



**DANMARKS FRIE  
FORSKNINGSFOND**  
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH  
FUND DENMARK

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

Editorial  
Karen Marie B. Vølund

Photo  
Adobe Stock,  
Claus Lillevang og  
Lone Rasmussen

Design & layout  
Kornmaaler grafisk design

1

KEY FIGURES 2024

2

THE CHAIR'S REPORT 2024

4

GRANTS IN 2024

6

RESEARCH CONFERENCE 2024

10

ORIGINAL IDEA OF THE YEAR

12

INTERVIEW WITH THE CHAIR

14

DELVING INTO THE RESEARCH

20

THE FUND IN FIGURES

48

THE BOARD

50

THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

54

THE THEMATIC COMMITTEES

## INDEPENDET RESEARCH FUND DENMARK

FUNDED researcher-initiated and ground-breaking research ideas to a value of DKK 1.9 billion in 2024.

AWARDED more than DKK 537 million to thematic research in 2024 through programmes such as Strengthened clinical and independent research and Learning and well-being in primary schools

OFFERED its funds via free competitions to encourage original, research-driven ideas within Danish research.

ADVISED the Minister for Higher Education and Science, the Government and the Danish Parliament.



**DANMARKS FRIE  
FORSKNINGSFOND**  
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH  
FUND DENMARK

Number  
of grants

**588**

Amount  
granted

**1.9 billion**

Number of  
applications

**3,926**

Amount  
sought

**14.1 billion**

Success rate,  
applications

**15%**

Success rate,  
amount

**14%**

# INDEPENDENT RESEARCH IN A SHIFTING WORLD

The world is changing – fast and profoundly. The climate crisis, technological breakthroughs and geopolitical shifts are changing the playing field for both society and science. Change has also been a theme of the fund.

In 2024, Independent Research Fund Denmark awarded DKK 1.9 billion to 588 research projects – the largest number of funded ideas in its history. The projects span the entire spectrum of Danish research, from quantum physics and microplastics to health and culture. Through these grants, the research fund has given researchers the opportunity to realise their best ideas – ideas that can challenge our existing understanding, build on important knowledge and point towards new insights. This year, the fund has once more been given the responsibility of allocating funds to politically prioritised themes of great importance to our society. These include areas such as health and well-being, the green transition, artificial intelligence and the elderly. The establishment of these focus areas complements existing independent research and ensures that special attention is paid to current and complex issues.

## RESEARCH INDEPENDENCE IN A SHIFTING WORLD

In October 2024, the fund published its new strategy for 2024–2026: *Independent Research in a*

*Shifting World*. Through this strategy, the fund aims to bolster world-class Danish research and establish the best possible conditions for independent research at a time when the framework for research funding is changing. Among other things, the fund wants to raise success rates, chart out the Danish research funding landscape and continue to support researchers' opportunities to pursue their most promising and original ideas. The strategy also touches on the question of how best to balance the need for cooperation and knowledge sharing with the need for security and accountability in a new geopolitical reality. In this area, the fund works according to the principle: 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary.'

The strategy is the result of a broad inclusion process and it paves the way for closer collaboration with research environments, private funds and international partners. It provides the fund with a good starting point from which to strengthen its role as a guarantor of independent, excellent and socially relevant research, and I look forward to working with it over the next two years.

## COLLABORATION ACROSS BORDERS

In 2022, the fund joined the European Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment.

In 2024, we followed this up with a concrete action plan that will be rolled out over the coming years. The plan will involve increasing transparency and updating our entire assessment process, including the formats used for CVs and publication lists. It is part of our ongoing work to sharpen our focus on the best research projects – and not just the longest publication lists. The fund has also initiated dialogues and networking efforts with other actors on how assessment practices can be adapted to a research reality in which diversity and difference are a strength.

On the international front, 2024 was also the year in which, together with NordForsk and funds from the Nordic countries, Greenland and Canada, we launched a historic joint call for proposals on sustainable development in the Arctic. In addition, the fund also supported four exciting transnational projects with Danish participation through the pan-European call for proposal *Crisis – Perspectives from the Humanities*. All four projects will examine historical and current crises with a particular focus on understanding the role played by cultural and social practices in addressing crises. Finally, at the end of the year, we decided to join Horizon Europe's Resilient Cultural Heritage Partnership, which aims to promote research into the interaction between European cultural heritage

and current societal challenges. This provides Danish researchers with new opportunities to participate in European projects that address issues of global significance.

The fund works to protect and promote a free and open research space in which ideas and unpredictable realisations can take shape. It is when researchers have the freedom to explore new questions and follow their curiosity, that the knowledge we don't yet know we need begins to emerge. And it is in this space that the greatest breakthroughs are born – to the benefit of knowledge, society and the future.

**"It is when  
researchers  
have the freedom  
to explore new  
questions and  
follow their  
curiosity, that the  
knowledge we don't  
yet know we need  
begins to emerge."**

## RECOGNISING AND CELEBRATING THE ORIGINAL IDEA OF THE YEAR

2024 was my first year as Chair of the Board – and while it has been a year of change, the fund is also a guarantor of a clear continuity. The fund is in a strong position, and research in Denmark is characterised by high quality, deep professionalism and a wealth of ideas. The high quality of the fund's work is largely

based on the great efforts of its members. The fund's 84 council and board members, in addition to the many members of its thematic committees and external review panels, all put in an impressive amount of work each year to ensure that the most promising and relevant projects are selected. Their efforts are a cornerstone of the fund's work, and an effort of which I am both proud and for which I have great respect.

Another highlight of 2024 was the fact that H.M. The Queen chose Independent Research Fund Denmark as one of her patronages. This is a great honour and a significant recognition both of the fund's work and of the societal value of independent research.

And for me personally as Chair, a further highlight of the year was when, under the title Navigating Change, Seizing Opportunities, the fund gathered together researchers and research stakeholders from all over the country for this year's DFF Research Conference to learn more about the role of independent research in a shifting world. The topics discussed included how to balance geopolitical considerations with independent research and knowledge security, as well as the pitfalls and opportunities for independent research following the advent of artificial intelligence in the research world. The Queen also participated in an engaging dialogue with recipients of the fund's Sapere Aude grants, and she celebrated the winner of the Original Idea of the Year Award, which you can read more about in the annual report.

## RESEARCH AS A PILLAR OF SOCIETY

In 2025, we will allocate DKK 2.1 billion to the best and most innovative research projects. Independent research generates new insights and ideas and helps create a basis for growth and prosperity. Independent research is also important for a democratic society. Or to put it another way, independent research is a long-term investment in our future.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the fund's work over the past year – researchers, council members, collaborators and decision makers. Your efforts, trust and commitment are the foundation of the fund's work.

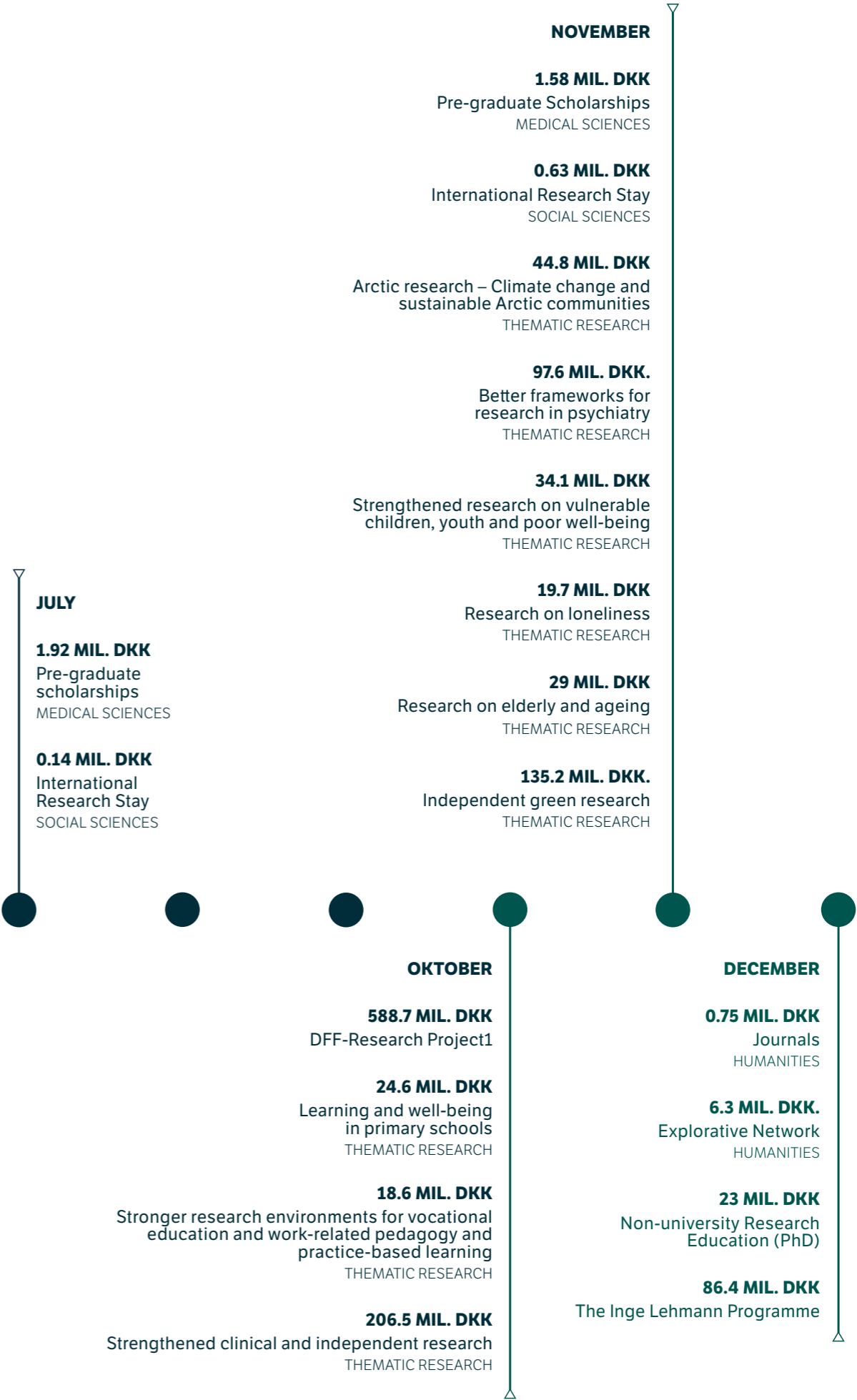
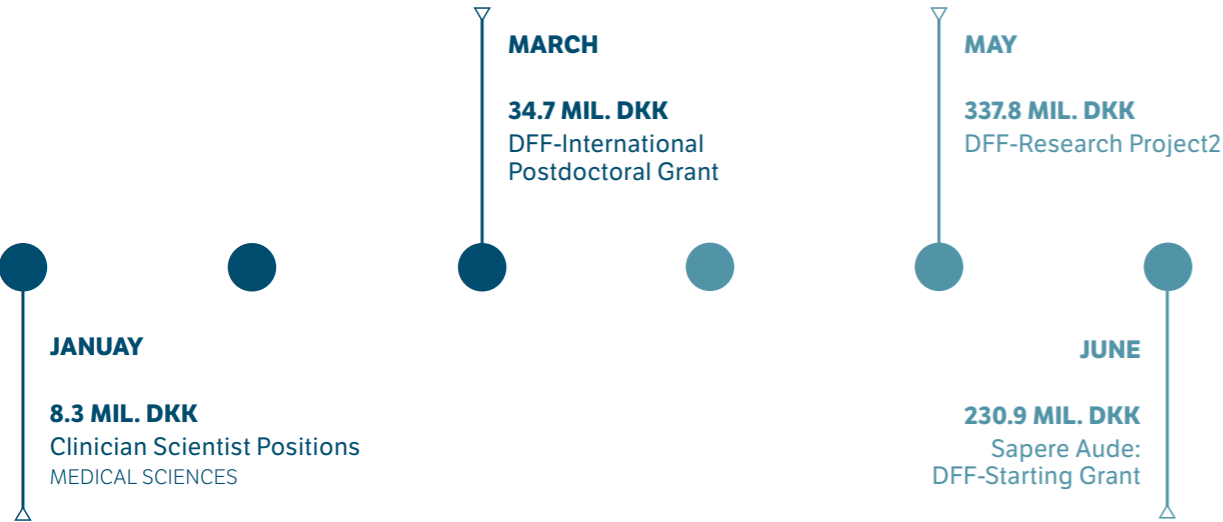
At the fund, we look forward to continuing this work – with the ideas and the societal impact of research always at the core of what we do.



S. Serritzlew

Professor Søren Serritzlew  
Chair of the Board

# AWARDS IN 2024



# NAVIGATING CHANGE, SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES

## The role of independent research in a shifting world

In September 2024, Independent Research Fund Denmark invited research stakeholders, fund members and researchers from across the country to its annual research conference.

Under the title *Navigating change, seizing opportunities - The role of independent research in a shifting world*, the fund placed focus on the role of independent research in a time influenced by major technological developments and global challenges.

### PANEL DEBATE: BALANCING GEOPOLITICS, INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, AND KNOWLEDGE SECURITY

After an introductory speech from the Minister of Higher Education and Science Christina Egelund on the role of independent research in solving global challenges and the importance of 'being as open as possible and as closed as necessary', the stage was set for the first panel debate.

The Minister participated together with Karen Lund Petersen from the Danish Security and Intelligence Service, Provost for Research at the University of Copenhagen

David Dreyer Lassen, Janus Juul Eriksen from the Young Academy and board member of Independent Research Fund Denmark Ole Kirk.

Under the title 'Balancing geopolitics, independent research and knowledge security', they debated the need and opportunities for strong international cooperation in light of the new geopolitical world-view, dual use and security versus the desire to share knowledge.

The debate was followed by round table discussions on the potential opportunities and threats facing independent research and how we can strengthen independent re-

search in a shifting world.

### PANEL DEBATE: EXPLORING AI'S IMPACT IN INDEPENDENT RE- SEARCH: PITFALLS, POLICY AND POTENTIAL

When we talk about change in the world of research, AI is inescapable. For this reason, the fund invited five experts on stage to share their thoughts on the pitfalls and potentials of using AI for research purposes.

Professor Jan Damsgaard from the Department of Digitalization at CBS, Gry Hasselbalch from the think tank DataEthics.eu, Rebecca Adler-Nissen from the Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science, co-founder of Research Kick Mushtaq Bilal and researcher and philosopher Rune Nyrup all presented their perspective on the topic.

The audience also participated, asking questions and making comments along the way. Several of them shared both the practical and ethical challenges of using AI they see in their daily work, as well as the opportunities AI offers in terms of more efficient task execution.

In the second panel discussion, the impact of AI on independent research was discussed.

The award for the Original Idea of the Year was presented by H.M. The Queen, while the chair of the research council DFF | Natural Sciences, Søren Bak, also gave a speech.

The Minister for Higher Education and Science Christina Egelund participated in the first panel debate.



A CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

One of the highlights of the day was when the fund's Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant recipients for 2023 and 2024 were honoured. They are all young, bright researchers who, with support from Independent Research Fund Denmark, have been given the opportunity to put together a team of researchers and immerse themselves in their own original research ideas.

Chair of the board, Søren Serritzlew, gave a speech to all of the Sapere Aude recipients:

*"For you, now is the time to use the grant to turn your ideas and projects into reality. I know you can do it because you have all proven it in your work. You have the skills, you have the new ideas and you have put together an excellent project. I look forward to seeing the results, articles, books and new knowledge that you produce."*



Sapere Aude recipient Maria Louison Vang tells H.M. The Queen about her research project.



Original Idea of the Year Award winner Christy Hipsley talks about her research project and the quest to find answers as to when the wolf was domesticated.



Sapere Aude recipient Shengda Zhang in conversation with board member Lone Gram.

ORIGINAL IDEA OF THE YEAR 2023

True to tradition, the research conference also featured the announcement of the winner of the Original Idea of the Year Award: Christy Hipsley, who researches the domestication of the wolf and is trying to put a more precise time frame on when exactly the wolf became man's best friend.

The award was presented by H.M. The Queen, who has been patron of the fund since May 2024. After a congratulatory speech from Søren Bak, chair of the research council DFF | Natural Sciences, Christy Hipsley gave the audience an exciting insight into her research.

*"Your idea is truly original and it immediately caught our attention at DFF | Natural Sciences. We were not only fascinated by your idea, but also by your approach."*

Søren Bak, Chair of DFF | Natural Sciences



Sapere Aude recipient Felix Trier shares some insight into his research project on energy storage in magnetic vortices.



Winner of Original Idea of the Year 2023, Christy Hipsley

**WHEN WAS THE WOLF TAMED? AND BY WHOM?**  
The domestication of the wolf has been debated and studied by scientists for decades all over the world, and the winner of the Original Idea of the Year Award 2023 has contributed to this conversation.

Christy Hipsley, who works at the Department of Biology at the University of Copenhagen, studies the evolutionary development of animals. She has received the award for her idea to combine molecular biology and morphology in the quest to find out when the wolf was first domesticated and by whom.

The timeframe for the wolf’s domestication has long been a mystery, and until now it has been estimated to have occurred sometime between 15,000 and 40,000 years ago.

Using a new technique, Christy Hipsley will try to make a more accurate guess. She combines X-ray and CT scan technology to measure small details and developments in canine skulls from different time periods.

The hope is that her research can bring us closer to the answers that will help us understand the origins of the dog and its evolution over time from dangerous predator to cuddly playmate.

*"We can still approach the most basic human questions in new and exciting ways. Technologies like CT scanning open up new ways to study old and precious specimens, which is great as museums are full of them."*

*"There is no other mammal that has so much variation within one species. Just think of the differences in size between a wolf, a Chihuahua and a Great Dane"*



H.M. The Queen presented the award to Christy Hipsley at the fund's research conference in her role as patron of Independent Research Fund Denmark.

**ABOUT THE ORIGINAL IDEA OF THE YEAR AWARD**  
The award is given to a researcher who, in the past year, has put forward a great research idea that demonstrates a high degree of originality – whether that be in its subject choice, approach or methodology.

2024 marked the fifth year that the fund awarded this prize for the best original idea of the year. The prize consists of an artwork and a bouquet of flowers. Independent Research Fund Denmark's fundamental idea behind the award is to celebrate original thinking that is crucial to promoting Danish research.

**ABOUT CHRISTY HIPSELEY**  
Christy Hipsley is originally from Baltimore, USA, but her research career has taken her to Sweden, Germany, Australia and now Denmark. She works at the University of Copenhagen, where she researches the history of the dog. She lives in Frederiksberg with her boyfriend and their mongrel which they rescued from a shelter in Berlin.



## WE CREATE A BETTER FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY

Independent Research Fund Denmark is launching a new framework for fund applications awarded under politically defined themes with its DFF-Thematic instrument. In an interview, Chair of the Board Søren Serritzlew talks about the background and the opportunities for researchers – both seasoned and new alike.

*Interview with Søren Serritzlew,  
chair of the board of Independent  
Research Fund Denmark*

### ***What is the idea behind DFF-Thematic?***

DFF-Thematic has been created to improve the conditions for research that addresses some of society's biggest and most complex challenges. Many of the politically determined themes require interdisciplinary or practice-oriented collaborations, longer time horizons and better frameworks if the collaboration is to be viable both scientifically and economically – and this is precisely what we are supporting with this instrument. We want researchers to have better opportunities to achieve results that can make a real difference.

### ***How does DFF-Thematic differ from the fund's other instruments?***

There are three key differences: The first is time – projects can extend over longer periods of time. The second is financial – it presents a better framework overall for the realisation of academic collaborations, and this includes the financial framework. And the third is collaboration – we've introduced a requirement for a Co-PI, a co-principal investigator, to promote interdisciplinary and stronger partnerships. This matches the reality of many practice-oriented and thematic research projects.

### ***What are your requirements for who this Co-PI should be?***

Applicants and Co-PIs must have a PhD or equivalent, but there are virtually no other requirements, so there is a large degree of freedom for researchers to choose the collaboration structure that best suits the individual project. It is an opportunity for younger researchers

in particular to gain experience with larger research projects, either as an applicant or as Co-PI. For example, this could be as part of a joint project with a more experienced researcher. DFF-Thematic allows the Co-PI to receive more formal recognition for their role in the project, and this can help to strengthen their researcher profile.

### ***What does this mean for researchers considering applying?***

It means new frameworks for their work, but also new demands. We encourage researchers to consider their projects in a wider context, both scientifically and organisationally. It can attract both those who have previously applied to DFF and those who have not previously seen DFF as a natural path. For example, this might be the case for researchers working with questions of application or in practice-oriented contexts.

### ***What types of researchers do you hope to reach with this instrument?***

We hope to attract both experienced DFF applicants as well as those who may not have previously seen DFF as an obvious choice for their research. Through DFF-Thematic, we are opening the door to more collaboration, greater thematic breadth and a stronger connection to societal needs. It also gives young research environments and new constellations a chance to contribute.

### ***What steps have you taken to make it easy to apply?***

DFF-Thematic is a new construction, but it builds on a familiar founda-

tion. We have attached importance to clear and accessible communication – for example, through the redesign of our website, where we have made it clear who can apply for what and how the projects will be judged.

### ***Is DFF-Thematic a one-off investment – or the start of something new?***

It is definitely intended to be a lasting supplement to our existing instruments. We must continue to protect independent, researcher-initiated research. But we must also take responsibility for ensuring that research funding is used where the need is greatest. Through DFF-Thematic, we attempt to strike the right balance between relevance in relation to the themes established, and academic quality and freedom – and I think this will be an important guiding principle for the fund in the coming years.

# WOMEN'S DISEASES

Across the instruments offered by the funds, researchers are investigating the diseases that affect women. Some of these diseases are widespread and affect the everyday lives of many women, and yet they are considerably under-researched.

Here we explore four research projects that are trying to make it easier to diagnose and treat some of the diseases that only affect women.

## HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE DIAGNOSIS OF VULVODYNIA?

**Researcher:**  
Michael Pedersen

**Institution:**  
Aarhus University

**Instrument:**  
Pre-graduate Scholarships

**Amount:** DKK 207,360 kr.

Vulvodynia is a condition that causes pain around the external female genital area without any identifiable cause. The pain can often occur during sexual intercourse, when using a tampon, wearing tight clothing or when cycling.

Current diagnostic options are associated with significant uncertainty and subjectivity. With his grant, Michael Pedersen will investigate ways to improve the diagnosis of vulvodynia and gain a better understanding of what causes the disease.

## CAN AI MODELS HELP TO ENSURE EARLIER DETECTION OF OVARIAN CANCER?

**Researcher:**  
Jessica Xin Hjaltelin

**Institution:**  
University of Copenhagen

**Instrument:**  
The Inge Lehmann Programme

**Amount:** DKK 3,006,363

Ovarian cancer is often diagnosed late due to its non-specific symptoms. This leave women with poorer prognoses and low survival rates.

With her project, Jessica Xin Hjaltelin will use data from Danish national health registers to develop AI-driven predictive models that can detect ovarian cancer earlier and thereby help to ensure better treatment.

## WHAT ROLE DOES GENETICS PLAY IN REDUCED OVARIAN RESERVES?

**Researcher:**  
Eva Ran Hoffmann

**Institution:**  
University of Copenhagen

**Instrument:**  
Thematic – Strengthened clinical and independent research

**Amount:** DKK 3,166,893

About 5% of all women have less developed ovaries and thus experience more difficulties getting pregnant.

Eva Ran Hoffmann wants to better understand the reasons why these women have reduced ovarian reserves through a genetic study of the entire genome. The goal is to improve diagnostic options, fertility outcomes, and enhance the ability to detect non-fertility-related diseases.

## WHY DO SOME PEOPLE GET MENSTRUAL MIGRAINES?

**Researcher:**  
Thomas Folkmann Hansen

**Institution:**  
Copenhagen University Hospital

**Instrument:**  
Thematic – Strengthened clinical and independent research

**Amount:** DKK 2,576,995

One in four women suffer from migraines, and some of them have migraines exclusively associated with menstruation. They are therefore thought to suffer from a specific type of migraine.

This patient group has been overlooked, possibly due to a lack of knowledge about natural variations in genes and hormones. Thomas Folkmann Hansen's project will create a new biological understanding of the mechanisms that cause menstrual migraines, and this will hopefully lead to new, specific treatments.

# ARCTIC RESEARCH

2024 marked the first year that Independent Research Fund Denmark awarded funding for research on the Arctic. Via the instrument Arctic research - Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities, around DKK 44 million was awarded to 12 projects.

These projects will help strengthen sustainable development in the Arctic through a better understanding of climate change and its impact on biodiversity, ecosystems, cultural heritage and living conditions.

## WHAT DOES CLIMATE CHANGE MEAN FOR ARCTIC MARINE MAMMALS?

**Researcher:***Outi Maria Tervo***Institution:***Greenland Institute of Natural Resources***Instrument:***Thematic – Arctic research - Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities***Amount:** DKK 3,140,840

By analysing the sounds of narwhals and bow-head whales, it is possible to gain greater insight into their behaviour and presence in the waters. Outi Maria Tervo will use machine learning technologies and artificial intelligence to develop methods to identify and categorise the sounds marine mammals make.

The project aims to contribute to the conservation of Arctic species that are vital to the ecosystem and important to the culture and economy of Arctic communities.

## WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE GREENLANDIC SLED DOG?

**Researcher:***Anders Johannes Hansen***Institution:***University of Copenhagen***Instrument:***Thematic – Arctic research - Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities***Amount:** DKK 3,163,120

The Greenlandic sled dog is a big part of Thule Inuit cultural history and Greenlandic identity, but rising temperatures have made it harder for Greenlandic hunters to use dog sleds.

This has led to a reduction in the number of sled dogs and a more uncertain future for the breed. Anders Johannes Hansen will use DNA samples from the sled dogs to determine their development over time and thus uncover knowledge that may be relevant to how sled dogs can be kept in the future.

## CAN THE CULTIVATION OF RHODIOLA PROVIDE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREENLANDIC FARMERS?

**Researcher:***Henrik Vlk Lütken***Institution:***University of Copenhagen***Instrument:***Thematic – Arctic research - Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities***Amount:** DKK 3,166,704

Rising temperatures in the Arctic provide better conditions for the rhodiola plant, which is a well-known herbal remedy used to treat winter depression, among other things.

Henrik Vlk Lütken hopes to identify bioactive substances in the rhodiola plant, increase their levels and thus make it possible to develop and grow better rhodiola plants. At the same time, a network will also be established consisting of interested local farmers, allowing them to exploit the commercial and medicinal opportunities it presents.

## HOW CAN WE MEASURE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON ARCTIC ANIMAL POPULATIONS?

**Researcher:***Floris Michiel van Beest***Institution:***Aarhus University***Instrument:***Thematic – Arctic research - Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities***Amount:** DKK 992,956

Climate change poses a threat to animals and plants in the Arctic and thus also to the communities that depend on hunting and other things.

With his project, Floris Michiel van Beest aims to support the sustainable use of natural resources by developing a process-based population model to estimate the effects of changes in climatic conditions, animal habitats and population sizes. The model can thereby be used to identify sustainable hunting strategies that will safeguard populations while also meeting the socio-economic needs of Arctic communities.



# THE FUND IN FIGURES

Rounding in the tables may mean that the figures do not add up to the exact total.

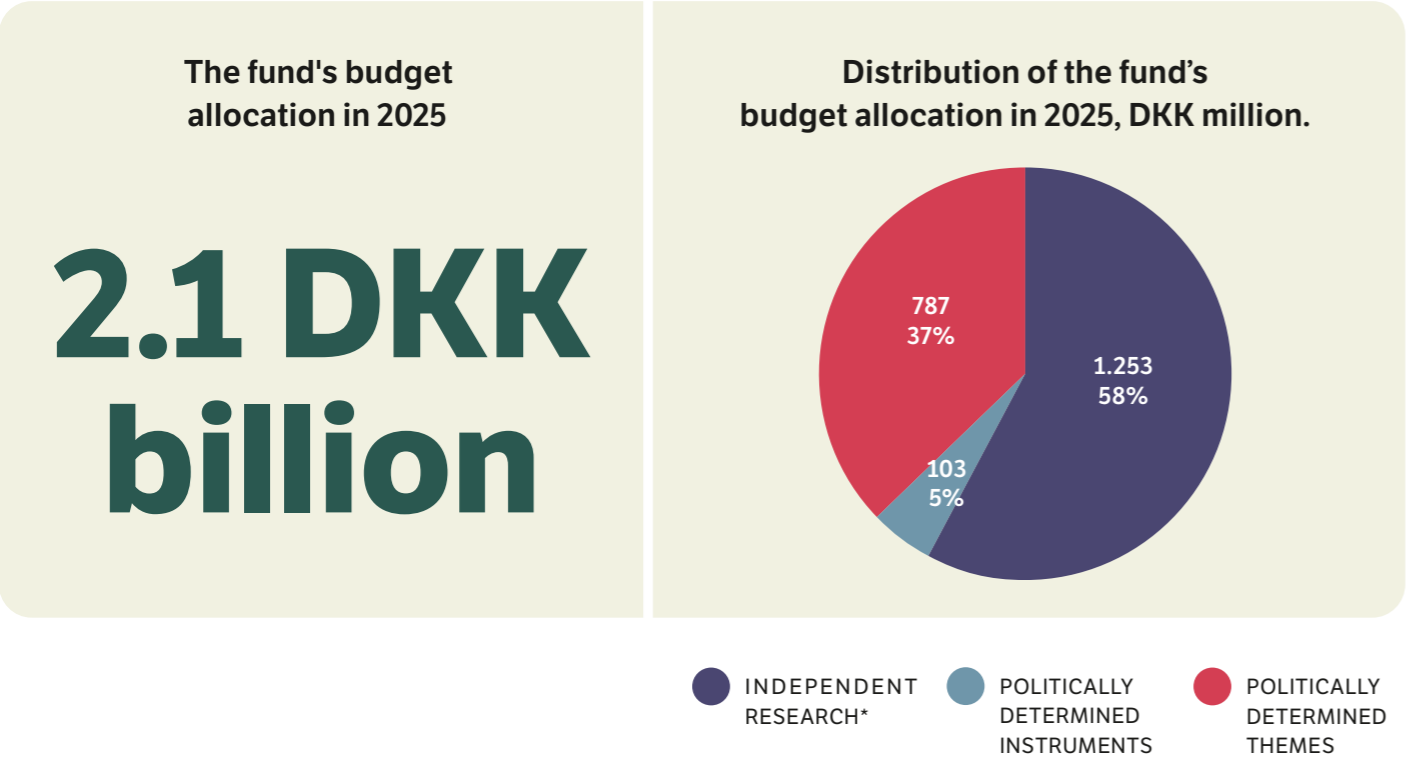
THE FUND’S BUDGET ALLOCATION 2025

Independent Research Fund Denmark's investments in independent, groundbreaking research are funded through the annual Finance Act (the budget). In 2025, the fund has received a total allocation of DKK 2.1 billion. Of this, DKK 1,253 million can be used as so-called 'independent funds', DKK 103 million is for politically determined instruments and DKK 787 million is allocated to politically determined themes.

The independent funds are allocated to the research ideas that the fund considers to be among the most promising, with the potential to create breakthroughs in research.

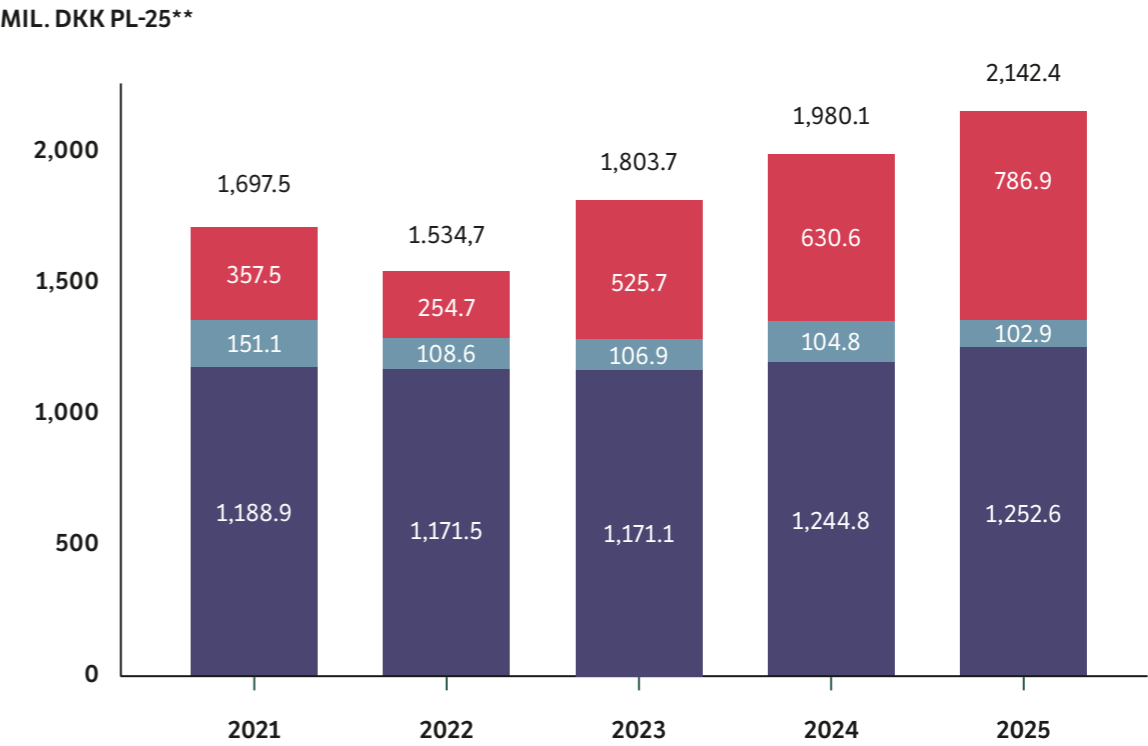
The politically determined instruments include the Inge Lehmann Programme and Non-University Research Education, while the politically determined themes for 2025 include Strengthening clinical and independent research, Artificial intelligence and Learning and well-being in primary schools.

You can find an overview of last year's (2024) policy themes on page 27.



\*Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant  
Act on the Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy and Independent Research Fund Denmark, No. 384 of 26/04/2017

BUDGET ALLOCATION IN THE PERIOD 2021–2025



- INDEPENDENT RESEARCH\***  
the fund allocates to independent and curiosity-driven research within all themes and primary scientific disciplines.
- POLITICALLY DETERMINED INSTRUMENTS**  
are the specific instruments determined at the political level.
- POLITICALLY DETERMINED THEMES**

\*Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant

# WHO ALLOCATES THE FUNDS?

Independent Research Fund Denmark is organised into five scientific research councils which allocate the unrestricted funds.

These operate in addition to DFF | Cross-Council Committee, which is made up of the chairs from each of the five scientific research councils. They allocate the fund's politically determined instruments and consider cross-council applications from projects with methods and subject areas that cut across the scientific research councils.

See who sits on the different councils on pages 48–55.

In 2024, the board established six thematic committees with a total of 85 members who were tasked with allocating funds to six different politically determined themes from the budget. Thematic committees are set up on an ad hoc basis and are dissolved automatically once the thematic grants have been allocated.



# ALLOCATION OF RESEARCH GRANTS IN THE PERIOD 2021–2024

GRANTS, CURRENT PRICES, IN MILLION DKK	2021	2022	2023	2024
Independent funds				
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*	271.4	270.7	260.8	256.3
DFF   Humanities	112.2	121.0	134.6	145.8
DFF   Natural Sciences	180.0	195.7	206.5	214.6
DFF   Social Sciences	80.0	90.6	110.9	121.1
DFF   Medical Sciences	178.5	191.7	203.8	232.2
DFF   Technology and Production	195.8	211.7	217.4	241.8
I alt	1,017.9	1,081.5	1,134.0	1,211.7
Politically determined instruments				
DFF   Cross-Council Committee	132.3	103.2	102.6	109.5
Politically determined themes				
DFF   Thematic committee – Better frameworks for psychiatry	-	-	97.7	97.6
DFF   Thematic committee – Green research	306.9	107.0	99.4	135.2
DFF   Thematic committee – Clinical research	-	127.3	195.4	206.5
DFF   Thematic committee – Arctic research	-	-	-	44.8
DFF   Thematic committee – Primary schools and vocational education	-	-	-	43.2
DFF   Thematic committee – Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	-	-	-	82.8
DFF   Thematic Committee – Learning and well-being in primary schools	-	-	24.2	-
DFF   Thematic committee – Strengthening research on vulnerable children and youth	-	-	34.1	-
DFF   Thematic committee – Stronger research environments for vocational education	-	-	19.7	-
I alt	306.9	234.3	470.6	610.0
Total	1,457.1	1,419.0	1,707.1	1,931.2

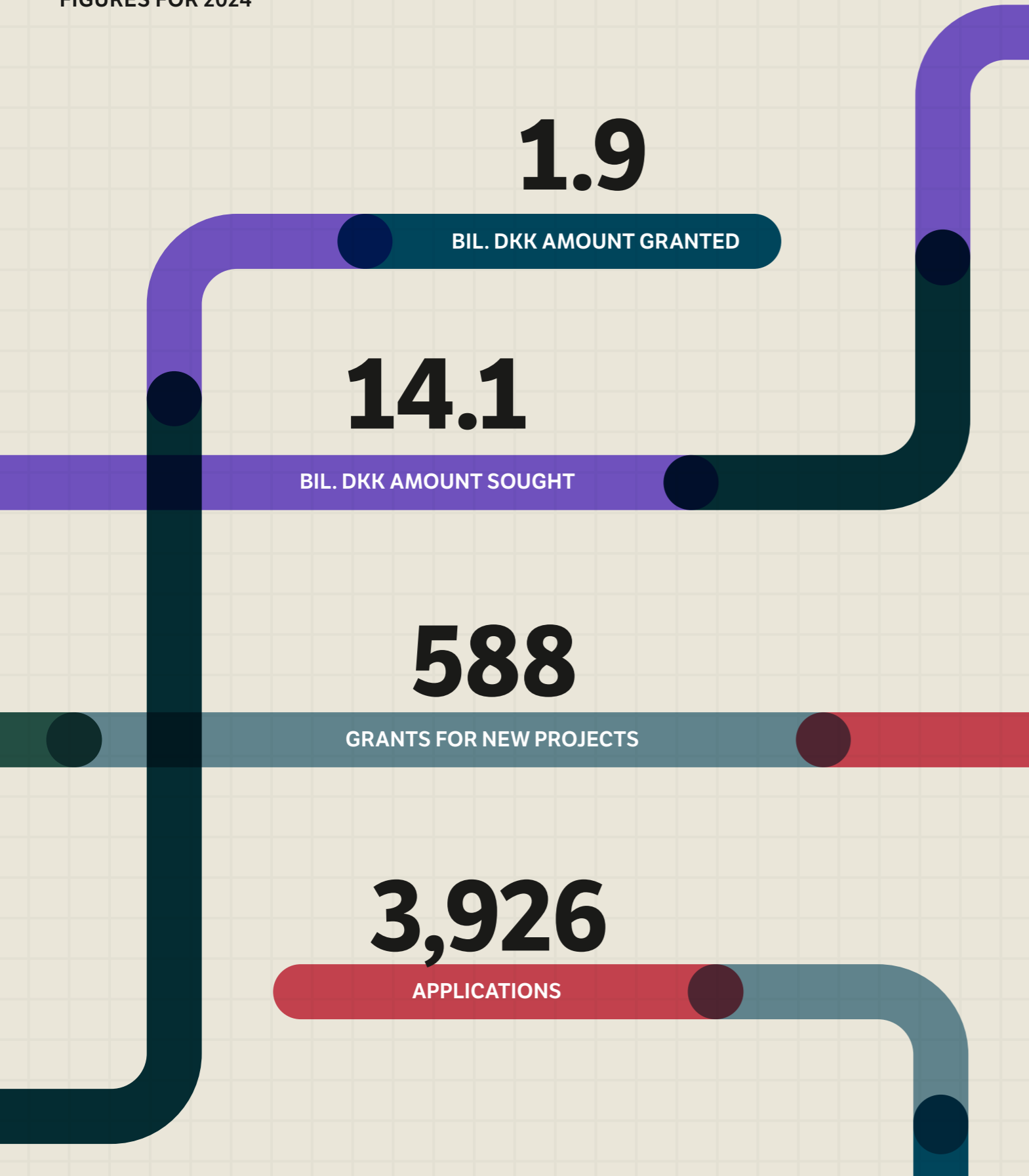
\*Applications to Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, the Inge Lehmann Programme and Non-University Research Education are submitted to the academic councils, but they are allocated at the cross-council level.

The overview of the fund's allocation amounts includes reallocations of unused funds that the fund has received as repayments from previously funded projects. The total allocation amount may therefore be higher than the amount in the budget. In the years 2021–2024, approximately 65 million DKK has been allocated each year to Sapere Aude: DFF Starting Grants in the budget, while in 2024, the board prioritised the allocation of DKK 153.7 million of the fund's unrestricted funds to this instrument.

## THE FUND'S APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS

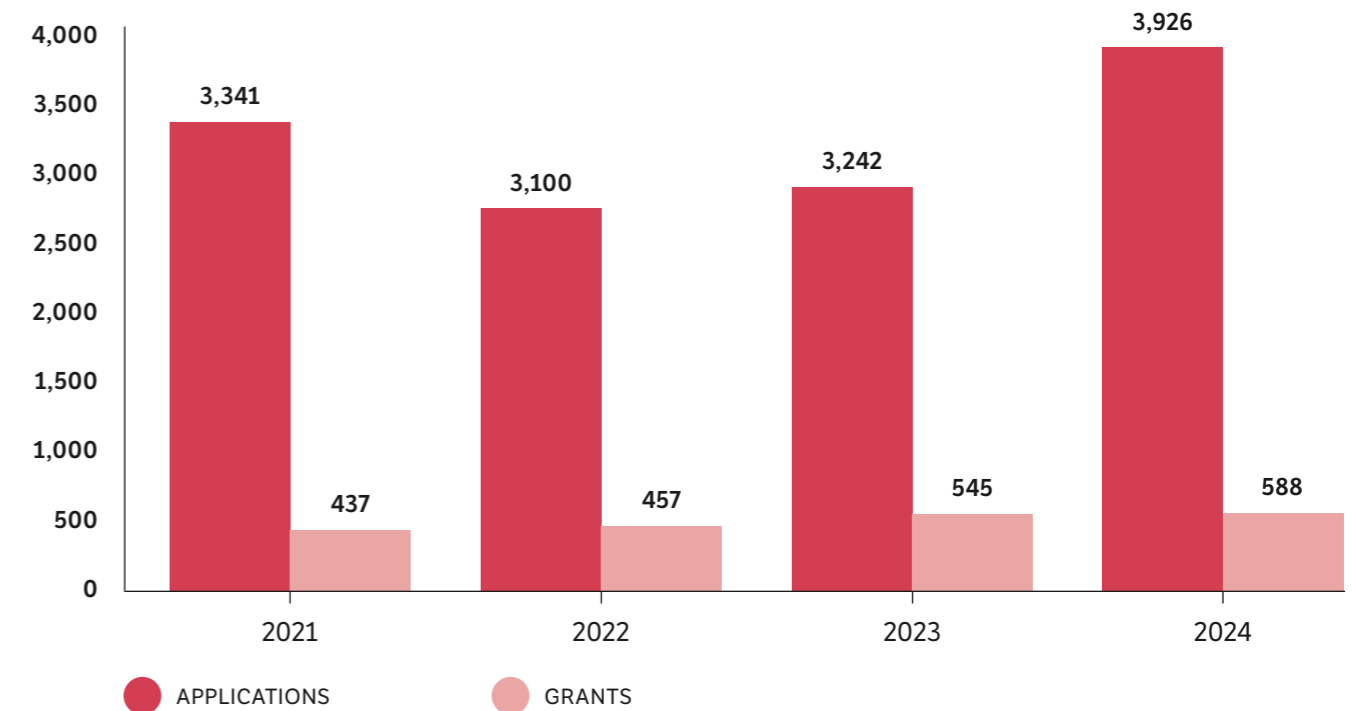
Independent Research Fund Denmark received 3,926 applications in 2024 for a total of DKK 14.1 billion.

### FIGURES FOR 2024

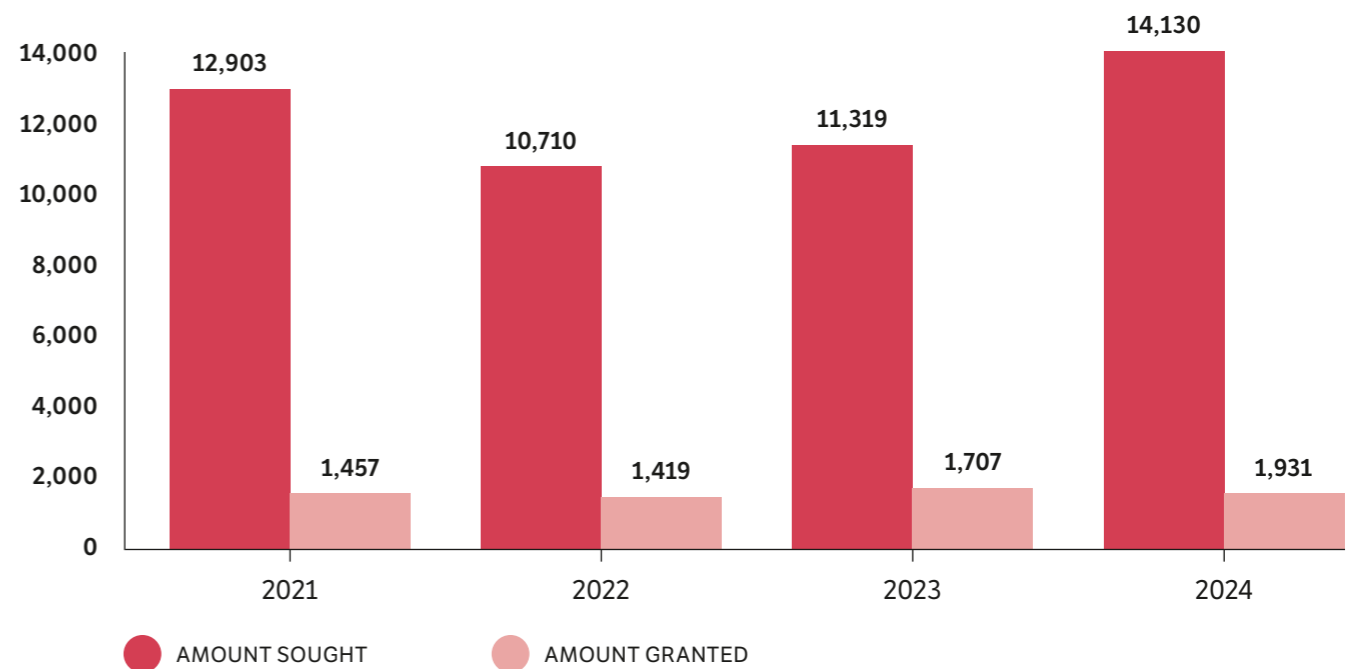


### APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS 2021–2024

#### NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS



#### AMOUNT APPLIED FOR AND GRANTED, MILLION DKK, CURRENT PRICES



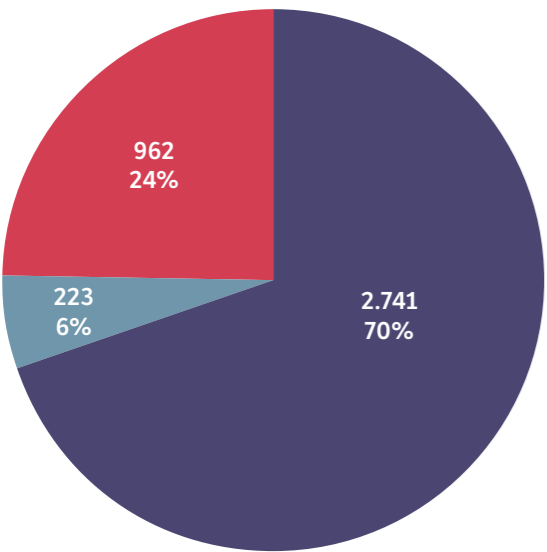
## APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS BROKEN DOWN BY THE FUND'S INSTRUMENTS

In 2024, Independent Research Fund Denmark allocated funds across a number of different instruments and thematic programmes via its research councils and thematic committees.

In the case of the independent funds, there are no constraints in terms of the subject areas that applicants can work within, and the fund accepts applications within all primary scientific disciplines – on everything from postpartum depression to the optimisation of rechargeable batteries.

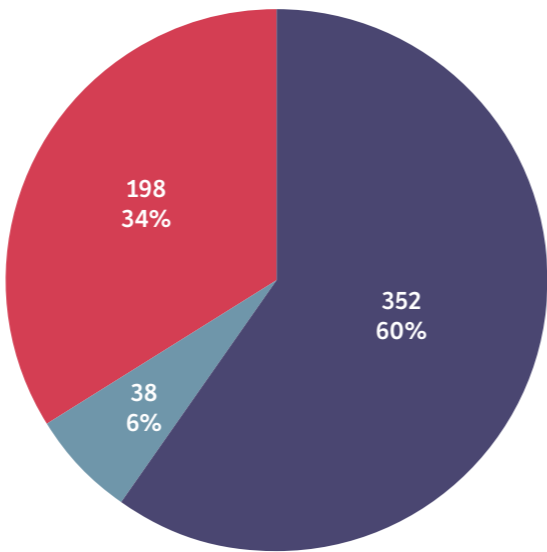
In the case of the politically determined instruments and themes, a framework for these funds has been established via the annual budget and the research reserve which determines the themes that applicants need to address. This framework is determined annually in connection with the negotiation and adoption of the budget and agreements on the distribution of the research reserve.

BREAKDOWN OF APPLICATIONS IN 2024



INDEPENDENT RESEARCH\* POLITICALLY DETERMINED INSTRUMENTS

BREAKDOWN OF GRANTS IN 2024



POLITICALLY DETERMINED THEMES

## APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS BROKEN DOWN INTO INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, POLITICALLY DETERMINED INSTRUMENTS AND POLITICALLY DETERMINED THEMES 2021–2024

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants
Independent research								
DFF-Research Project1	1276	149	1177	167	1133	198	1563	198
DFF-Research Project2	643	52	519	56	419	54	591	56
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	215	34	99	16	71	13	109	17
Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant	404	43	356	41	348	39	336	38
Pre-graduate Scholarships   Medical Sciences	51	19	69	20	60	21	67	18
Clinician Scientist Positions   Medical Sciences	24	9	26	9	25	9	25	7
International Research Stay   Social Sciences	18	6	24	5	24	8	13	4
Journals   Humanities	18	7	10	5	11	6	12	6
Explorative Network   Humanities	12	6	17	4	18	9	25	8
Total, Independent research	2661	325	2297	323	2109	357	2741	352
Politically determined instruments								
The Inge Lehmann Programme	143	39	211	29	178	28	180	29
Non-university Research Education	55	9	49	10	42	9	43	9
Danish ERC Support Programme	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total, politically determined instruments	201	51	260	39	220	37	223	38
Politically determined themes								
Better frameworks for psychiatry	-	-	-	-	167	35	140	35
Green research	479	61	338	38	354	32	333	43
Strengthened clinical and independent research	-	-	205	57	295	61	247	66
Learning and well-being in primary schools	-	-	-	-	18	7	-	-
Strengthening research on vulnerable children and youth	-	-	-	-	63	10	-	-
Stronger research environments for vocational education	-	-	-	-	16	6	-	-
Arctic research	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	12
Primary schools and vocational education	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	14
Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	28
Total, politically determined themes	479	61	543	95	913	151	962	198
Total	3341	437	3100	457	3242	545	3926	588

\*Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant

APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS FOR THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*								
DFF-Research Project1	24	4	16	2	23	3	34	3
DFF-Research Project2	27	0	18	3	19	2	21	2
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	10	0	3	0	6	1	6	2
Non-University Research Education	55	9	49	10	42	9	43	9
The Inge Lehmann Programme	143	39	211	29	178	28	180	29
Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant	404	43	356	41	348	39	336	38
Total	663	95	653	85	616	82	620	83
DFF   Humanities								
DFF-Research Project1	120	11	106	11	85	11	174	18
DFF-Research Project2	149	12	124	13	103	15	98	13
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	46	5	29	4	16	4	18	3
Explorative Network   Humanities	12	6	17	4	18	9	25	8
Journals   Humanities	18	7	10	5	11	6	12	6
Danish ERC Support Programme	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	346	42	286	37	233	45	327	48
DFF   Natural Sciences								
DFF-Research Project1	320	39	290	47	262	58	337	54
DFF-Research Project2	117	10	93	10	75	7	82	7
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	47	8	22	3	13	2	31	4
Danish ERC Support Programme	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	485	58	405	60	350	67	450	65

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants
DFF   Social Sciences								
DFF-Research Project1	120	11	144	14	133	17	187	20
DFF-Research Project2	96	8	82	8	79	10	104	9
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	34	4	19	3	10	1	24	3
International Research Stays   Social Sciences	18	6	24	5	24	8	13	4
Total	268	29	269	30	246	36	328	36
DFF   Medical Sciences								
DFF-Research Project1	365	50	339	54	369	66	462	67
DFF-Research Project2	81	7	72	7	48	5	90	5
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	34	10	8	2	14	2	16	2
Pre-Graduate Scholarships   Medical Sciences	51	19	69	20	60	21	67	18
Clinician Scientist Positions   Medical Sciences	24	9	26	9	25	9	25	7
Total	555	95	514	92	516	103	660	99
DFF   Technology and Production								
DFF-Research Project1	327	34	282	39	261	43	369	36
DFF-Research Project2	173	15	130	15	95	15	196	20
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	44	7	18	4	12	3	14	3
Danish ERC Support Programme	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	545	57	430	58	368	61	579	59

\* Note that applications for Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, the Inge Lehmann program and Research Education outside the universities are sent to the academic councils, but that the decision on the implementation of projects is decided cross-council.

APPLICATIONS AND GRANTS FOR THE THEMATIC COMMITTEES

	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants
DFF   Thematic committee – Better frameworks for psychiatry	-	-	-	-	167	35	140	35
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	-	-	127	30	115	30
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	40	5	25	5
DFF   Thematic Committee – Strengthened clinical and independent research	-	-	205	57	295	61	247	66
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	205	57	222	44	191	52
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	73	17	56	14
DFF   Thematic committee – Green research	479	61	338	38	354	32	333	43
DFF-Research Project1	237	33	338	38	354	32	333	43
DFF-Research Project2	183	20	-	-	-	-	-	-
DFF-Research Project3	59	8	-	-	-	-	-	-
DFF   Thematic Committee – Learning and well-being in primary schools	-	-	-	-	18	7	-	-
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	-	-	15	6	-	-
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-

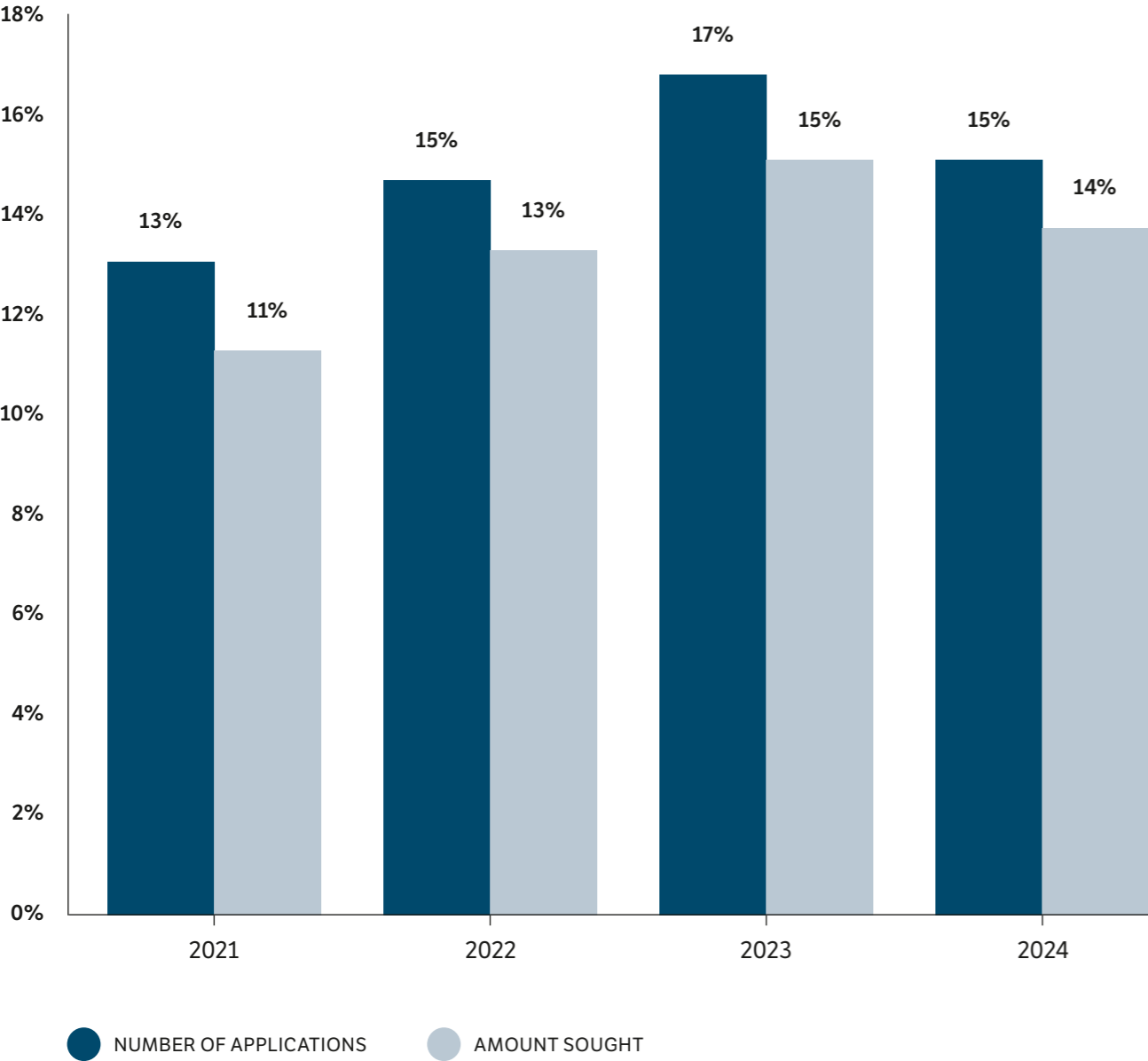
	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants	Appli-cations	Grants
DFF   Thematic committee – Strengthening research on vulnerable children and youth	-	-	-	-	63	10	-	-
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	-	-	48	8	-	-
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	15	2	-	-
DFF   Thematic committee – Arctic research	-	-	-	-	-	-	75	12
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	9
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	3
DFF   Thematic committee – Primary schools and vocational education	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	14
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	-	-	-	-	35	13
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	1
DFF   Thematic committee – Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	-	-	-	-	-	-	125	28
DFF-Research Project1	-	-	-	-	-	-	114	25
DFF-Research Project2	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	3

SUCCESS RATES

The fund's success rates depend on how much money it allocates and how many applications it receives.

In 2024, approximately 15% of the applications received by the fund were awarded a grant.

SUCCESS RATES



SUCCESS RATES IN THE RESEARCH COUNCILS AND THEMATIC COMMITTEES

SUCCESS RATES BY AMOUNT SOUGHT

Research councils	2021	2022	2023	2024
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*	13%	12%	12%	13%
DFF   Humanities	9%	11%	15%	12%
DFF   Natural Sciences	11%	14%	17%	13%
DFF   Social Sciences	9%	10%	13%	10%
DFF   Medical Sciences	13%	15%	16%	13%
DFF   Technology and Production	10%	13%	16%	10%

The thematic committees	2021	2022	2023	2024
Better frameworks for psychiatry	-	-	19%	24%
Green research	13%	11%	9%	13%
Clinical research	-	28%	21%	28%
Arctic research	-	-	-	15%
Primary schools and vocational education	-	-	-	29%
Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	-	-	-	22%
Learning and well-being in primary schools	-	-	37%	-
Strengthening research on vulnerable children and youth	-	-	15%	-
Stronger research environments for vocational education	-	-	37%	-

\*Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, Non-University Research Education and the Inge Lehmann Programme

SUCCESS RATES BY NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Research councils	2021	2022	2023	2024
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*	14%	13%	13%	13%
DFF   Humanities	12%	13%	19%	15%
DFF   Natural Sciences	12%	15%	19%	14%
DFF   Social Sciences	11%	11%	15%	11%
DFF   Medical Sciences	17%	18%	20%	15%
DFF   Technology and Production	10%	13%	17%	10%

The thematic committees	2021	2022	2023	2024
Better frameworks for psychiatry	-	-	21%	25%
Green research	13%	11%	9%	13%
Clinical research	-	28%	21%	27%
Arctic research	-	-	-	16%
Primary schools and vocational education	-	-	-	33%
Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	-	-	-	22%
Learning and well-being in primary schools	-	-	39%	-
Strengthening research on vulnerable children and youth	-	-	16%	-
Stronger research environments for vocational education	-	-	38%	-

\*Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, Non-University Research Education and the Inge Lehmann Programme

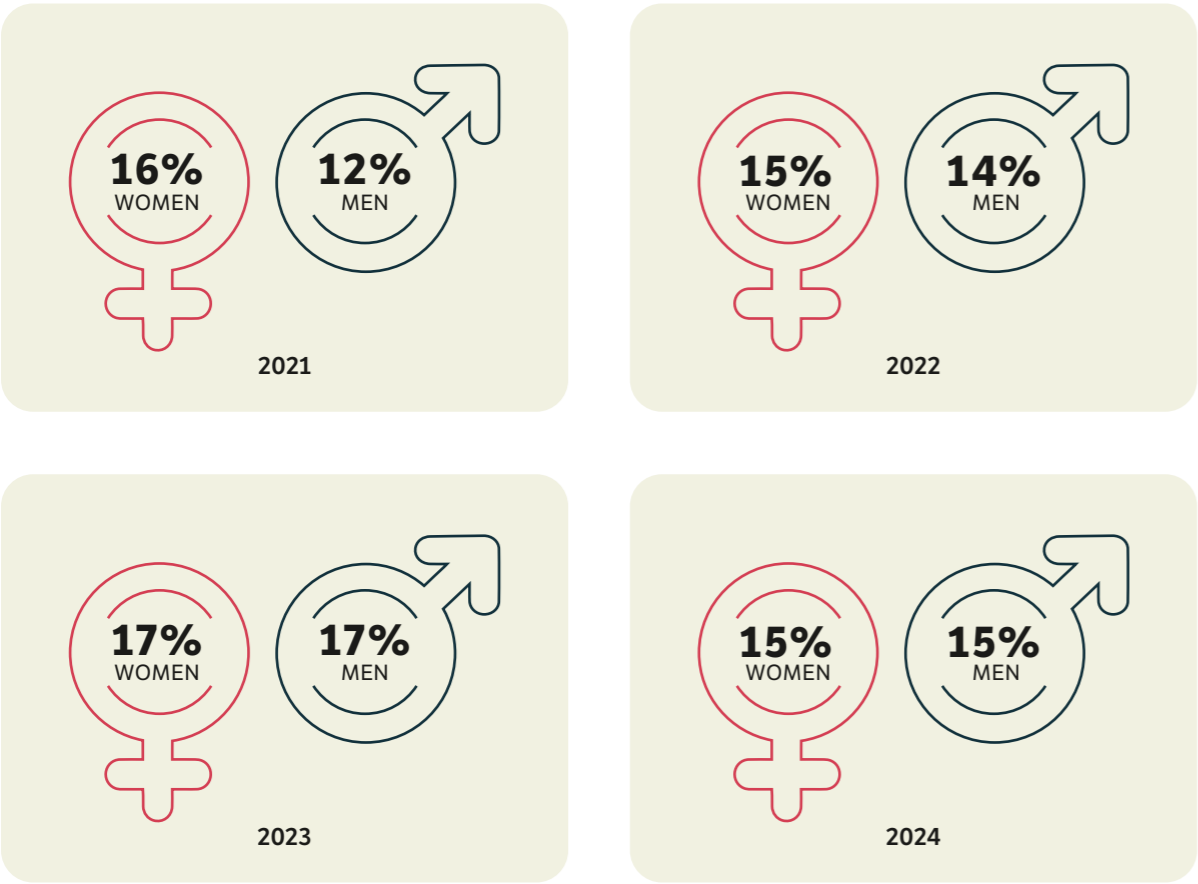
SUCCESS RATES BY GENDER

Women and men must have equal opportunities to obtain grants from the fund. With this in mind, the fund continuously monitors the success rates among both women and men.

Overall, the fund's applicant base reflects the gender balance at the country's universities, cf. the talent barometer of the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. The figures show that women and men generally have

equal opportunities to obtain a grant, and with the exception of 2021, the success rates among women and men have been roughly equal.

SUCCESS RATES (NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS) BY GENDER



The figures include all instruments allocated in the period.

SUCCESS RATES BY NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS

Research councils	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*	18%	11%	15%	10%	15%	11%	15%	11%
DFF   Humanities	15%	10%	10%	15%	21%	18%	12%	16%
DFF   Natural Sciences	16%	11%	15%	15%	18%	19%	8%	16%
DFF   Social Sciences	13%	9%	13%	10%	13%	16%	9%	12%
DFF   Medical Sciences	19%	16%	15%	20%	18%	21%	13%	17%
DFF   Technology and Production	11%	10%	10%	15%	14%	17%	11%	10%

The thematic committees	2021		2022		2023		2024	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
Better frameworks for psychiatry	-	-	-	-	21%	21%	21%	20%
Green research	15%	12%	17%	9%	8%	9%	12%	13%
Clinical Research	-	-	27%	29%	18%	22%	28%	26%
Arctic research	-	-	-	-	-	-	19%	13%
Primary schools and vocational education	-	-	-	-	-	-	32%	35%
Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	-	-	-	-	-	-	23%	20%
Learning and well-being in primary schools	-	-	-	-	58%	0%	-	-
Strengthening research on vulnerable children and youth	-	-	-	-	22%	0%	-	-
Stronger research environments for vocational education	-	-	-	-	43%	33%	-	-

\*Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, Non-University Research Education and the Inge Lehmann Programme.  
Both tables include all instruments allocated in the period. The success rate is calculated based on the number of applications and the number of grants awarded.

## APPLICANT PHD AGE

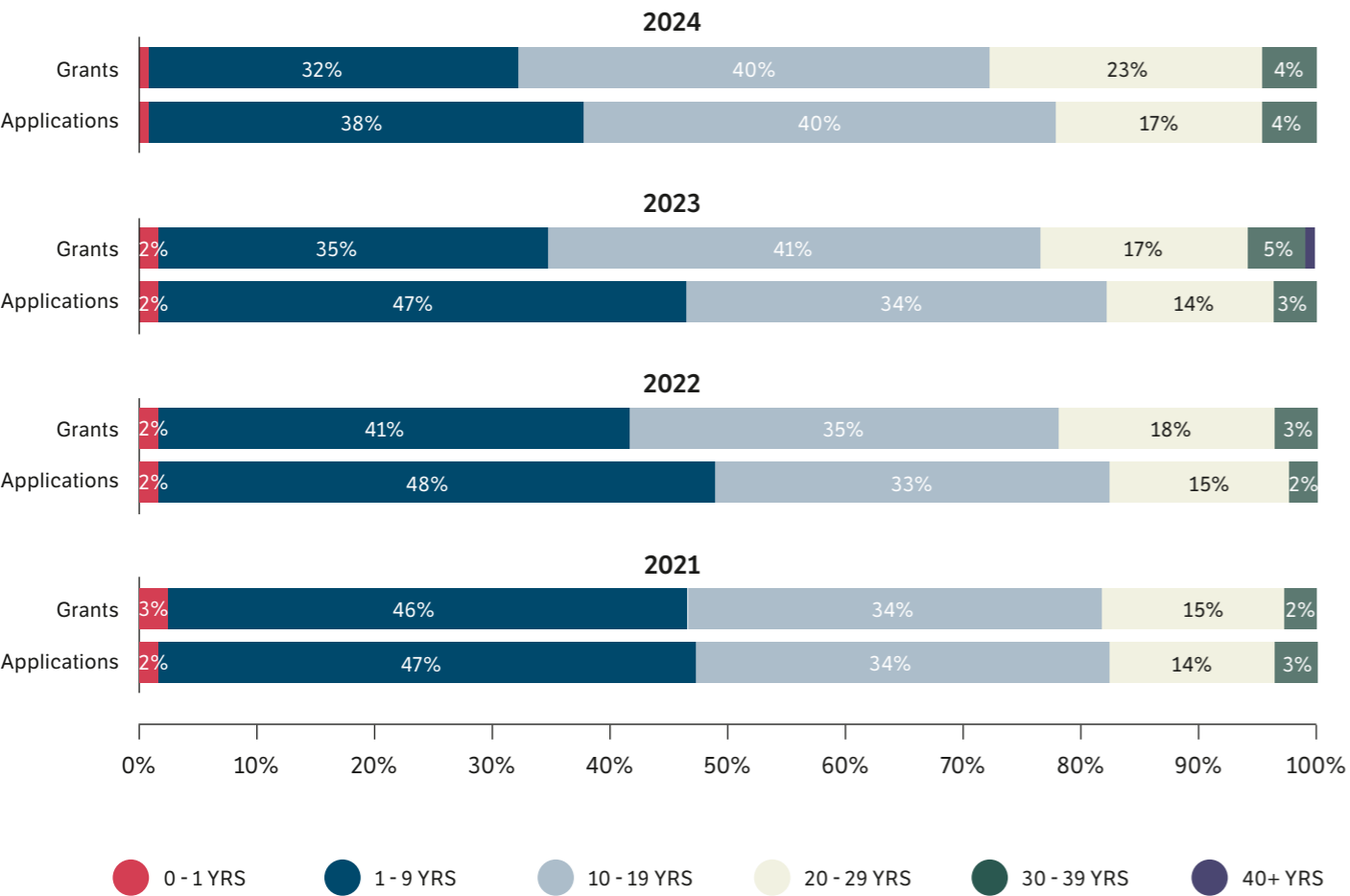
An important part of building a sustainable and strong research and knowledge ecosystem is to help create the best conditions to support talented researchers at all stages of their careers.

Independent Research Fund Denmark works to achieve this through instruments such as DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant, which is aimed at early career researchers, while instruments such as Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grants and DFF-Research Project2 are aimed at more experienced researchers.

DFF-Research Project1 is the instrument that receives the most applications and is not subject to any requirements regarding PhD age.

The variation in PhD age requirements means that the fund receives applications from both early-career researchers and more established researchers.

### PHD AGE BREAKDOWN FOR APPLICANTS AND GRANT RECIPIENTS



PhD age indicates for how long the applicant has held their PhD at the time of application.

PHD AGE GROUPS IN THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

Applications	0-1 yrs	1-9 yrs	10-19 yrs	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40+ yrs	Total
2024							
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*	1%	93%	5%	1%	0%	0%	100%
DFF   Humanities	2%	20%	55%	20%	3%	0%	100%
DFF   Natural Sciences	2%	23%	39%	28%	7%	1%	100%
DFF   Social Sciences	2%	33%	50%	12%	3%	0%	100%
DFF   Medical Sciences	1%	19%	50%	24%	5%	1%	100%
DFF   Technology and Production	1%	25%	47%	21%	6%	0%	100%

Grants	0-1 yrs	1-9 yrs	10-19 yrs	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40+ yrs	Total
2024							
DFF   Cross-Council Committee*	3%	92%	3%	1%	1%	0%	100%
DFF   Humanities	0%	21%	59%	15%	5%	0%	100%
DFF   Natural Sciences	0%	8%	48%	35%	7%	2%	100%
DFF   Social Sciences	3%	50%	26%	21%	0%	0%	100%
DFF   Medical Sciences	1%	17%	36%	42%	4%	1%	100%
DFF   Technology and Production	2%	9%	53%	25%	11%	0%	100%

PHD AGE GROUPS IN THE THEMATIC COMMITTEES

APPLICATIONS	0-1 yrs	1-9 yrs	10-19 yrs	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40+ yrs	Total
2024							
Better frameworks for psychiatry	0%	34%	48%	16%	1%	0%	100%
Green research	1%	39%	42%	15%	3%	0%	100%
Clinical Research	0%	40%	43%	14%	3%	0%	100%
Arctic research	0%	29%	45%	19%	5%	1%	100%
Primary schools and vocational education	0%	37%	51%	10%	2%	0%	100%
Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	1%	31%	44%	20%	4%	0%	100%

GRANTS	0-1 yrs	1-9 yrs	10-19 yrs	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40+ yrs	Total
2024							
Better frameworks for psychiatry	0%	27%	48%	24%	0%	0%	100%
Green research	0%	16%	56%	28%	0%	0%	100%
Clinical Research	0%	39%	45%	15%	2%	0%	100%
Arctic research	0%	25%	42%	33%	0%	0%	100%
Primary schools and vocational education	0%	31%	69%	0%	0%	0%	100%
Vulnerable children and youth, loneliness and elderly research	0%	32%	43%	18%	7%	0%	100%

\* Including Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, Non-University Research Education and the Inge Lehmann Programme

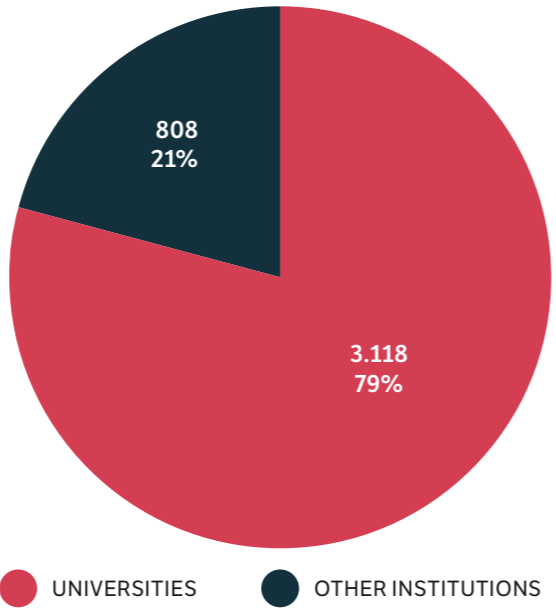
INSTITUTIONS

The majority of the applications received by Independent Research Fund Denmark are submitted by researchers from one of the Danish universities.

Researchers from the University of Copenhagen and Aarhus University in particular submit many applications, while the fund receives fewer applications from the IT University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen Business School and Roskilde University.

Applications from non-university researchers tend to come primarily from researchers working in Denmark’s regional administrations. This group includes applicants from university hospitals and researchers within psychiatric services, etc.

Applications from universities in 2024



APPLICATIONS, GRANTS AND SUCCESS RATES FOR INSTITUTIONS

Institutions	2021			2022			2023			2024		
	Applica-tions	Grants	Success rates	Applica-tions	Grants	Success rates	Applica-tions	Grants	Success rates	Applica-tions	Grants	Success rates
Universities												
University of Copenhagen	836	109	13%	794	115	14%	704	126	18%	847	138	16%
Aarhus University	721	112	16%	698	113	16%	766	133	17%	910	158	17%
Technical University of Denmark	500	49	10%	415	48	12%	370	57	15%	464	50	11%
University of Southern Denmark	290	33	11%	300	36	12%	310	48	15%	383	49	13%
Aalborg University	205	17	8%	192	24	13%	211	24	11%	280	29	10%
Roskilde University	63	9	14%	76	12	16%	88	8	9%	122	17	14%
Copenhagen Business School	60	9	15%	60	3	5%	70	6	9%	69	6	9%
IT University	38	5	13%	33	5	15%	37	4	11%	43	2	5%
Other institutions												
Denmark’s regions Including hospitals, etc.	220	33	15%	356	68	19%	463	95	21%	555	92	17%
Sector research	65	10	15%	52	9	17%	64	22	34%	78	15	19%
University colleges	20	3	15%	17	2	12%	49	4	8%	49	8	16%
Universities abroad	23	1	4%	2	0	0%	1	0	0%	3	0	0%
Other	300	47	16%	105	22	21%	109	18	17%	123	24	20%

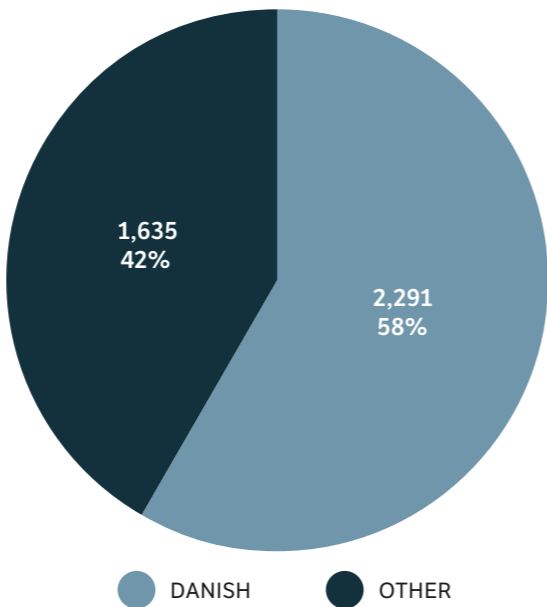
NATIONALITY

Of the 3,926 applications received by the fund in 2024, almost 60% were submitted by Danish citizens.

In general, applications submitted by Danish citizens have a higher success rate than applications submitted by applicants of other nationalities.

It is primarily researchers with German, Italian and Chinese citizenship who make up the share of non-Danish citizens submitting applications to the fund.

Applicant nationality in 2024



APPLICATIONS, GRANTS AND SUCCESS RATES BY NATIONALITY

	2021			2022			2023			2024		
Nationality	Applica-tions	Grants	Succes-rate	Applica-tions	Grants	Succes-rate	Applica-tions	Grants	Succes-rate	Applica-tions	Grants	Succes-rate
Denmark	1.866	270	14%	1.806	314	17%	1.930	384	20%	2.291	403	18%
Germany	219	27	12%	209	27	13%	213	38	18%	253	25	10%
Italy	125	16	13%	116	9	8%	99	7	7%	108	6	6%
China	123	13	11%	107	12	11%	101	8	8%	143	15	10%
USA	85	10	12%	70	11	16%	82	12	15%	78	13	17%
United Kingdom	71	11	15%	57	6	11%	77	9	12%	88	14	16%
Sweden	69	8	12%	51	6	12%	67	10	15%	74	13	18%
Iran	62	7	11%	47	5	11%	58	4	7%	70	5	7%
Spain	49	7	14%	44	9	20%	44	4	9%	55	6	11%
The Netherlands	48	4	8%	27	4	15%	28	3	11%	33	8	24%
France	38	3	8%	27	1	4%	35	5	14%	46	9	20%
Other	586	61	10%	539	53	10%	508	61	12%	687	71	10%
Total	3341	437	13%	3100	457	15%	3242	545	17%	3926	588	15%

The overview of 'other nationalities' only includes the 10 nationalities that have submitted the most applications.



# THE BOARD

The board of Independent Research Fund Denmark establishes the political and strategic direction of the fund and, together with the research councils, it provides research-related consultancy to the Minister for Higher Education and Science, the Danish Parliament and the Government. The board makes decisions regarding the distribution of the funds among the research councils and does not have the authority to grant funding itself.



**Board of Directors as of 1 May 2024**  
**From left:** Søren Serritzlew, Lone Gram, Klaus Petersen, Nanna Mik-Meyer, Jørgen Frøkiær, Mette Marie Rosenkilde, Lasse Rosendahl and Ole Kirk.

**JØRGEN FRØKIÆR** (deputy chair)  
Professor, Head of Department, Department of Clinical Medicine  
AARHUS UNIVERSITY

**KLAUS PETERSEN**  
Professor, Head of Centre, Department of Language, Culture,  
History and Communication, Danish Institute for Advanced Study  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN DENMARK

**LASSE ROSENDAHL**  
Professor, PhD, Executive Director for Novo Nordisk Foundation  
CO<sub>2</sub> Research Center, CORC  
AALBORG UNIVERSITY

**LONE GRAM**  
Professor, PhD, Head of Centre, Department of Biotechnology and Biomedicine  
TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK

**METTE MARIE ROSENKILDE**  
Professor, Deputy Head of Department, Department of Biomedical Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

**NANNA MIK-MEYER**  
Professor, PhD, Department of Organisation  
COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

**OLE KIRK**  
PhD, Independent Consultant in Biotechnology

**SØREN SERRITZLEW** (chair)  
Professor, Department of Political Science  
AARHUS UNIVERSITY

# THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

Independent Research Fund Denmark consists of a total of 84 members across its board and five scientific research councils: **Humanities, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, Medical Sciences and Technology and Production.**

In addition, there is also a **Cross-Council Committee** which is comprised of the chairs of the five research councils. Thematic ad hoc committees are also set up on an annual basis to allocate funds with politically determined themes such as Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities and Research on Loneliness.



**From left:** Lone Koefoed Hansen (H), Mogens Brøndsted Nielsen (TP), Katrine Vitus (SS), Søren Bak (NS) and Peter Rossing (MS).

## DFF | Humanities (H)

This council covers the following primary disciplines: Art history, architecture and design, media studies, film studies, musicology, IT and technology studies in the humanities, comparative literature, dramaturgy, philology, linguistics, communication research, anthropology, ethnology, archaeology, history, philosophy, history of ideas and science, theology, comparative religion, educational theory, pedagogy, psychology and other related research disciplines within the humanities, such as library research, museology, as well as humanistic research within sports science, public health, urban and physical planning.

Professor Anders Engberg-Pedersen	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Ane Qvortrup	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Bo Poulsen	Aalborg University
Professor Kim Christian Schrøder	Roskilde University
Professor Klemens Kapel	University of Copenhagen
Associate Professor Lone Koefoed Hansen (Chair)	Aarhus University
Professor Mette Sandbye	University of Copenhagen
Professor Mikkel Bille	University of Copenhagen
Professor Pia Quist	University of Copenhagen
Professor Randi Starrfelt	University of Copenhagen
Professor Søren Michael Sindbæk	Aarhus University
Associate Professor Ulla Schmidt	Aarhus University

## DFF | Natural Sciences (NS)

This council covers research areas within the classical disciplines of astronomy, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, molecular biology, biochemistry/biophysics, biology, geology and the natural science aspects of geography.

Professor Carsten Wiuf	University of Copenhagen
Professor Henrik Grum Kjærgaard	University of Copenhagen
Professor Johannes Overgaard	Aarhus University
Associate Professor Kirstine Berg-Sørensen	Technical University of Denmark
Professor Kresten Lindorff-Larsen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Lars Birkedal	Aarhus University
Professor Mette Burmølle	University of Copenhagen
Professor Nicolaj Krog Larsen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Shfaqat Abbas Khan	Technical University of Denmark
Professor Steen Lynge Hannestad	Aarhus University
Professor Søren Bak (Chair)	University of Copenhagen
Professor Tenna Riis	Aarhus University
Professor Tinna Ventrup Stevnsner	Aarhus University
Professor Torsten Nygård Kristensen	Aalborg University
Professor Troels Skrydstrup	Aarhus University

DFF | Social Sciences (SS)

This council covers the following primary disciplines: Economics, sociology, political science and legal theory, as well as the societal aspects of various interdisciplinary subjects (e.g. communication studies, development studies, gender studies and cultural geography).

Professor Anne Skorkjær Binderkrantz	Aarhus University
Professor Bjørn Thomassen	Roskilde University
Senior Researcher Jens-Peter Thomsen	VIVE
Professor Kathrine Vitus <small>(Chair)</small>	VIVE
Professor Lisbeth Funding La Cour	Copenhagen Business School
Professor Margaretha Järvinen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Marianne Simonsen	Aarhus University
Professor Mette Hartlev	University of Copenhagen
Professor Peter Norman Sørensen	University of Copenhagen
Senior Researcher Rens Van Munster	DIIS
Professor Robert Tranekær Klemmensen	Lund University
Professor Toke Reichstein	Copenhagen Business School

DFF | Medical Sciences (MS)

This council covers research disciplines within all aspects of both general and clinical research aimed at better understanding human health and disease. It thus covers general aspects of scientific research such as molecular medicine and genetics, anatomy, medical physiology and biochemistry, medical microbiology, pharmacology and pharmaceuticals, disease modelling, medical bioinformatics and systems biology. The clinical aspects cover medicine, surgery and psychiatry, dentistry, investigation, diagnosis and paramedicine, examination and treatment practices, including nutrition, exercise and medications. Social aspects covered by this council include prevention, health services and epidemiological aspects, among others.

Professor Bo Torben Porse	University of Copenhagen/Rigshospitalet
Professor Claus Thorn Ekstrøm	University of Copenhagen/Capital Region of Denmark
Professor Ditte Caroline Andersen	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Helle Prætorius Øhrwald	Aarhus University
Professor Henrik Nielsen	Aalborg University/Aalborg University Hospital
Professor Jakob Balslev Sørensen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Karina Dalsgaard Sørensen	Aarhus University
Professor Marianne Skovsager Andersen	University of Southern Denmark/Odense University Hospital
Professor Michael Eriksen Benros	University of Copenhagen/Psychiatric Center Copenhagen
Professor Michael Hecht Olsen	University of Southern Denmark/Holbæk Hospital
Professor Michael Lisby	University of Copenhagen
Professor Nanna Brix Finnerup	Aarhus University
Professor Niels Jessen	Aarhus University/Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus
Professor Peter Rossing <small>(Chair)</small>	University of Copenhagen/Steno Diabetes Center
Professor Rune Hartmann	Aarhus University
Clinical Chair Professor Signe Jespersgaard Borgquist	Aarhus University/Aarhus University Hospital
Clinical Professor Søren Paaske Johnsen	Aalborg University
Professor Trine Hyrup Mogensen	Aarhus University/Aarhus University Hospital

DFF | Technology and Production (TP)

This council covers the following primary disciplines: Animal production, biotechnology, civil engineering technologies, electronics, energy engineering, food science, information technology, agricultural science, chemical engineering, communication technology, material technology, machine and production technology, medical technology, micro and nanotechnology, environmental technology, crop production, veterinary science and the exploitation of natural resources and environmental protections.

CTO Christian Vestergaard Poulsen	NKT Photonics A/S
Professor Dennis Sandris Nielsen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Dorthe Bomholdt Ravnsbæk	Aarhus University
Professor Elena Simona Radutoiu	Aarhus University
Professor Hanne Mørck Nielsen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Henrik Myhre Jensen	Aarhus University
Professor Horst-Günter Rubahn	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Lis Wollesen De Jonge	Aarhus University
Professor Michael Havbro Faber-Nielsen	Aalborg University
Professor Mogens Brøndsted Nielsen <small>(Chair)</small>	University of Copenhagen
Professor Morten Birkved	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Petar Popovski	Aalborg University
Professor Peter Ruhdal Jensen	Technical University of Denmark
Professor Stephen Edward Rees	Aalborg University
Professor Stine Jacobsen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Susanne Brix Pedersen	Technical University of Denmark
Professor Susanne Bødker	Aarhus University
Professor Thomas Thymann	University of Copenhagen

DFF | Cross-Council Committee

The DFF | Cross-Council Committee consists of representatives from all five of the scientific councils and works to coordinate the processing procedure for applications which transcend the boundaries of the individual councils. The Cross- council Committee also allocates funds to applications that are deemed to be truly cross-council in nature (see Section 5.5) and applications for Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant, Non-University Research Education and the Inge Lehmann Programme.

Lone Koefoed Hansen	Chair of DFF   <b>Humanities</b>	Aarhus University
Søren Bak	Chair of DFF   <b>Natural Sciences</b>	University of Copenhagen
Kathrine Vitus	Chair of DFF   <b>Social Sciences</b>	VIVE
Peter Rossing	Chair of DFF   <b>Medical Sciences</b>	University of Copenhagen/Steno Diabetes Center
Mogens Brøndsted Nielsen	Chair of DFF   <b>Technology and Production</b>	University of Copenhagen

# THEMATIC COMMITTEES

The fund establishes thematic committees on an annual basis to allocate funds within politically determined themes such as Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities and Research on loneliness. In 2024, there were six thematic committees and they allocated funds to nine politically determined themes.

- DFF | Thematic Committee  
Primary schools and vocational education
- DFF | Thematic Committee  
Strengthened clinical and independent research
- DFF | Thematic Committee  
Arctic research – Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities
- DFF | Thematic Committee  
Independent green research
- DFF | Thematic Committee  
Vulnerable children and youth, poor well-being, loneliness and elderly research
- DFF | Thematic Committee  
Better frameworks for research in psychiatry

## DFF | Thematic committee – Primary schools and vocational education

This committee has been set up to allocate funds from the Learning and Well-being in Primary Schools pool, the purpose of which is to strengthen practice-based research and generate new knowledge on learning and well-being in primary schools. Beyond that, the pool will strengthen the knowledge base for teacher training.

The committee has also awarded grants from the Stronger Research Environments for Vocational Training and Occupational Pedagogy and Practice-Based Learning pool, the purpose of which is to strengthen and develop the quality of vocational training programmes and make them more attractive. At the same time, research into occupational pedagogy and practice-based learning, as well as teacher knowledge of practical approaches to learning.

Professor Ane Qvortrup (Chair)	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Barbara E. Stalder	Pädagogische Hochschule Bern
Associate Professor Christian Christrup Kjeldsen	Aarhus University
Professor Emeritus Hanne Haavind	University of Oslo
Associate Professor Henriette Duch	VIA University College
Professor Jeppe Bundsgaard	Aarhus University
Associate Professor Linnea Bodén	Stockholm University
Advanced Associate Professor Marianne Riis	University College Absalon
Senior Researcher Mette Lausten	VIVE
Professor Sigrun Karin Ertesvåg	University of Stavanger
Advanced Associate Professor Stig Toke Gissel	UCL University College
Professor Therese Nilsson	Lund University

## DFF | Thematic Committee – Strengthened clinical and independent research

This committee has been established to allocate funds to strengthen patient-oriented clinical and independent research, including independent and researcher-initiated trials, studies and similar within areas where there is limited commercial interest or opportunities for external funding.

Professor David Gaist	University of Southern Denmark
Clinical Professor Ellen Løkkegaard	University of Copenhagen
Professor Hanne Konradsen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Hans Erik Bøtker	Aarhus University
Clinical Chair Professor Henrik Toft Sørensen (Chair)	Aarhus University
Professor Jens Otto Lunde Jørgensen	Aarhus University
Professor Jens Søndergaard	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Jonas Ludvigsson	Karolinska Institute
Professor Mari Hysing	University of Bergen
Professor Marius Henriksen	University of Copenhagen
Adjunct Professor Mette Kreutzfeldt Zebis	University College Copenhagen
Professor Nabanita Datta Gupta	Aarhus University
Professor Olaf Dekkers	Leiden University
Professor Per Kjær	UCL University College
Clinical Professor Peter Martin Rudnicki	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Emeritus Robert Unwin	University College London
Professor Susanne Dalton	University of Copenhagen
Professor Tina Kold Jensen	University of Southern Denmark

DFF | Thematic committee – Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable Arctic communities

This committee has been established to allocate funds to strengthen Arctic research that can contribute to sustainable development in the Arctic through a better understanding of climate change and its impact on biodiversity, ecosystems, cultural heritage and living conditions in this region.

Associate Professor Carina Ren	Aalborg University
Associate Professor Christian Zdanowicz	Uppsala University
Professor Colin Stedmon	Technical University of Denmark
Rector Gitte Adler Reimer	Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland)
Professor Jan Karlsson	Umeå University
Professor Kirsten Seestern Christoffersen	University of Copenhagen
Associate Professor Mari Kleist	Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland)
Professor Michiel Van den Broeke	Utrecht University
Professor Rasmus Gjedssø Bertelsen	The Arctic University of Norway
Associate Professor Steven Arnfjord	Ilisimatusarfik (University of Greenland)
Associate Professor Thomas Ingeman-Nielsen <small>(Chair)</small>	Technical University of Denmark

DFF | Thematic committee – Independent green research

This committee has been set up to allocate funds for green, independent and curiosity-driven research.

Professor Ann Muggeridge	Imperial College London
Research Director Christa Fittschen	University Lille
Professor Clare Saunders	University of Exeter
Associate Professor Dingeman Wiertz	University College London
Professor Dolly Jørgensen	University of Stavanger
Professor Jakob Stoustrup	Aalborg University
Professor Jan Oskar Jeppesen <small>(Chair)</small>	University of Southern Denmark
Professor Jan Rossmeisl	University of Copenhagen
Professor Jens Stougaard	Aarhus University
BGS Director Karen Hanghøj	British Geological Survey
Professor Katharina Al-Shamery	Carl von Ossietzky University Oldenburg
Senior Lecturer Kristine Belesova	Imperial College London
Professor MSO Lars Tønder	University of Copenhagen
Professor Mark Saeys	Ghent University
Professor Morten Petersen	University of Copenhagen
Professor Peter Balling	Aarhus University
Professor Peter Palensky	Delft University of Technology
Professor Reinhard Hennig	University of Agder

DFF | Thematic Committee – Vulnerable children and youth, poor well-being, loneliness and elderly research

This committee has been set up to allocate grants from the funding pools for Elderly Research, Research on Loneliness and Strengthening Research on Vulnerable Children, Youth & Poor Well-Being.

Within Elderly Research, the focus is on supporting multidisciplinary and practice-oriented research relating to the care of the elderly, including rehabilitation and prevention, with an emphasis on the municipal healthcare context.

Research on Loneliness supports research that contributes to knowledge about the causes, management and prevention of loneliness throughout different stages of life and across generations.

Strengthening Research on Vulnerable Children, Youth & Poor Well-Being supports capacity-building and the greater coordination of practice-oriented research into vulnerable children and young people, and it contributes new knowledge about factors such as causal relationships.

Professor Anders Hjern	Karolinska Institute
Associate Professor Anne Mia Steno	University College Copenhagen
Professor Boo Johansson	University of Gothenburg
Advanced Associate Professor Charlotte Krog Skott	University College Absalon
Professor Hans Bosma	Maastricht University
Professor Lars Fr. H. Svendsen	University of Bergen
Professor MSO Line Lerche Mørck	Aarhus University
Professor MSO Lone Grøn	VIVE
Associate Professor Maria Humlum	Aarhus University
Professor Mattias Strandh <small>(Chair)</small>	Umeå University
Professor Morten Balle Hansen	UCL University College/University of Southern Denmark
Professor Oddbjørg Skjær Ulvik	Oslo Metropolitan University
Professor Søren Dalsgaard	Copenhagen University Hospital
Professor Ylva Brännström Almquist	Stockholm University

DFF | Thematic Committee – Better frameworks for research in psychiatry

This committee has been set up to allocate funds to support a better framework for research in psychiatry. Among other things, these funds can support research into prevention, causal factors, early intervention, treatment, quality, coherence and user and family involvement, poor well-being, loneliness, methods to reduce coercion, medication-free alternatives such as art, culture and nature, digital treatments and virtual reality.

Clinical Professor Anders Fink-Jensen	University of Copenhagen/Capital Region of Denmark
Professor Belinda Lennox	University of Oxford
Associate Professor Chalotte Glintborg	Aalborg University
Professor Dasha Nicholls	Imperial College London
Professor Erkki Isometsä	University of Helsinki
Professor Heleen Riper	Amsterdam University Medical Center
Professor Ingrid Melle <small>(Chair)</small>	University of Oslo
Professor John McGrath	The University of Queensland
Professor Jaana Suvisaari	The Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
Professor Kolbjørn Kallesten Brønnick	University of Stavanger
Professor Pieter Hoekstra	University of Groningen
Professor Randi Starrfelt	University of Copenhagen
Professor René Ernst Nielsen	Aalborg University Hospital



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**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK,  
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENCE**

Asylgade 7

5000 Odense C

Tel: +45 72 31 82 00

E-mail: [dff@ufm.dk](mailto:dff@ufm.dk)

[www.dff.dk](http://www.dff.dk)

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