3.5
regarding calculation
of PhD age and
periods of leave

Please only state
periods of leave
which has been held
after your PhD


Pregnancy, maternity,
paternity or parental
and adoption leave
will be deducted from
your PhD age by a
factor 2 instead of 1

Counting tool

Counting the number of characters

The appendices “Project description”, “Appendix” and “Applicant’s CV” must adhere to the requirements regarding maximum permitted number of pages and characters. As various text-editor programs use different methods for counting the number of characters, DFF recommends using the e-grant system to verify that the number of characters in your application is within the permitted number. DFF will always use e-grant’s character count as a basis for the decision of whether a document fulfils the requirements or not. In this regard, DFF recommends that you, as the applicant, continuously generate a PDF-file of your CV, project description and appendix and upload these documents to the application. If the document exceeds the permitted length, or if the document’s number of characters cannot be counted by the system, you will receive a warning that the document does not meet the requirements and have the opportunity to upload a new document. Alternatively, you can make use of e-grant’s **counting tool** without needing to create and navigate through an application. The counting tool will inform you how many characters e-grant has detected in the uploaded PDF file. Please note that this component only functions as a PDF counting tool and that you will not be notified if you exceed the set requirements.

DFF will reject applications that exceed the permitted number of pages or characters in the project description, the appendix and the applicant’s CV in accordance with **section 6.1**. Hence, you will not be able to upload a revised document to DFF if the document exceeds the permitted requirements when the deadline expires.



Make sure to read this box in section 5.3 of the call for proposals!

Make sure that your project description, appendix and your CV as an applicant complies with the maximum number of pages and characters

You can use DFF’s counting tool to check your PDF files

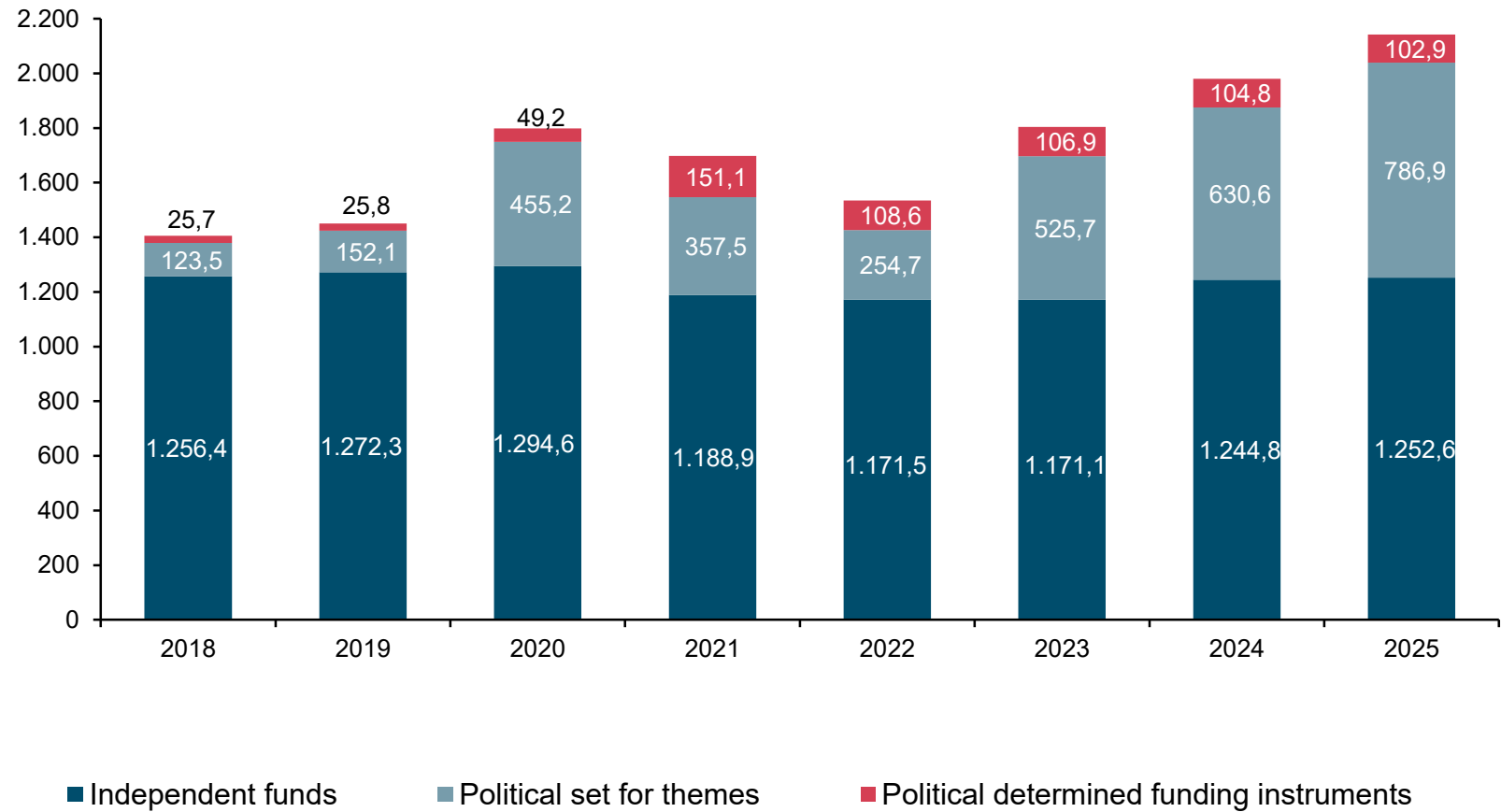
Please note that your application will be rejected administratively, if your application exceeds these requirements

Use counting tool to check these appendices:

- Project description
- Appendix (new)
- Applicant’s CV

Statistics

Mill. DKK, Price-regulated 2025

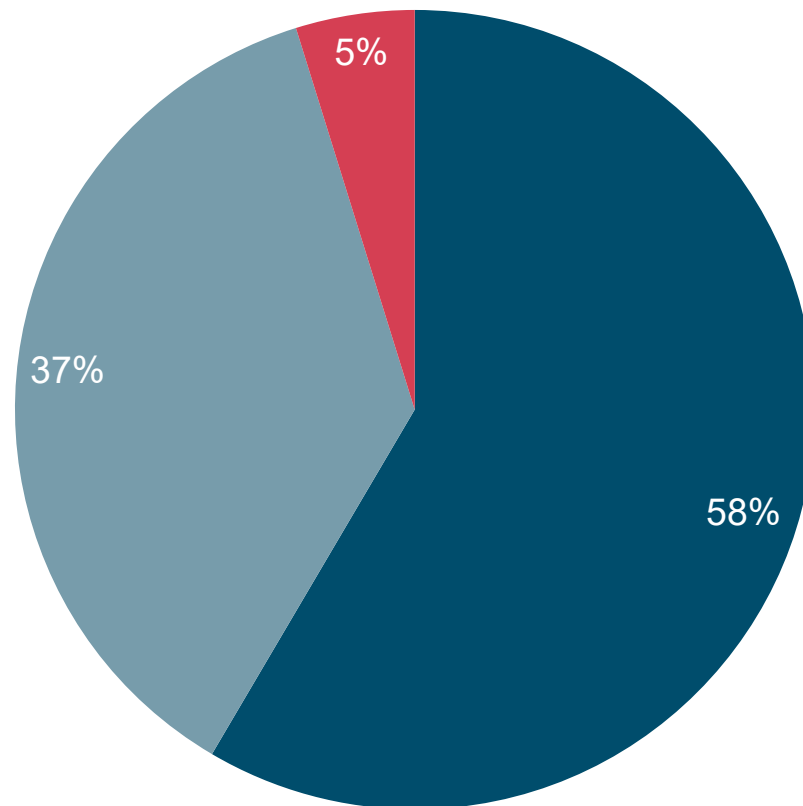


Funds for politically determined themes have grown steadily

DFF's total budget depends quite a lot on the politically determined funds

DFF's independent funds have been fairly steady around 1.2 billion

Statistics



■ Independent funds

■ Political set for themes

■ Political determined funding instruments

**In 2025, DFF has
DKK 786,9 million
for thematic funds**

**Around 42 percent of
DFF's 2025 budget is
politically determined**

**2025 is a record-breaking
year for thematic funds
and DFF's total budget**

Statistics (2018-2022)

Theme	Number of applications	Number of grants	Success rates (by number)	Grant amount (DKK million)
Socio-economic effects of welfare investments (2018)	5	2	40.0%	11.8
Research in learning and quality in higher education programs (2018)	35	5	14.3%	19.4
Research into early, knowledge-based initiatives (2018)	23	4	17.4%	19.6
People and society (2018)	91	11	12.1%	51.9
People and society (2019)	143	12	8.4%	48.7
Digital technologies (2019)	148	23	15.5%	78.8
Effects of early intervention (2020)	23	4	17.4%	20.2
Work on development of the economic modelling principles (2020)	9	5	55.6%	19.6
Green transition (2020)	454	66	14.5%	333.4
Green transition (2021)	479	61	12.7%	307.0
Independent green research (2022)	338	38	11.2%	106.9
Strengthened clinical and independent research (2022)	205	57	27.8%	127.3
Total	1,953	288	15%	1,144.6

12 thematic calls
from 2018-2022

Available budgets
ranging from approx. DKK
10 – 300 million

Success rates ranging from
approx. 8 – 55 %

Statistics (2023-2024)

Theme	Number of applications	Number of grants	Success rates (by number)	Grant amount (DKK million)
Independent green research (2023)	354	32	9.0%	99.4
Strengthened clinical and independent research (2023)	295	62	21.0%	198.1
Better framework for psychiatry (2023)	167	35	21.0%	97.7
Strengthened research on vulnerable children and youth (2023)	63	10	15.9%	34.1
Learning and well-being in elementary schools (2023)	18	7	38.9%	24.2
Stronger research environments for vocational education (2023)	16	6	37.5%	19.7
Independent green research (2024)	333	43	13%	135.2
Strengthened clinical and independent research (2024)	246	66	27%	206.5
Better framework for psychiatry (2024)	140	35	25%	97.6
Learning and well-being in primary schools (2024)	26	8	31%	24.6
Stronger research environments for vocational education and work-related pedagogy and practice-based learning (2024)	16	6	38%	18.6
Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable arctic communities (2024)	75	12	16%	44.8
Research on loneliness (2024)	21	8	38%	19.7
Strengthened research on vulnerable children and youth and poor well-being (2024)	61	11	18%	34.1
Research on elderly and ageing (2024)	43	9	21%	29.0
Total	1,874	350	19%	1,083.3

15 thematic calls
from 2023-2024

Available budgets
ranging from approx. DKK
20 – 200 million

Success rates ranging from
approx. 9 – 39 %

Further questions?

Continue to use the Q&A function (will remain open the next 10 minutes) or contact the Office of DFF:

- E-mail: dff-opslag@ufm.dk
- Phone: +45 72 31 82 00 (work days between 9 am – 12 (noon))

Questions regarding scientific content etc.:

Unfortunately, the office is unable to provide guidance on scientific issues. DFF recommends that you contact your **local research support unit** instead and make use of peer feedback.