

Revised August 2022

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

AUTUMN 2022 & SPRING 2023



**DANMARKS FRIE
FORSKNINGSFOND**
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
FUND DENMARK

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1 CONDITIONS FOR INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK'S SUPPORT FOR RESEARCH

Independent Research Fund Denmark's (DFF) main task is to provide financial support to concrete and fixed-term research activities based on the researchers' own ideas. The fund considers it its primary task to support the growth layer and the continued development within independent, researcher-initiated research. DFF puts decisive weight on the professional research quality being ensured in the projects it supports.

The DFF strategy and policies can be found on the fund's website dff.dk.

The legislative basis for Independent Research Fund Denmark is [Act no. 384](#) of 26 April 2017 on the Danish Council for Research and Innovation Policy and Independent Research Fund Denmark.

1.1 GUIDE TO THIS CALL

In this call you can read about the options available to you as an applicant as well as the requirements that apply to applicants and applications. As a rule, you should read the entire call. In [section 2](#), however, you only need to read [section 2.1](#) and [section 2.2](#) in addition to the section on the specific funding instrument you wish to apply for.

1.2 DFF'S CALL FOR PROPOSALS AUTUMN 2022 AND SPRING 2023

With this call for proposals, Independent Research Fund Denmark invites applications for funding for research activities. The information in this call applies to applications submitted for the application deadlines in autumn 2022 and spring 2023. Consult [section 2.2](#) for the precise application deadlines. The ability of the fund to offer the funding instruments described in [section 2](#) is dependent on the level of funding for 2023 being equivalent to that of 2022. As the national budget for 2023 will not be confirmed until the end of 2022, the fund is unable to guarantee that all funding instruments will be offered in 2023.

This document is an English translation of the fund's Danish call for proposals. In case of any inconsistencies between the two versions, the information in the Danish version shall apply.

1.3 INTERNATIONALISATION

DFF strives to strengthen and further develop the internationalisation of Danish research and therefore wishes that applications submitted to the fund encompass international activities. The objective is to provide the best researchers and research groups the opportunity to coordinate and develop their cross-border research collaboration, as well as to give talented researchers the opportunity to spend a period of their research career abroad. Aspects of internationalisation can therefore figure in applications to all of DFF's funding instruments. In all cases, the applications are required to relate to the international *state of the art* within their area.

1.4 GENDER BALANCE

DFF also strives to support a balanced development of management resources for both genders at Danish research institutions and would like to see this taken into consideration in applications to DFF. For this reason, DFF encourages that applications, to the extent possible, demonstrate an approach to scientific practice that can act as an incubator for professional diversity and equal opportunities for male and female researchers. For applications seeking support for research groups or similar collaborative projects, the applicant must account for his/her considerations in relation to the gender composition of the research group or collaborative team. Such a statement is a requirement, but the actual gender composition of the group will not factor into the assessment of the application. The required

statement has been introduced to ensure the applicant's focus on contributing to equal opportunities for men and women in research.

1.5 OPEN ACCESS

DFF seeks to strengthen the societal effect of research by ensuring unrestricted and cost-free digital access to all the latest research results in scientific articles. For this reason, Independent Research Fund Denmark, the Danish National Research Foundation, and Innovation Fund Denmark adopted the "Open Access Policy for public research funds and foundations" in April 2019, which requires parallel publishing of published scientific articles resulting from full or partial funding from these foundations. However, DFF does not provide financial support for open access publishing as the fund allows for a quarantine period of 6-12 months. For further information on DFF's Open Access policy, see [DFF's website](#).

1.6 RESEARCH INTEGRITY

DFF expects that grant recipients follow the [Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#).

1.7 SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO CALL FOR PROPOSALS AUTUMN 2022 AND SPRING 2023

Updated requirements for your application to be given active consideration added to section 5.1:

- The project description must comply with both the allowed maximum amount of characters and pages as outlined in the section on the funding instrument applied for.
- The applicant's CV must not exceed 2 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 2 A4 pages must contain no more than 6000 characters, including spaces, figure texts, formulas, etc.
- Applications for Pre-graduate scholarship | Medical Sciences must not include students enrolled in educations that allow more than 6 months for the completion of the master thesis (regardless of whether this option is utilised).
- Applications for DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant must include a host declaration from the foreign host institution.

Other significant content-related changes:

- CV: It is a requirement that CV's and publication lists for all named participants and collaborators are included in the application (in total no longer than 2 pages per person). Collaborators must furthermore always attach a confirmation of collaboration.
- Application form: If no ethical issues are identified in your project, you must provide a brief account in which you justify this.
- Publication list: Requirement of statements concerning BFI level and JIF no longer apply.
- DFF | Medical Sciences only funds DFF-Research Project2 in special instances where it has been persuasively argued that the objective cannot be reached through a DFF-Research Project1.
- International research stay | Social Sciences: It is not possible to apply for funding for scientific/academic salary or expenses which are not research-related.
- Clinician scientist position | Medical Sciences: Requirement of clinical employment throughout the entire project period added.
- Pre-graduate scholarship | Medical Sciences: 1) requirement of 2 years finalized studies for the pre-graduate added; 2) up to DKK 120,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses, can now be awarded; 3) requirement of supervisory experience for the applicant no longer applies – instead, requirement that applicant is able to set aside sufficient time for the project added; 4) no support available for research projects where the scholarship for the student has already been financed entirely or in part from other sources; and 5) no option available for replacing the student after receiving funding.

Revision of the call

DFF has made a minor revision of the call for proposals in August 2022. DFF has clarified how the number of characters in the project description and the applicant's CV is counted in e-grant. For more information, see [section 4.3](#).

1.8 ABOUT INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK

DFF supports independent research based on the researchers' own ideas within and across all the main fields of science. DFF is comprised of a Board of Directors, five research councils and one cross-council committee:

*DFF | **Humanities** offers funding for researchers who work within the following 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.*

*DFF | **Natural Sciences** offers funding to researchers who investigate fundamental scientific issues within the natural sciences, computer science and mathematics, with an epistemological but not necessarily an applied scientific objective. The council covers research within the classical disciplines: astronomy, physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, molecular biology, biochemistry/biophysics, biology, geology as well as the natural science aspects of geography.*

*DFF | **Social Sciences** offers funding to researchers who work within the social sciences. DFF | Social Sciences covers the following main 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).*

*DFF | **Medical Sciences** offers funding to researchers who work with all aspects of basic, translational, clinical and socio-medical research in relation to human health and disease.*

*DFF | **Technology and Production Sciences** funds researchers carrying out basic research within technology and production sciences which is: a) motivated by a specific problem or by a clear application-oriented perspective, and b) aimed at solving a specific problem, developing new technologies and production systems or new ways of meeting the needs of society. Projects must contribute significantly to ground-breaking research, but epistemological research without any application-oriented perspectives is outside the scope of the council.*

*DFF | **Cross-council Committee** comprises representatives from all five research councils and coordinates the handling procedure for applications that fall in between the councils' delimitations. The cross-council committee also funds applications that are considered to be truly cross-council (see [section 5.5](#)), as well as applications to Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant and Non-university Research Education (PhD).*

1.9 DELIMITATIONS BETWEEN THE RESEARCH COUNCILS

The DFF board determines the research delimitations between the five research councils. The delimitations are described in the table below. Some applicants and projects will naturally cross the delimitations as described. These will be processed in collaboration between several councils. DFF welcomes applications of an interdisciplinary nature, which are coordinated by DFF | Cross-council Committee. In [section 5.3](#) you can learn more about how to apply to several research councils, while in [section 5.5](#) you can learn how cross-council applications are handled.

Council	DFF Natural Sciences	DFF Social Sciences	DFF Medical Sciences	DFF Technology and Production Sciences
DFF Humanities	In the delimitation between DFF Humanities and DFF Natural Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern humans' culture-forming and culture-disseminating phenomena and activities (e.g. didactics, sports and archaeology) are covered by DFF Humanities, whereas research projects primarily concerned with cognitive-forming activities which fall within the natural sciences, should be assessed by DFF Natural Sciences.	In the delimitation between DFF Humanities and DFF Social Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern relations between human behaviour and institutions (groups, enterprises, organisations and society) are covered by DFF Social Sciences, whereas projects which predominantly concern culture-analytical and historical aspects, or involve special language and other communicative qualifications are assessed by DFF Humanities.	In the delimitation between DFF Humanities and DFF Medical Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern psychology are covered by DFF Humanities, whereas projects mostly involving psychiatry should be assessed by DFF Medical Sciences. There is a certain overlap between these disciplines, but generally speaking, the applications considered by DFF Medical Sciences are characterised by a biological research theme. For example, medical history is usually covered by DFF Humanities, but if a medical history project involves an element of biological research, it may in some cases belong to DFF Medical Sciences. Projects investigating humanistic aspects of medical science will be covered by DFF Humanities. Generally, for a project to belong to DFF Medical Sciences, it is not sufficient that the object of study is medicine – the applied methodology must also originate in medical science.	In the delimitation between DFF Humanities and DFF Technology and Production Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern humans' culture-forming and culture-disseminating phenomena and activities are covered by DFF Humanities. This applies e.g. to media research, design research and linguistics. Projects that primarily involve a technical research element will generally be assessed by DFF Technology and Production Sciences.
DFF Natural Sciences		In the delimitation between DFF Natural Sciences and DFF Social Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern human behaviour, organizational matters or managerial processes are covered by DFF Social Sciences, whereas projects that predominantly concern natural science activities are assessed by DFF Natural Sciences.	In the delimitation between DFF Natural Sciences and DFF Medical Sciences, the decisive principle is that research projects which predominantly have fundamental scientific, epistemological aim are covered by DFF Natural Sciences. In the event the primary objective of the project is of a medical nature, the project will be assessed by DFF Medical Sciences. Both DFF Medical Sciences and DFF Natural Sciences cover areas such as biology, biochemistry and genetics.	In the delimitation between DFF Natural Sciences and DFF Technology and Production Sciences, the decisive principle is that research projects which predominantly have a cognitive-forming perspective, and where the application-oriented perspective is not necessarily clear in advance, are assessed by DFF Natural Sciences. Fundamental research that is primarily concerned with solving a specific development- and application-oriented problem, is covered by DFF Technology and Production Sciences.
DFF Social Sciences			In the delimitation between DFF Social Sciences and DFF Medical Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern relations between human behaviour and institutions (groups, enterprises, organisations and society), and where the biological/medical content is limited, are covered by DFF Social Sciences, while projects in which the research element is predominantly of a medical nature are assessed by DFF Medical Sciences.	In the delimitation between DFF Social Sciences and DFF Technology and Production Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly concern human behaviour, institutions (groups, enterprises, organisations and society) are covered by DFF Social Sciences, whereas projects in which the research element predominantly concern technical/logistical solutions are assessed by DFF Technology and Production Sciences.

Council	DFF Natural Sciences	DFF Social Sciences	DFF Medical Sciences	DFF Technology and Production Sciences
DFF Medical Sciences				In the delimitation between DFF Medical Sciences and DFF Technology and Production Sciences, the decisive principle is that projects which predominantly have a human biological aim and require the use of medical competencies and methods are covered by DFF Medical Sciences. Projects that predominantly require the use of wider technologically oriented competencies, e.g. for the development and establishment of animal models, medico-technical products or medicine, are covered by DFF Technology and Production Sciences.

2 WHAT FUNDING INSTRUMENTS CAN YOU APPLY FOR?

On the following two pages, you can see the funding instruments that are offered in autumn 2022 and spring 2023; by which research councils they are offered; and which deadlines apply to the funding instruments. Please note that there may be minor differences in the specific requirements each council has for the various funding instruments offered. You should therefore read all of [section 1](#) and [section 3](#)-section 6, as well as the description of the funding instrument you wish to apply for in [section 2](#), very thoroughly before you complete and submit your application. You can begin your application in [e-grant](#) approx. 3 months before the application deadline.

2.1 ALREADY STARTED PROJECTS

DFF does not provide funding retroactively. You can therefore not apply for research funding for activities that have already started by the time the fund makes its decision.

2.2 APPLICATION DEADLINE AND STARTING DATE FOR PROJECTS

The earliest and latest possible starting dates for each funding instrument are listed in the table below: **Note, the deadline is 12:00 noon for every application deadline date.**

Funding instruments offered by all councils:

Funding instrument	Budget framework for DFF grant	Research council offering the funding instrument and application deadline	Time of processing	Earliest and latest starting dates for the project
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	Up to DKK 1,350,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	All councils: 15 September 2022 at 12:00 noon	November 2022	Earliest: 1 March 2023 Latest: 1 Oktober 2023
Sapere Aude: DFF- Starting Grant	Up to DKK 4,300,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	All councils: 23 March 2023 at 12:00 noon	November 2023	Earliest: 1 February 2024 Latest: 1 January 2025

Funding instrument	Budget framework for DFF grant	Research council offering the funding instrument and application deadline	Time of processing	Earliest and latest starting dates for the project
DFF-Research Project1	Up to DKK 2,000,000 excluding overhead / administration expense	DFF Social Sciences: 20 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Humanities: 20 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Technology and Production Sciences: 21 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Natural Sciences: 22 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Medical Sciences: 23 September 2022 at 12:00 noon	April 2023	Earliest: 1 July 2023 Latest: 1 January 2024
DFF-Research Project2	Between DKK 2,000,000 and DKK 4,300,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	DFF Social Sciences: 20 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Humanities: 20 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Technology and Production Sciences: 21 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Natural Sciences: 22 September 2022 at 12:00 noon DFF Medical Sciences: 23 September 2022 at 12:00 noon	April 2023	Earliest: 1 July 2023 Latest: 1 January 2024
Non-university Research Education (PhD)	Up to DKK 1,800,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	All councils: 22 March 2023 at 12:00 noon	June 2023	Earliest: 1 July 2023 Latest: 1 June 2024

Funding instruments offered by individual research councils:

Funding instrument	Budget framework	Research council offering the funding instrument and application deadline	Time of processing	Earliest and latest starting dates for the project
Explorative Network Humanities	Up to DKK 500,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	DFF Humanities: 15 September 2022 at 12:00 noon	November 2022	Earliest: 1 February 2023 Latest: 1 February 2024
Journals Humanities	Up to DKK 40,000 per year	DFF Humanities: 15 September 2022 at 12:00 noon	November 2022	Earliest: 1 February 2023 Latest: 1 February 2024

Funding instrument	Budget framework	Research council offering the funding instrument and application deadline	Time of processing	Earliest and latest starting dates for the project
International research stay Social Sciences	Up to DKK 200,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	DFF Social Sciences: 15 September 2022 at 12:00 noon And 22 March 2023 at 12:00 noon	November 2022 and May 2023	Applied autumn 2022 Earliest: 1 February 2023 Latest: 1 December 2023 Applied spring 2023 Earliest: 1 July 2023 Latest: 1 May 2024
Clinician scientist position Medical Sciences	Funding for 20-50% of salary for a period of 1-3 years - see description under the funding instrument	DFF Medical Sciences: 15 September 2022 at 12:00 noon	November 2022	Earliest: 1 February 2023 Latest: 1 January 2024
Pre-graduate scholarship Medical Sciences	Up to DKK 120,000 excluding overhead / administration expenses	DFF Medical Sciences: 15 September 2022 at 12:00 noon and 21 March 2023 at 12:00 noon	November 2022 and May 2023	Applied autumn 2022 Earliest: 1 February 2023 Latest: 1 July 2023 Applied spring 2023 Earliest: 1 July 2023 Latest: 1 February 2024

Council-specific conditions

DFF | Social Sciences is the only council to receive urgent applications. Urgent applications for DFF | Social Sciences can only be applied for within the framework of DFF-Research Project1 or DFF-Research Project2. Urgent applications can only be developed on the basis of a pre-authorised urgency factor, which must be scientifically backed up by exceptional, external and unpredictable events. The pre-authorisation is determined by DFF | Social Sciences and takes place following an enquiry to the secretariat.

2.3 FUNDING INSTRUMENTS OFFERED BY ALL COUNCILS

2.3.1 DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant

2.3.1.1 Objective

DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant aims to strengthen the international mobility of younger talented researchers, as well as to develop the competencies of researchers in the beginning of their research career. The intention is to enable the grant recipient to consolidate their individual research profile by independently managing a concrete research project at a research institution outside of Denmark. The grant amounts to a total of up to DKK 1,350,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses over a 2-year period.

2.3.1.2 Applicant requirements

You must have obtained a PhD degree, expect to submit your thesis for defence within 12 months after the application deadline, or have obtained equivalent qualifications, e.g., a positive assistant professor assessment ("adjunktbedømmelse"), in order to apply for a DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant. Your PhD degree must have been obtained from a Danish institution.

As a PhD student, you may apply if you attach a declaration from your supervisor stating that your PhD thesis will be submitted for defence within 12 months after the application deadline. If you are awarded a DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant, but subsequently fail to submit your PhD thesis within the given deadline, the grant will be annulled. Please note that your PhD diploma must be submitted to DFF before the first instalment of the grant can be made.

DFF places emphasis on the fact that you, as an applicant, are in the beginning of your research career, and therefore your PhD age must not exceed 3 years at the expiration of the application deadline. The exact date of obtaining the PhD degree, as it appears on the PhD diploma, must be stated in the application form in e-grant (see [section 4.3.5](#) concerning calculation of the PhD age with regard to maternity/paternity leave, etc.).

You must develop and submit the application yourself.

As an applicant, you cannot apply for funding for a stay at a foreign research institution where you have stayed for a total of 12 months or more within the last 3 years at the time of the application deadline.

2.3.1.3 The application

A DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant must be of 2 years' duration.

Council-specific conditions

If you apply for **DFF | Natural Sciences**, it is a requirement that you spend the entire 2-year project period abroad at one specific research institution.

If you apply for **DFF | Social Sciences**, **DFF | Technology and Production Sciences**, **DFF | Medical Sciences**, or **DFF | Humanities**, it is a requirement that you spend at least 12 consecutive months abroad. You may spend up to 6 months at the beginning and/or up to 12 months at the end of the project period at a Danish research institution.

Your application must clearly demonstrate how your project forms a concrete, binding collaboration with researchers at the host institution. The application must include a declaration from the foreign host institution, stating that the project can be carried out at the location in question, including a short comment on the content of the cooperation and the most important activities.

You are responsible for drawing up an agreement with the foreign institution concerning the research activities as well as potential questions regarding intellectual property rights and any equipment that will be used in connection with the grant.

DFF-International Postdoctoral Grants are paid out to and administered by a Danish research institution. The administrating institution may receive overhead/administration expenses, see [section 4.3.7.10](#).

As an applicant, you are expected to take up residence during your stay abroad in the country where the foreign research institution is located.

2.3.1.4 Project description

The project description must illustrate the project's scientifically innovative quality as well as how the project contributes to the further development of your competencies. Moreover, the project description must include a description of the scientific environment in which the project will be carried out, including an account of why the chosen environment is well suited to the proposed activities. The project description must also outline the nature of the concrete, binding collaboration.

The project description must not exceed 5 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 5 A4 pages must not exceed 15,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.1](#)) offers a complete list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.3.1.5 Budget

In order for your application to be evaluated by DFF, you must prepare a budget – see [section 4.3.7](#).

You can apply for up to DKK 1,350,000 excluding overhead/administration expenses. As a part of your budget, you can apply for funds to cover one outbound and one inbound journey for yourself as an applicant within the margin of expenditure. In addition, you may apply for the coverage of bench fees within the margin of expenditure. You may apply for an increase of your grant of DKK 55,000 per child and for your partner per year for the period during which they stay with you abroad. This grant increase is expected to cover out-bound and inbound journey for accompanying children/partner.

As a general rule, it is not possible to apply for funding for salaries for technical/administrative staff as it is expected that you will carry out your postdoctoral project independently. If you believe that a technical/administrative staff is essential for the completion of the project, you must argue for this. It is not possible to apply for funding for transport of household effects or coverage of housing costs.

2.3.2 Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant

2.3.2.1 Objective

In order to promote the education of researchers and strengthen internationalisation, DFF offers the funding instrument Sapere Aude (i.e., "dare to know"). The objective of this initiative is to develop the qualifications and competencies of the best research talents, both nationally and internationally. Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant is aimed at Danish as well as non-Danish researchers. You can apply for a Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant of up to 4 years' duration and a maximum amount of DKK 4,300,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses.

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant is aimed at providing excellent younger researchers, i.e., researchers who have carried out top class research in their field, with the opportunity to develop and strengthen their research ideas as well as their competencies as independent research leaders of other researchers. The funding instrument also aims at promoting careers, the mobility internationally as well as nationally among research environments, as well as to strengthen networks. Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grants are targeted at top researchers who intend to gather a group of researchers and/or research students to carry out a research project at a high, international level. Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant furthermore strengthens the possibility for excellent younger researchers to return to a Danish research institution after a research stay abroad.

DFF expects that a Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant prepares the grant recipient to apply for an ERC funding instrument, or a similar international programme.

It is expected that DFF will award approx. 35 grants in 2023.

2.3.2.2 Applicant requirements

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant is aimed at younger, very talented researchers, who at the time of the application deadline, and within the last 8 years, have obtained their PhD or achieved equivalent qualifications, e.g., a positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse"), and who have demonstrated the ability to carry out original research at a high, international level. The exact date on which you were awarded your PhD degree, as stated on your PhD diploma, must be stated in the application form in e-grant (see [section 4.3.5](#) for calculation of PhD age in relation to maternity/paternity leave, etc.). Previous management experience and mobility will be counted positively in the assessment of your application.

If the applicant is not an associate professor and has not been awarded a positive associate professor assessment ("lektorbedømmelse") and the project involves the education of researchers, it must be stated in the application how the relevant supervision will be provided, and how the scientific connection of the research students to the project will be ensured.

If DFF finds your application to be amongst the very best, the final evaluation will consist in an interview with you as applicant wherein you will be asked to present your project. In addition to DFF's assessment criteria (see [section 3](#)), the interview will be used to evaluate your ability to present your project in a clear and comprehensible manner, including to researchers who are not experts within your scientific field.

2.3.2.3 Application requirements

In connection with your application, the fund considers it very important that you have made plans for participating in international research activities, where relevant. Please describe the international activities planned in your application. These may be in the form of research stays abroad, collaboration with foreign research groups, hosting or participating in international conferences, invitation of foreign visiting researchers, etc.

You need to draw up an ambitious and realistic research plan, which clearly shows how a Sapere Aude grant will contribute to boosting your research leadership competencies and your research career with an excellent international profile.

You can apply for funding for PhD and postdoctoral scholarships, if these serve a clear independent function within, and form an integral part of, the research project. Postdoctoral candidates must have obtained their PhD or achieved equivalent qualifications, e.g., a positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse"), within the last 4 years at the time of the DFF-application deadline (see [section 4.3.5](#) for calculation of the PhD age in relation to maternity/paternity leave, etc.). If a named post-doctoral candidate is a PhD student at the time of application, a declaration from the student's supervisor must be enclosed, stating that the student is expected to submit the PhD thesis within 6 months after the application deadline.

When applying for research funding for PhD scholarships, there must be a sufficiently balanced relationship between the contribution of senior researchers and PhD students to the project, so that all registered participants serve a concrete role in the project work. An account of the proposed recruitment process must be provided if the application includes requests for funding for unnamed PhD students and/or unnamed postdoctoral participants.

Council-specific conditions

DFF | Medical Sciences does not require that postdoctoral candidates have obtained their PhD within the last 4 years at the time of the application deadline.

The project description must not exceed 7 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 7 A4 pages must not exceed 21,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.1](#)) offers a complete list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.3.3 DFF-Research Project1

2.3.3.1 Objective

To advance the quality of Danish research, DFF offers funding for research projects within an economic framework of up to DKK 2,000,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses. A DFF-Research Project1 is characterised by having a clear and well-defined research question, where the research activities are expected to be of a high, international level of quality. The duration of a DFF-Research Project1 is typically 3 years, but it is possible to apply for a project of up to 4 years' duration if a PhD student is involved in the project.

2.3.3.2 Applicant requirements

You must be able to document independent research experience typically corresponding to 3 years or more after having obtained a PhD degree (or similar qualifications). Your previous results will be assessed in relation to your career path (see [section 4.3.4](#) and [section 4.3.6](#)), and in relation to the scientific challenges of the project applied for. If the applicant is not an associate professor and has not been awarded a positive associate professor assessment ("lektorbedømmelse") and the project involves the education of researchers, it must be stated in the application how the relevant supervision will be provided, and how the scientific connection of the research students to the project will be ensured.

2.3.3.3 Application requirements

DFF emphasises that the project description should contain a description of any sub-projects, including PhD and postdoctoral projects. You can apply for funding for PhD and postdoctoral scholarships, if these serve a clear independent function within, and form an integral part of, the research project. Postdoctoral candidates must have obtained their PhD or achieved equivalent qualifications, e.g., a positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse"), within the last 4 years at the time of the application deadline (which for technical calculation purposes is fixed at 20 September 2022) (see [section 4.3.5](#) for calculation of the PhD age in relation to maternity/paternity leave, etc.). If a named postdoctoral candidate is a PhD student at the time of application, a declaration from the student's supervisor must be enclosed, stating that the student is expected to submit the PhD thesis within 6 months after the application deadline.

Council-specific conditions

If you apply for **DFF | Medical Sciences** it is not a requirement that postdoctoral candidates have obtained their PhD within the last 4 years at the time of the application deadline.

The role of all listed project participants (scientific/academic staff, technical/administrative staff, and whether funded or not) must be sufficiently balanced and the concrete role of the participants must be described and justified.

An account of the proposed recruitment process must be provided if the application includes requests for funding for unnamed PhD students and/or unnamed postdoctoral participants.

The project description must not exceed 5 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 5 A4 pages must not exceed 15,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.1](#)) offers a complete list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.3.4 DFF-Research Project2

2.3.4.1 Objective

To advance the quality of, and develop collaboration within Danish research, DFF offers funding for research projects carried out by multiple researchers (including postdoctoral candidates and PhD students) of up to 4.5 years in duration within a budget framework of between DKK 2,000,000 to DKK 4,300,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses. A DFF-Research Project2 is often characterised by a coordinated and mutually binding collaboration featuring a well-defined, joint research question. However, it may also be a project formulated by a single researcher, which is to be carried out in a research team, when it can be argued that the project is particularly ambitious and resource demanding, and that the research objective cannot be obtained through a DFF-Research Project1. The research activities must establish synergy among any sub-projects, involve an international level of collaboration (if relevant) and be of a high, international standard.

Council-specific conditions

DFF | Medical Sciences only funds DFF-Research Project2 in special instances where it has been persuasively argued that the objective cannot be reached through a DFF-Research Project1.

2.3.4.2 Applicant requirements

You must be able to document considerable, independent research experience at a high, international level typically corresponding to 5 years or more after having obtained a PhD degree (or similar qualifications). Your previous results will be assessed in relation to your career path (see [section 4.3.4](#) and [section 4.3.6](#)) and in relation to the scientific challenges of the project applied for. If the applicant is not an associate professor and has not been awarded a positive associate professor assessment ("lektorbedømmelse") and the project involves the education of researchers, it must be stated in the application how the relevant supervision will be provided, and how the scientific connection of the research students to the project will be ensured.

2.3.4.3 Application requirements

DFF emphasises that the project description should account for the synergy between any sub-projects, the project management and organisational structure, as well as plans for publishing results. All sub-projects, including PhD and postdoctoral projects, should be described within the project description.

You can apply for funding for PhD and postdoctoral scholarships if they serve a clear independent function within, and form an integral part of, the research project. Postdoctoral candidates must have obtained their PhD or achieved equivalent qualifications, e.g., a positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse"), within the last 4 years at the time of the application deadline (which for technical calculation is fixed at 20 September 2022) (see [section 4.3.5](#) for calculation of the PhD age in relation to maternity/paternity leave, etc.). If a named postdoctoral candidate is a PhD student at the time of application, a declaration from the student's supervisor must be enclosed, stating that the student is expected to submit the PhD thesis within 6 months after the application deadline.

Council-specific conditions

If you apply for **DFF | Medical Sciences**, it is not a requirement that postdoctoral candidates have obtained their PhD within the last 4 years at the time of the application deadline.

The role of all listed project participants (scientific/academic staff, technical/administrative staff, and whether funded or not) must be sufficiently balanced and the concrete role of the participants must be described and justified.

An account of the proposed recruitment process must be provided if the application includes requests for funding for unnamed PhD students and/or unnamed postdoctoral participants.

The project description must not exceed 7 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 7 A4 pages must not exceed 21,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.1](#)) offers a complete list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.3.5 Non-university Research Education (PhD)

2.3.5.1 Objective

DFF receives funds under the Danish National Budget, which are earmarked for the education of researchers at public non-university research institutions. In 2023, these funds are expected to amount

to approx. DKK 22 million, corresponding to approx. 8-9 grants. The maximum amount per grant will be DKK 1,800,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses. Please note that DFF does not generally offer support for individual PhD scholarships. For this reason, you cannot apply for an individual PhD grant to be carried out at a university.

The purpose of the PhD grants under this call is to strengthen the education of researchers at public, Danish, non-university research institutions. The funding instrument covers national non-university research institutions, sector research institutions, university colleges, business academies as well as state archives, libraries, museums, etc. However, the funding instrument does not cover state approved museums, Advanced Technology Group (GTS) institutes, hospitals, and others.

The funding instrument only covers the national research institutions which are authorised to carry out grant-funded research activities. Authorisation to carry out grant-funded research activities is specifically obtained by budgeting on a separate subsidiary account according to the guidelines of The Ministry of Finance, Section 2.6.10.1. As an example, the authorisation may appear from the fact that subsidiary account 95 grant-funded research activity is mentioned in the section of the research institution in the Danish Finance Act.

2.3.5.2 Applicant requirements and confirmation from hosting institution concerning supervision (max 3 per institution)

You can apply for a PhD grant if you have a Master's degree or equivalent qualifications as well as confirmation from an institution covered by this funding instrument, stating that it is willing to host your project if you are awarded a grant. Each institution may issue a maximum of three letters of confirmation to applicants applying for this funding instrument. The institution's acceptance to host a project is provided by signing the budget confirmation (see [section 4.3.8](#)). It is up to the individual institution to decide which three candidates it consents to hosting.

If the hosting institution does not award PhD degrees independently, you must be enrolled at a Danish institution with an accredited PhD programme and be affiliated to such a PhD programme at the institution in question. Grants are awarded on the condition that you become enrolled in a PhD programme, and that a collaboration agreement is drawn up between you as applicant, the hosting institution and the degree-awarding institution. The application must include a signed letter of intent for collaboration between the three parties. Your main PhD supervisor must be a recognised researcher employed at the degree-awarding institution at which you will be enrolled. Only the hosting institution can function as grant administrator – including if the PhD education takes place at a university or another accredited degree-awarding institution.

2.3.5.3 Application requirements

You can apply for a salary level corresponding to the collective agreement for PhDs employed by Danish state institutions. In addition to the regular vacation allowance, a supplementary allowance calculated as 2.5 % of your salary may be earmarked for paid extra days off. It is not possible to apply for funding to cover any form of merit pay ("kvalifikationstillæg"). If relevant, you may apply for salary expenses for a secondary supervisor, but as a general rule, you cannot apply for funding to cover technical/administrative salaries, as you will be expected to carry out your PhD project on your own accord. If you find the hiring of a technical/administrative assistant essential for carrying out the project, you must argue for this. You can apply for bench fee (see [section 4.3.7.8](#)).

The project description must not exceed 5 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 5 A4 pages must not exceed 15,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.1](#)) offers a complete list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant. The application must be written in Danish or English.

2.4 FUNDING INSTRUMENTS OFFERED BY INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH COUNCILS

2.4.1 Explorative Network | Humanities

2.4.1.1 Objective

This funding instrument is only offered by **DFF | Humanities**. The objective of Explorative Network | Humanities is to strengthen a broadly based collaboration between different Danish and, ideally, international research environments. The network is expected to facilitate the exploration of new opportunities across institutions, research traditions and scientific fields, though with the main emphasis on the fields that fall within the scope of DFF | Humanities.

In the assessment of applications, emphasis is placed on the originality of the conceptual idea and the network's potential for scientific innovation.

Funding will not be provided for actual research projects.

2.4.1.2 Applicant requirements

As an applicant, you must as a minimum be a researcher at associate professor/senior researcher level. The management of the network may be divided between several parties. However, the members of the network must appoint one project manager in advance as the applicant and thus as the person responsible to the council for the grant. Funding will only be provided for the establishment of new networks.

2.4.1.3 Application

The network is expected to include a broad and diverse circle of participants, potentially encompassing open activities. The application must account for the network's conceptual foundation, scientific ambition and concrete activities. Furthermore, the application must account and argue for the network's choice of participating research environments. An Explorative Network | Humanities grant can be of maximum DKK 500,000 (excluding overhead/administration expenses) and of maximum 3 years' duration. It is possible to apply for funding for the organisation of workshops, conferences, shorter research network stays, etc. It is possible to apply for a combined maximum of 3 months of scientific/academic salaries for the purpose of network management and scientific assistance. The application must account for the concrete organisation of the network, including the organisation of academic tasks within the network.

The project description must not exceed 3 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 3 A4 pages must not exceed 9,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.2](#)) offers a complete list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.4.2 Journals | Humanities

2.4.2.1 Objective

This funding instrument is offered only by **DFF | Humanities**. In order to support the dissemination of humanistic research through digital scientific journals, DFF | Humanities offers funding to established as well as new journals of a high scientific value that strive for an international level of circulation. However, the council does take into consideration that certain areas of humanistic research will primarily be targeted at a Danish readership, and that this might influence how the internalisation is realized. Grants for journals are awarded as a deficit guarantee. Funding for Journals | Humanities must be applied for without overhead/administration expenses.

2.4.2.2 Applicant requirements

As the applicant, you must be editor-in-chief of the journal and have associate professor/senior researcher level qualifications as a minimum. It is a further requirement that the editorial board or committee must be comprised of active researchers from at least two different academic institutions in Denmark.

2.4.2.3 Journal requirements

In order to be eligible for support, the journal must use external peer review to assess the scientific quality of articles submitted to the journal. In order to be awarded funding for an established journal, the journal must have a reasonable circulation within the relevant field of science. The dissemination, extent and scientific weight of the journal are the most important assessment criteria when awarding funding. Only journals that accompany all their articles with an abstract written in an international language (English, German, French or Spanish) will be considered. Furthermore, funding can only be offered to journals that do not offer author fees. The council does not support popularised science journals.

2.4.2.4 Open Access

The journal must be free of charge and freely available on the internet. This means that the journal must have a website where articles can be accessed in electronic form, without limitations and free of charge, no later than 1 year after the volume was published, cf. the joint [Open Access policy](#) for public research funds and foundations in Denmark. It is a requirement that the journal is indexed in an internationally recognised system. This means that it must be possible to search for and find the journal's articles through Google/Google Scholar and similar search engines. The council prefers that the journal seeks to be included in several indexes and that the articles are given a [DOI](#).

2.4.2.5 Application requirements

Applications for Journals | Humanities cover a period of 3 years at a time. The application must be submitted in Danish or English. Grant applications for new journals must account for similar, already existing journals, and explain how the new journal will differ from these.

You may apply for an amount of up to DKK 40,000 per year to fund operating expenses for digital journals. You may apply for funding to cover editorial and production expenses. You cannot apply for funding to cover printing and shipping expenses.

Only the applicant may have the role of administrator.

Please note, that the application form must account for the journal's scientific profile and objectives (max 2,400 characters), the journal's strategy for the grant period (max 2,400 characters including spaces), and the journal's organisation and review process (max 2,400 characters including spaces).

Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.2](#)) offers a list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.4.3 International Research Stays | Social Sciences

2.4.3.1 Objective

This funding instrument is offered only by **DFF | Social Sciences**. In order to promote the internationalisation of social sciences research, DFF | Social Sciences provides funding for research stays at a foreign research institution for consecutive periods of at least 3 months. The research stay should be based on specific research activities within the field of social sciences and contribute to those activities through strengthened international collaboration or networks and collection of data. You may apply for an amount of up to DKK 200,000 excluding overhead/administration expenses, but you cannot apply for funding for scientific/academic salaries, or non-research related expenses such as traveling and housing expenses for accompanying spouse and children, child care expenses, schooling expenses, etc.

2.4.3.2 Applicant requirements

The application must be submitted by the researcher taking part in the proposed research stay. You must have obtained a PhD degree or achieved equivalent qualifications through your research. You must be employed at a research institution in Denmark.

2.4.3.3 Application requirements

The council only provides funding for research stays for a consecutive period of minimum 3 months to carry out research activities at a foreign research institution. The research stay should be uninterrupted unless exceptional family related or institutional circumstances prevent this.

You may apply for funding, if the purpose of your research stay is to enter into a binding and concrete research collaboration with foreign partners, or to gain access to archives, libraries, institutions, etc. The application must account for the significance of the research stay for the formation of collaborations and networks, as well as how these collaborations will contribute to the advancement of Danish research.

In its assessment of the application, the council will first and foremost place emphasis on the application presenting relevant internationalisation of well-founded research activities.

2.4.3.4 Project description

The project description must not exceed 3 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 3 A4 pages must not exceed 9,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see [section 4.3.3](#)) and should thoroughly describe the stay, its content, and output. The project description must include the academic grounds for a research stay at the specific institution as well as a description of the concrete and binding research collaboration, access to archives and libraries or the data collection facilitated by the stay.

The reference list/bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix.

Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.2](#)) offers a list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.4.4 Clinician Scientist Positions | Medical Sciences

2.4.4.1 Objective

This funding instrument is offered only by **DFF | Medical Sciences**. The funding instrument ensures buy-out from a clinician scientist position (including from residency position) so that 20 – 50 % of the yearly duty hours are dedicated to research for a period of up to 3 years, while the remaining time is spent in a clinical position remunerated by the employing institution. It is a requirement that the grant recipient is employed in a clinical position at least 50 % of the time during the entire span of the funding period.

2.4.4.2 Applicant requirements

The application must be submitted by the person who wishes to be awarded the clinician scientist position.

Funding is primarily awarded to medical doctors, dentists and veterinarians who, at the time of the application deadline, have obtained a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications through their research. At the time of employment, applicants must be employed in a clinical position that offers no possibility of carrying out research during working hours. Please note that the council prioritises applications where the applicant's clinical position involves patient treatment.

The research activity does not necessarily have to be carried out in the employing clinical department, but the council requires the grant to be administered by the institution at which the clinical work takes place.

2.4.4.3 Application requirements

You may apply for funding for a total period of at least 1 year and for a maximum of 3 years. The total funding period cannot exceed 3 years. Your application can only cover funding of your personal salary during 20 – 50 % of your annual hours of duty during which you work on the research project. This means that the council covers all salary expenses during the time of research. You cannot apply for funding for equipment and operating expenses. Please note that you must still attach a complete budget.

You must have secured funding for your clinical position in advance. Your salary will be financed by the council and based on applicable collective agreements. The remuneration will be equivalent to the salary for the clinical position, with the exception of special supplements for clinical functions (e.g. on-call supplements) and special academic functions (PhD supplement, supervisor supplement, etc.).

Please note that you can only apply for overhead/administration expenses to the administrating institution, which is the place of employment in the clinical position.

The project description must not exceed 5 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 5 A4 pages must not exceed 15,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/ bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.2](#)) offers a list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

2.4.5 Pre-graduate Scholarships | Medical Sciences

2.4.5.1 Objective

This funding instrument is offered only by **DDF | Medical Sciences**. The council funds pre-graduate scholarships for a duration of 6-12 months with the purpose of providing the most talented BA and MA students with at least 2 years' education (finalized with evaluation) from educations with no more than 6 months' time allowed for the completion of their thesis, with the opportunity to undertake scientific work and strengthening their interest in pursuing a scientific career. A maximum amount of up to DKK 120,000 (excluding overhead/administration expenses) can be awarded.

2.4.5.2 Applicant requirements

Applications for Pre-graduate Scholarships | Medical Sciences must be submitted by the student's academic supervisor. As a supervisor, you must have obtained a PhD degree or achieved equivalent qualifications through your research. The council places emphasis on you having an independent research profile and that you can find the time to undertake the supervision.

The council strives to distribute the Pre-graduate Scholarship grants among different research environments in order to achieve a broad recruitment to health science research. For this reason, the council will only fund one Pre-graduate Scholarship per supervisor at a time, to ensure that there is no overlap between multiple students under the same supervisor during the part of the grant period funded by the council.

2.4.5.3 Application requirements

It is possible to apply for funding for a Pre-graduate Scholarship of 6-12 months' duration. It is a requirement that the student completes a research project of 2 semesters' duration, during which it is expected that the student be on leave or in an education-free semester with research as its main focus.

If exceptional circumstances prevents the student from taking leave for a semester, this must be explained in the application. There is no requirement as to when the 2-semester period is placed as part of the student's overall course framework. Students enrolled in courses that do not offer the option of research semesters are still eligible to apply for a scholarship. In this case, it is likewise expected that the student takes leave from his/her studies during the one-semester scholarship period, and that the research project takes place over a total of two semesters. If necessary, the council is willing to accept that the project stretches over a three-semester period.

Students enrolled in an education that allows more than 6 months for the completion of the master thesis (regardless of whether this option is utilised) are not eligible for Pre-graduate Scholarships.

The pre-graduate scholar cannot simultaneously be actively engaged in his/her normal course of studies, as the council stipulates that the scientific work is a full-time undertaking for the prospective pre-graduate scholar. The council will, however, accept that the student has other paid work, corresponding to a total of 100 hours per year during the period funded by the council. The council may, in exceptional cases and on the basis of a specific application, permit a prospective pre-graduate scholar to undertake other paid work in excess of 100 hours.

The grant covers the scholarship for the pre-graduate scholar as well as other operating expenses, and these must be accounted for in the budget. The grant can be used in the entire approved period. For budgetary purposes, a pre-graduate scholarship counts as a contribution to the supervisor's research activities. Thus, the scholar is neither a scientific/academic employee nor a technical/administrative employee or project participant. For that reason, the expenses for the stipend should not be listed as salary but as an operating expense in the budget form. How the funding is distributed between the student's stipend and other operating expenses should be noted in the free text part of the budget item. The council prioritises applications which include financing of operating expenses for Pre-graduate Scholarships over applications that only apply for financing of other operating expenses.

In its assessment of the application, the council places emphasis on the student's qualifications (especially his/her grades) as well as the student's role and work tasks in relation to the project. The tasks must form part of an innovative research project and not merely constitute practical routine tasks in support of a larger project. The intention is that a Pre-graduate Scholarship project constitutes an independent project under guidance from the supervisor, and with the aim of the student publishing his/her contribution. The council does not offer support to pre-graduate scholarships that have already received full or partial funding of the student's salary from other sources.

The project description must not exceed 3 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.) and maximum 9,000 characters including spaces, figure captions, formulas, etc. (see also [section 4.3.3](#)). References/bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix. Please note that the overview of appendices ([section 4.3.2](#)) offers a list of the appendices that *must* be attached. Also, note that it is stated in [section 4.3](#) how the number of characters is counted in e-grant.

As a Pre-graduate Scholarship is tied to the specific pre-graduate scholar listed in the application, it is not possible for grant recipients to transfer the grant to another student.

You cannot apply for funding for Pre-graduate Scholarships within the framework of the council's other funding instruments.

3

DFF ASSESSMENT AND ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

In the assessment of the application, DFF will take the criteria below into account, of which the project's quality and the applicant's qualifications are the two most significant assessment criteria.

As part of the assessment, DFF emphasises that the individual criteria should be met to the greatest extent possible. For the individual councils, there will always be a concrete, overall evaluation, where individual criteria can be met to a greater or lesser extent. Thus, not all criteria will be relevant to all applications. Because of competition between applications, it is not a given that meeting the criteria will result in a grant.

In every case, DFF will assess your application based on whether the project in question benefits Danish research.

For funding instruments in this call, DFF is using the following criteria:

Achieving the objective of the funding instrument:

- Are the described objectives of the funding instrument (see [section 2](#)) sufficiently met?

Scientific quality:

- Does the project description render it probable that the project contains potential for scientific progress, innovation and originality (theoretical, methodical and empirical)?
- Does the project display innovative research as opposed to expanding on already ongoing research?
- Does the project description render it probable that the project contributes to internationalisation of Danish research?
- Does the project description contain:
 - a clear and well-defined research question and objective?
 - a description of *state of the art* and/or the scientific challenges within the project's research area, and the project's potential related contribution?
 - consistent and suitable hypotheses?
 - an account of the theoretical and/or methodological foundation, including an argumentation for the relevance of proposed activities in relation to this foundation?
- If relevant to the project: Is there an argument for the correlation between the project's hypothesis, theory and method?
- If relevant to the project: Is there a sufficient description of the project's empirical material or data foundation, including any pilot projects and/or any preliminary data?
- If relevant: Is there sufficient synergy between the individual parts of the project?

Council-specific conditions

For applications to **DFF | Technical and Production Sciences**, a further special criterion is applicable: Is the project motivated by a desire to solve a specific problem, or does the project have a clear application perspective?

Applicant's qualifications:

- Has the applicant documented
 - scientific qualifications to an extent that is necessary for the project's completion?
 - scientific qualifications at a level corresponding to the target group for the funding instrument applied to?
 - scientific production at a level corresponding to the applicant's career path and seniority?
 - qualifications as a research leader at a level corresponding to the applicant's career path and seniority?
- Have the other project participants documented scientific qualifications at a level corresponding to their career paths and seniority, and do they have the qualifications necessary for the project's completion?
- Are relevant local and international researchers contributing, and if relevant, is there sufficient contribution from public institutions or business partners?
- Is there a strategy for the organisation and management of the project, including an account of the division of labour between the researchers involved and a plausibility of the applicant being able to handle the project applied for at the same time as the applicant's other research and management tasks?
- Are potential PhD students or postdoctoral candidates an integral part of the project, and do they have a clear function in it?

Feasibility:

- Have sufficient resources been allocated to the project, including the research framework, personnel, and access to necessary facilities and equipment?
- Has a realistic work- and time-frame been presented for the project, which also takes the recruitment of any unnamed participants into account, as well as disseminating project results?
- Does the project description account for the project's milestones and success criteria, and are these realistic?
- Is there proportionality between the project's costs and the expected scientific output?
- Is there proportionality between the proposed activities and the proposed budget? Does this include a good correlation between what the requested funding will finance, how the funding will be used, as well as which tasks and people will be financed?
- Are potential ethical aspects satisfactorily highlighted where relevant?

Publishing and dissemination of results:

- Are the collective considerations for publishing/disseminating/patenting of the project's results described in a satisfactory manner?
- If relevant: Have the likelihood and plans for patents in the proposed project been accounted for?

Other:

- Do the activities benefit Danish research?
- Does the project/activity include education of researchers in a relevant manner?
- Does the project/activity contribute to improving researcher mobility nationally/internationally and – if relevant – between research institutions/companies?

In addition to the general assessment criteria, which are common to all research councils in DFF, there are some assessment criteria that are specific to individual councils/funding instruments. Please see the respective section in [section 2](#).

4 GENERAL APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 LANGUAGE AND APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

4.1.1 Language

The project description, relevant CV's and publication lists must be written in English, unless otherwise stated in the description of the specific funding instrument. Additional appendices can be attached in English or one of the Scandinavian languages, although English is preferable. Appendices attached in other languages will not be considered in the application process.

4.1.2 Applicant's qualifications

As a minimum, you must have obtained a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications in order to be able to apply for funds from Independent Research Fund Denmark. However, if you apply for Non-university Research Education (PhD), the requirement is a completed master's degree, and if you apply for DFF-International Postdoctoral grant, you must have a PhD degree or expect to submit your thesis for defence within 12 months after the application deadline.

4.1.3 Other requirements for applicant

DFF has the objective of advancing and strengthening Danish research, understood in a broad sense. Therefore, DFF has no requirements as to applicants' citizenship, the location of research institutions, or the specific geographic location where the research activities in question will be carried out, (although it is a condition that the DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant and International Research Stay | Social Sciences are carried out at a foreign research institution, see [section 2.3.1](#) and [section 2.4.3](#)).

The fund does not require employment prior to applying for or obtaining a grant.

DFF sees diversity as a resource, and encourages all candidates to apply, regardless of their age, gender, religion, nationality, ethnicity, or political persuasion.

DFF does not accept applications from applicants, who in the 2 years prior to sending an application, have been found guilty of research misconduct by the Danish Committee on Research Misconduct, cf. [Act 383](#) of 26 April 2017 on research misconduct, etc.

4.1.4 Who should submit the application

The application must be submitted by the researcher responsible for the project and responsible to DFF in relation to the submitted project (applicant).

4.2 APPLICATION FORM

When you have determined the most appropriate funding instrument for your research idea and whether you meet the requirements in the call for proposals, you may begin preparing your application to DFF. Applications must be sent through the e-grant website www.e-grant.dk.

To submit an application to DFF, you must first register as a user on e-grant. To access the application form, choose the specific council under DFF that you wish to submit an application to in the "Search possibilities" tab (see [section 1.8](#) and [section 1.9](#)). If you wish the application to be assessed by several research councils, you can highlight this when filling in your application, see [section 5.3](#). After you have chosen the appropriate council, you can choose the funding instrument you wish to apply for.

When filling in the application form, you have to go through a series of steps, where you must provide various types of information in relation to your application. These steps vary depending on which funding instrument you are applying for. For this reason, we strongly urge you to open the application form in good time in order to get an overview of the information that must be included.

It is possible to re-open and re-submit your application up until the deadline. If you have already submitted your application, subsequently made corrections and not managed to submit these corrections before the deadline, DFF will process the most recently submitted application received before the application deadline.

4.2.1 Special fields that must be completed in the application form in e-grant

The table below offers an overview of the major fields that must be completed in the application form in e-grant. The table is not an exhaustive list of fields that must be completed in the application form, which also includes fields for information about the applicant, place of employment, etc. You are advised to register your application and read the detailed description of the fields in e-grant. The stated number of characters includes spaces.

Field	Description	Read more in section	DFF-International/Postdoctoral grant	Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting grant DFF-Research Project1 DFF-Research Project2	Non-university Research Education (PhD)	Journals Humanities	International research stay Social Sciences Clinician Scientist Positions Medical Sciences Pre-graduate Scholarships Medical sciences	Explorative Network Humanities
Applicant	Give an account of your most significant contributions to science (max 1,000 characters).			X				
Application	Brief scientific summary in English (abstract) (max 1,000 characters).	4.2.1.1	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Popularised description of the scientific content in Danish (max 1,500 characters).	4.2.1.1	X	X	X	X	X	X
	Scientific keywords (max 5) and classification codes (OECD) (max 5).	4.2.1.2	X	X	X	X	X	X
	For statistical purposes only: If relevant, indicate an estimate in percentages of the extent to which the project falls within the following set of politically defined themes (this information will not be visible to the committee members when they assess your application)		X	X	X	X	X	X
Ethical issues	Ethical issues: Does your research raise any ethical issues that should be dealt with (Animal testing, human participation or biological material, other)? If yes: Provide a brief description of the ethical issues raised by your project and how you plan to address the ethical dilemmas that may arise (max 1,500 characters). If no: If no ethical issues are identified in your project, please provide a brief account in which you justify this (max. 1,500 characters).		X	X	X		X	X
	Does your project involve gathering or purchase of quantitative or qualitative data – or a combination of these - within the research areas social sciences, medical sciences, the humanities, natural sciences, or technology and production sciences?: If yes: Please provide a brief description of the data gathered or purchased (max 300 characters).		X	X	X		X	X
Gender composition	Description of the gender composition in the project (max 1,000 characters).	1.4		X				X
Submission to several councils	State for each research council, the reason for applying to that particular council (max 250 characters).	4.2.1.3	X	X	X			
Other applications	Is this application a resubmission? If yes: Provide title, year of application and case number of the previous version of the submission. Moreover, describe any changes made in the resubmission (max 1,000 characters).		X	X	X	X	X	X
	Have you applied for funding activities covered by this application from other sources? If yes: Provide source, applied amount, submission date and expected decision date.		X	X	X	X	X	X

Field	Description	Read more in section	DFF-International Postdoctoral grant	Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting grant DFF-Research Project1 DFF-Research Project2	Non-university Research Education (PhD)	Journals Humanities	International research stay Social Sciences Clinician Scientist Positions Medical Sciences Pre-graduate Scholarships Medical Sciences	Explorative Network Humanities
Previous grants	Have you as a PI within the last 5 years received any funding over DKK 1 mil. from DFF or other sources for activities <i>related</i> to the present application? If yes: Specify grants over DKK 1 mil. (max 10 grants). Describe the results of the grant and the grant's relation to the proposed project (max 1,000 characters).		X	X			X	X
	Have you as a PI within the last 5 years received any funding over DKK 1 mil. from DFF or other sources for the activities <i>not related</i> to the present application? If yes: specify grants over DKK 1 mil. (max 10). Describe the results of the grant and the grant's relation to the proposed project (max 1,000 characters).		X	X			X	X
	If yes to previous grants: Account for your strategy for managing the project in relation to your current projects by explaining how you will manage the DFF project in relation to time and your other research management tasks.		X	X			X	X
Excluding reviewers	Provide contact information and explain why each named researcher (external reviewer) should not review your application (max 500 characters).	5.6	X	X				
Supplementary information	Additional information regarding the application can be added (max 1,000 characters).		X	X	X	X	X	X

4.2.1.1 Popularised scientific description and abstract

You must write a scientific abstract and a popularised description in the “Title and scientific content” section of the application form.

The scientific abstract must be written in English, and written with research peers, who will evaluate the application, in mind. It should therefore be written in a way that makes it clear to research peers if they are qualified to evaluate the project.

The popularised scientific description should be written with a view to public release, e.g., at the DFF website and in the Danish media. It should therefore be written in a way that makes the project accessible and understandable to a non-research audience. The description must be written in Danish.

4.2.1.2 Listing the relevant Fields of Science classification code(s) for the project

In the “Title and scientific content” section of the application form, you must list up to five Fields of Science classification codes (OECD Classification Codes) in order of priority, according to the scientific field or fields that are most relevant to your project. The OECD-codes must reflect the project's scientific discipline(s). You must use the scientific codes on “Level 2” or “Level 3” from the subdivision provided in the DFF overview of scientific codes, which you will find at the [DFF website](#). The codes are used for, e.g., identifying relevant reviewers for your application, so it is important that you exercise caution when selecting the codes.

The codes in the overview are standard codes and their division into disciplines (Level 1) does not necessarily correspond to the delimitations between DFF's research councils in [section 1.9](#). For this reason, DFF may transfer your application to another scientific area than the one selected by you.

You also have the opportunity to list up to five keywords of your choosing, that describe the scientific content of your project in a prioritised order corresponding to the codes most relevant to the project applied for.

4.2.1.3 If you want assessment in several councils

In the section of the application form "Submission to several councils", you must answer "Yes" to the question: "Do you request your application also to be assessed initially by another of DFF's research councils?" if you want your application to be assessed in several councils. Here, you must tick the box next to the research councils you wish your application to be processed by.

For each research council (including the main council) applied to, you must state your reasons for applying to that particular council, see [section 5.3](#).

4.3 OVERVIEW OF APPENDICES TO THE APPLICATION

There are a number of mandatory appendices that *must* be attached to the application (X) and a number of appendices that must be attached *if* they are relevant (*). The overview below shows the appendices in question.

You should also pay attention to special conditions as listed in the descriptions of individual funding instruments in [section 2](#). In the section after the appendix overview, you can read more about the individual appendices.

Appendices which do not appear in the overview will not be considered in the assessment process.

Please note: In order for the applications to be subsequently filed by the Danish National Archives, the submitted appendices must meet the PDF/A standard as a minimum.

Counting the number of characters

The appendices "Project description" 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 the number of characters stemming from the e-grant system in 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 and project description and upload these documents to the application. If the document exceeds the permitted length, 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 and the applicant's CV in accordance with [section 5.1](#). Hence, you will not be able to upload a revised document to DFF if the document exceeds the permitted requirements when the deadline expires.

4.3.1 Appendix overview: Funding instruments offered by all councils

Appendix	DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant	DFF-Research Project1	DFF-Research Project2	Non-university Research Education (PhD)
B10: Project description. It is recommended that this is written in the DFF project description template (see section 4.3.3) including figures, tables, etc. Excluding list of references/bibliography (must be uploaded as a separate appendix B11). If the project description exceeds the maximum characters or pages, as outlined under each funding instrument, the application will not be given active consideration (see section 4.3 and section 5.1).	X	X	X	X	X
B11: List of references/bibliography for the project description.	X	X	X	X	X
Budget: Must be completed in the DFF mandatory budget template (see section 4.3.7) and uploaded to e-grant as a separate file. Pledge of actual financial support from other sources for the project's completion must be included in the budget.	X	X	X	X	X
B20: Applicant's CV – max 2 pages (see section 4.3.4). If the 2 A4 pages exceed the allowed 6,000 characters, including spaces, figure texts, formulas, etc., the application will not be given active consideration (see section 4.3 and section 5.1).	X	X	X	X	X
B21: List of publications for the applicant (see section 4.3.6).	X	X	X	X	*
B22: PhD diploma or secondary documentation showing either: a) that the thesis has been accepted for defence, b) positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse"), c) qualifications corresponding to PhD level achieved in another manner or, d) declaration from supervisor on expected submission of PhD thesis within 12 months of the application deadline (PhD students). *Please note council-specific requirements for DFF Humanities.	X				
B23: PhD diploma for the applicant or secondary documentation showing qualifications corresponding to PhD level achieved in a different manner.		X			
B24: Exam results and complete transcripts for the entire period of studies from both Bachelor and Master's education programmes.					X
B30: Confirmation from main supervisor.					X
B31: CV and list of publications for the main supervisor (max 2 pages in total).	*	*	*	*	X
B40: CV and list of publications (max 2 pages in total per person) for all named participants and collaborators (see section 4.3.4 and section 4.3.6). However, this does not apply to funded PhD students or postdocs (see B41 and B42 for individual requirements).	*	*	*	*	*
B41: Named PhD students. In the case of PhD scholarships for named individuals, the following appendices must be attached: transcripts/exam certificate, CV (max 1 page), and any list of publications.		*	*	*	
B42: Named postdocs: In the case of postdoctoral grants for named individuals, the following appendices must be attached: CV (max 1 page), list of publications, and PhD diploma. Or secondary documentation showing either: a) that the thesis has been accepted for defence, b) positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse"), c) qualifications corresponding to PhD level achieved in another manner or, d) declaration from supervisor on expected submission of PhD thesis within 6 months of the application deadline (PhD students).		*	*	*	
B50: You may attach recommendations (max 1 page per recommendation).	*				
B51: In cases where significant parts, or all, of the project are taking place at another host institution than the administrating institution, a declaration from the host institution should be attached, stating that the project can be carried out at the location in question, including a short comment on the content of the cooperation and the most important activities.		*	*	*	
B52: Collaboration/support letters. If the project involves collaboration with organisations, companies or other users, or foreign partners of the results, collaborative statements/letters of support must be enclosed from the project's collaborators in the form of confirmation(s) of collaboration and its form/content (max 1 page from each). Re. DFF-Sapere Aude: Statements of support from the department, where the applicant is employed/will be employed may be attached.	*	*	*	*	

Appendix	DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant	DFF-Research Project1	DFF-Research Project2	Non-university Research Education (PhD)
B55: Declaration from the foreign host institution , stating that the project can be carried out at the location in question, including a short comment on the content of the cooperation and the most important activities.	X				
B59: Signed letter of intent for collaboration between you as an applicant, the host institution, and the PhD degree-awarding institution.					X
B60: Documentation for purchase of a single piece of apparatus for more than DKK 500,000 excluding overhead/administration expenses, preferably in the form of a quote.		★	★	★	★
B61: Documentation for the salary level of the applicant and any named participants, if the salary level is different from the collective agreement.		★	★	★	
B62: Documentation for the sub-contractor costs.		★	★	★	
B63: De minimis declarations (see section 4.3.79).		★	★	★	
B90: Budget confirmation. Administrator's confirmation of budget and hosting in the DFF budget signatory template (see section 4.3.8).	X	X	X	X	X

Council-specific conditions

DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant:

If you are applying to **DFF | Humanities**, you must attach your PhD diploma (or declaration from your supervisor on expected submission of PhD thesis within 12 months of the application deadline) as well as your PhD assessment. If you have not received a PhD assessment, attach a résumé of your thesis (1-2 A4 pages) (appendix B22).

4.3.2 Appendix overview: Funding instruments offered by individual research councils

Appendix	Explorative Network Humanities	Journals Humanities	International Research Stays Social Sciences	Clinician Scientist Positions Medical Sciences	Pre-graduate Scholarships Medical Sciences
B10: Project description. It is recommended that this is written in the DFF project description template (see section 4.3.3) including figures, tables, etc. Excluding list of references/bibliography (must be uploaded as a separate appendix B11). If the project description exceeds the maximum characters or pages, as outlined under each funding instrument, the application will not be given active consideration (see section 4.3 and section 5.1).	X		X	X	X
B11: List of references/bibliography for the project description.	X		X	X	X
B12: A statement of the student's roles and work tasks in relation to the project.					X
B17: DFF Humanities Economy template. Can be downloaded from the DFF website .		X			
Budget: Prepared in the DFF mandatory budget template (see section 4.3.7) and uploaded to e-grant as a separate file. Pledge of actual financial support from other sources for the project's completion must be included in the budget.	X		X	X	X

Appendix	Explorative Network Humanities	Journals Humanities	International Research Stays Social Sciences	Clinician Scientist Positions Medical Sciences	Pre-graduate Scholarships Medical Sciences
B20: Applicant's CV – max 2 pages (see section 4.3.4). If the 2 A4 pages exceed the allowed 6,000 characters, including spaces, figure texts, formulas, etc., the application will not be given active consideration (see section 4.3 and section 5.1).	X	X	X	X	X
B21: List of publications for the applicant (see section 4.3.6).	X		X	X	X
B35: Clear, official, complete transcripts for the student .					X
B36: CV and, if relevant, publication list for the pre-graduate scholar (max 2 pages in total).					X
B37: For students on other education programmes than Master of Medicine : A clipping from the study programme for the education programme that the student is registered on, to document that the person in question does not have the opportunity to use more than 6 months/30 ECTS on their dissertation.					X
B40: CV and list of publications (max 2 pages in total per person) for all named participants and collaborators (section 4.3.4 and section 4.3.6).	X	X	*	*	*
B45: The application must include a list of names of the researchers/research environments that have committed to participate in the network.	X				
B54: Documentation for the binding and specific research collaboration with foreign partners or documentation for access to the archives, libraries, institutes, etc., which are the purpose of the stay.			X		
B56: A declaration of support from the institution where the research will be carried out, if the institution is different from the institution where you are employed (the administering institution).				*	
B57: If activities take place partly or completely at a foreign institution , a written acceptance from the institution must be included, stating that the project can take place at the location in question.					X
B58: If there are collaborative partners in addition to the network participants, the application must include a statement that confirms the collaboration and its form/content.	X				
B70: Approval from management at the clinical department where you are employed releasing you from work duties, corresponding to the percentage per year that you have received salary funding from the council for research.				X	
B82: Documentation for meeting the requirement of digital accessibility (e.g., providing the URL of the journal's website).		X			
B83: Documentation for the number of downloads in a clear format stating if the data is per year, per quarter or per month.		X			
B84: List over reviewers associated with the journal.		X			
B85: If the journal has an advisory board , please attach a list of the members.		X			
B90: Budget signature. Administrator's confirmation of budget and hosting in the "DFF budget signatory template" (see section 4.3.8).	X		X		X
B92: Budget signature. The institution where the clinical position will take place confirms with its signature on the "DFF budget signatory template" (see section 4.3.8) that costs associated with the clinical position are covered.				X	

4.3.3 Project description

Your application must always include a project description. It is recommended that you use the DFF project description template, which can be found at DFF's website. The project description must not exceed the maximum number of pages or characters (excluding references/bibliography) as outlined under each funding instrument - no matter whether the description includes figures/tables etc. or not. The number of characters stated under each of the funding instruments includes spaces, figure texts, formulas, etc. You must use the font Times New Roman, font size 12, at least 2 cm margin on the left, right, top and bottom, and line spacing of 1.5. Tables and figure texts must be readable by using at least font size 10 and line spacing 1.0. **No** links to external materials may be included.

List of references/bibliography must be uploaded as a separate appendix and only include bibliographic references and no further information in the form of endnotes.

An automatic validation of the length of the submitted project description will be made when you submit your application, as stated in [section 4.3](#). If the project description exceeds the specified limitations on the number of pages or characters for the funding instrument applied for, it will be singled out for a manual check. Applications with project descriptions exceeding the specified limitations on the number of pages or characters will receive an administrative rejection (see [section 5.1](#)).

The project description must account for:

- The project's objective, including research question and potential hypotheses.
- The project's scientific and potential societal perspectives and relevance. In addition, it must include an assessment of the anticipated effect of the project results in relation to future research and researcher education in the field.
- The theoretical foundation of the project, its central concepts and the current knowledge/*state of the art* within the area. This must include an account of how your project relates to national and international research, its clear delimitations in relation to current activities in the area, as well as an argumentation for your qualifications and previous achievements in the field.
- If relevant to the application: A substantiation of the choice of method, including how theory and concepts will be used for the analysis.
- If relevant to the application: An account of the project's empirical material.
- A research plan, including an assessment of the feasibility of the project, a work plan and time schedule. It is important that the overall time schedule takes any recruitment of unnamed participants into consideration, as a project extension cannot normally be expected under the terms of the grant.
- The practical framework for the completion of the project (e.g., experimental facilities, staff resources and access to software/databases, etc.).
- Considerations for publishing and dissemination of research results.

Please note that there may be specific requirements for the project description's content, which you will find under each funding instrument in [section 2](#). In these cases, your project description must respect *both* the general requirements as outlined above *and* the specific requirements of the funding instrument.

When writing your project description, you must also bear in mind that all the members of the council you apply to will participate in the final assessment and prioritisation of the individual applications. For this reason, the project description should be understandable to all members of the council.

4.3.4 Curriculum Vitae - CV

All applications must include a CV and a separate list of publications for the applicant. The applicant's CV must not exceed 2 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 2 A4 pages must not exceed 6,000 characters, including spaces, figure texts, formulas, etc.

An automatic validation of the submitted applicant CV will be made, as stated in [section 4.3](#). If the CV exceeds the specified limitations on the number of pages or characters, it will be singled out for a manual check. Applications where the applicant's CV exceeds the size requirements will receive an administrative rejection (see [section 5.1](#)).

In addition, a CV and list of publications (max 2 pages in total per person) for all named participants and named collaborators must be included. However, this does not apply to funding for PhD students and postdocs, who may attach a full publication list in addition to a 1-page CV, see [section 4.3.1](#).

Links to external materials must **not** be included.

The required structure of the CV and publication list applies to applicant, participants and collaborators.

The CV must include the following:

- Personal data: name, address, etc.
- Education (for academic degrees, list the date and year of obtaining the degree).
- Current and most recent employment. In case of temporary employment, state the termination date of the employment contract.
- Any periods of leave (e.g., illness, maternity/paternity/parental leave, family care, bereavement leave, military service, humanitarian aid work). For periods of leave, indicate the cause and state precisely the starting date and end date of the leave period.
- Academic awards and honours.
- Management experience, including experience with project management and leading research projects.
- Scientific focus areas.
- International relations.
- Supervision of students (PhD students and postdocs).
- Other scientific qualifications.

When assessing applicants' research productivity, the applicants' individual career paths will be taken into account. This includes any leaves of absence or employment in private research-driven businesses etc.

DFF considers a high ranking in the international competitions of the European Research Council (ERC) to be important information in relation to the CV. Applicants who have qualified for the second round in ERC's international competitions are therefore encouraged by DFF to state this in their CV.

4.3.5 Calculation of PhD age

DFF does not wish to see young research talents retained in repeated postdoctoral positions without the prospect of permanent employment. Consequently, DFF has introduced fixed criteria concerning PhD age. The PhD age is calculated as the period of time between acquiring the PhD (the date as it appears on the PhD diploma) and the date for the DFF-application deadline (for DFF-Research Project¹ and DFF-Research Project², the applicable date is listed under the description of the individual funding instruments).

Consideration will be given to leaves of absence such as maternity/paternity/parental leave, illness, bereavement or family care leave, military service and humanitarian aid work. It is possible to deduct periods of clinical employment if these constitute a necessary part of the course of an education, but during which the time for research has been very limited.

For applicants who have been on maternity/paternity leave after obtaining their PhD, the actual number of weeks of leave, multiplied by 2, will be deducted from the applicant's PhD age. The period of maternity/paternity leave, including exact starting and ending dates, must be stated in the candidate's CV. However, the maximum amount of weeks that can be deducted are 52 weeks times two per maternity/paternity leave.

4.3.6 List of publications

The list of publications must only include research that has been published or accepted for publication. It is optional whether to submit a full or a selective publication list. In addition, a CV and list of publications (max 2 pages in total per person) for all named participants and collaborators must be included. However, this does not apply to funding for PhD students and postdocs, who may attach a full publication list in addition to a 1-page CV, see [section 4.3.1](#).

The name of the applicant/other (research/academic) participants must be in bold font in the list of publications. The order of authors must be indicated exactly as listed in the original publication, i.e., for example, that the order of shared first authorships should not be revised from the original. Likewise, all co-authors must be mentioned to the extent possible.

The list of publications must be systematically organised, e.g., chronologically, and divided into the following categories:

- Peer-reviewed publications. State to the extent possible all authors (including the order they are mentioned, e.g., alphabetically or first-to-last author), year of publication, title, place of publication, volume number as well as first and last page number, or article number and number of pages:
 - articles
 - monographs
 - peer-reviewed articles published in conference proceedings
 - book chapters
- Non peer-reviewed publications such as monographs, book chapters, articles, etc. State to the extent possible all authors (including the order they are mentioned, e.g., alphabetically or first-to-last author) year of publication, title, place of publication, volume number as well as first and last page number, or article number and number of pages.
- Patent references for patents obtained or applied for, which are relevant to your research. Any patent references should be included in the list of publications on equal terms with references for scientific articles.

Links to external materials must **not** be included.

If you list your H-index in your list of publications, you must state how you have calculated it.

4.3.7 Budget

For your application to be considered by DFF, you must prepare a budget for the entire project period, which describes the activities to be funded. This applies both to the funding of activities at your own institution and to any funding that will go towards participants at other institutions. It is important that the budget includes information about all participants in the project. This also includes participants, who will not receive DFF funding, thus providing an overview of the entire group of participants and the economy of the project.

4.3.7.1 Entering budget information in the application form

You as the applicant must fill in DFF's mandatory budget template for the relevant funding instrument. The correct budget template can be found by registering an application for the selected funding instrument in e-grant, after which the budget template can be downloaded under the "Upload Budget" step in the application form. There you will find the correct template, which should be completed and uploaded to the application.

Start by preparing a complete and comprehensive budget using the budget template, which can be downloaded in the e-application form as described in [section 4.2](#). The budget template is only available in English. When the budget is completed, it must be uploaded to the application form in e-grant under the “Upload Budget” step. Please see “Introduction” in the application form for more details on how to upload the template.

4.3.7.2 Preparing the budget

DFF recommends that you seek assistance from the institution responsible for administering the potential grant, when preparing your budget.

You must include all relevant information when completing the budget template.

Please pay attention to the following:

- A certain number of sections in the budget template can only be filled in by selecting a value from the drop-down menu.
 - If your institution does not appear in the dropdown menu, please enter it yourself.
 - If there is a need to add more applicant institutions to the budget than there is room for, please contact the e-grant unit, who can help you (see [section 7.2](#)).
- All expenses must be provided, excluding overhead/administration costs. The overhead amount is automatically calculated from the selected “Overhead percentage”.
- For each budget item you must meticulously explain the amount and relevance. It is especially important that you carefully state and explain the number of months and salary levels for scientific/academic as well as technical/administrative employees. This explanatory information should be entered into the “Description” field.
- When the budget is complete, please ensure that the person who approves the budget on behalf of your institution/organisation/business indicates their approval by using the template “[Independent Research Fund Denmark – Budget confirmation](#)”, which should be attached as a separate appendix. Please follow the guidelines in [section 4.3.8](#).

Use one row for every budget entry. If there are not enough rows, related budget entries may be combined into the same budget entry.

4.3.7.3 Co-financing and funding from other sources

Any co-financing from your own or other participating institutions must be accounted for in the budget under “co-financing” (green cells).

Any co-financing to the project from sources not actively participating in the project (e.g. other funds) must be accounted for in the budget under “funding from other sources” (orange cells).

Co-financing in the main must be divided into 4 overall budget items: Scientific/academic salaries, technical/administrative salaries, equipment expenses and operating expenses as described in [section 4.3.7.4](#). Information about co-financing may also be listed, even if it stems from a participant who is not supported by the grant but is actively participating in the proposed project.

DFF may require Danish state research institutions participating in the application to co-finance the project with a total of up to 10 % of the amount applied for from the fund. In addition, DFF may require co-financing from other types of institutions, to the extent the council deems appropriate. In connection with this call, DFF has decided not to make co-financing a requirement.

4.3.7.4 What research expenses can you apply for?

You may apply for funding to cover all expenses which are directly attributable to the project, and which are relevant and necessary in order to carry out the project. Overhead/administration expenses should be added to this, see [section 4.3.7.10](#).

The budget must, as a general rule, be divided into the following overall budget items:

- Scientific/academic salaries
- Technical/administrative salaries
- 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)

You must prepare the budget according to the actual cost level at the time of the application and take into account expected salary and price increases during the project period.

4.3.7.5 Scientific/academic salaries

DFF may provide funding for salary for scientific/academic participants in the project. These participants may be researchers who are already employed during the project period, whether it is on a temporary or a permanent basis, as well as researchers who are not already employed for the project period in question.

DFF requires that salaries must be calculated according to the provisions, which apply to scientific staff in the collective agreement between the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC) and the Danish Ministry of Finance. Scientific/academic participants whose salaries are paid for by DFF, are covered by the job structure for scientific/academic staff at institutions of higher education, or by the job structure for scientific/academic staff performing research at sector research institutions.

Salary expenses for named scientific participants can thus be calculated on the basis of the actual salary level the employee currently has or will be entitled to at his/her place of employment, including any anticipated increments during the project period. If the salary level exceeds that of the collective agreement, the calculation can be attached, and should be documented as precisely as possible, with reference to current salary levels for researchers in employment at the time of application, or a salary calculation for researchers who are going to be appointed on the basis of funding from DFF. DFF therefore recommends that you contact the administrating institution in order to get a salary calculation, or if you are already employed, to enclose a copy of your most recent salary statement. You must use gross salary expenses (salary, pension, ATP, holiday pay) for participants with permanent positions in the budget. Please note that you should not apply separately for vacation allowances for permanently employed scientific/academic participants. For employees on fixed-term employment contracts, DFF requires that holiday pay from previous employments be deducted from the salary budget for the scientific/academic participants.

Salary expenses for unnamed scientific/academic employees participating at postdoctoral level should normally be calculated based on the salary level for postdoctoral/assistant professors, cf. the collective agreement between the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC) and the Danish Ministry of Finance.

Salary overhead/administration expenses, see [section 4.3.7.10](#), must be calculated based on the type of institution that defrays and registers/pays the salary to a project participant.

4.3.7.6 Technical/administrative salaries

You may apply for funding to cover salaries for non-scientific assistants, including student assistants. In accordance with national regulations, you may not cover salary costs above the professional level that is necessary for carrying out the tasks required.

Salary overhead/administration expenses, see [section 4.3.7.10](#) must be calculated based on the type of institution that defrays and registers/pays the salary to a project participant.

4.3.7.7 Equipment (purchase or construction)

You may apply for funding to cover the purchase or construction of equipment which is necessary in order to carry out the specific project. If you apply for funding to cover the purchase of equipment in excess of DKK 500,000, excluding overhead/administration expenses, you must be able to document the expenses, e.g., in the form of a quote, which must be attached as an appendix. After completion of the grant, funded equipment will become the property of the administrator or the institution/business that purchased the equipment per the grant application.

4.3.7.8 Operating expenses

You may apply for funding to cover all operating expenses directly attributable to the project which are relevant and necessary in order to carry out the project.

In the budget template, you must specify which individual operating expenses that make up the total operating budget. Please provide detailed argumentation in connection with considerable operating expenses, accounting for extent, price level and relevance.

Operating expenses that constitute lasting procurements, e.g., purchased books, special software licenses, and similarly, do not become the property of the grant recipient, but of the administrator or the institution/business that purchased the procurements per the grant application.

Expenses which are expected to be covered by overhead/administration expenses

DFF expects that expenses for normal work computers, general software and other general work tools be covered by the institutions' overhead/administration expenses. For this reason, DFF does not offer support for these types of expenses. Moreover, DFF expects that access to and use of equipment, facilities, books, databases, etc., which are already available at the host institutions, will be made available at no extra cost for research projects that the institutions agree to host. Unless you can document that special circumstances apply, DFF will not offer support for these types of expenses.

Education rates

As part of your operating expenses, you may apply for annual education rates ("uddannelseskoster") in relation to any research education required in conjunction with PhD scholarships financed by DFF. In accordance with an agreement between the research council system and Universities Denmark, DFF uses special education rates. For PhD students enrolled at Danish universities, you may apply for education rates per full project year (max 3 years) corresponding to DKK 50,000 (Humanities and Social Sciences) or DKK 80,000 (Natural Sciences, Medical Sciences and Technical Sciences). This amount will be at the disposal of the host institution and also covers all salary expenses in relation to PhD supervision, PhD defence, etc. For PhD students funded by DFF, the employing or host institution may impose work tasks corresponding to 840 hours over a 3-year PhD course of study.

Travel and subsistence expenses

You may apply for funding to cover travel and subsistence expenses. The purpose is to cover actual additional costs related to official journeys. The maximum rates are listed in the Government circular on the official journey agreement ("Statens Cirkulære om Tjenesterejseaftalen") and the associated

circular on adjustment of rates ("Cirkulære om Satsregulering"). You can find the relevant agreements and rates at <https://cirkulaere.medst.dk>. If, during a stay abroad, you remain employed at a Danish state-owned research institution, DFF recommends that you find out whether you are covered by state self-insurance and therefore do not need to take out your own personal insurance.

DFF expects that you have checked the real costs of the stay and are able to justify the items of expenditure, e.g. for transport, expected price of rental accommodation, and other living expenses.

You may apply for the following:

- Reimbursement of transport expenses. However, expenses for local transportation during the stay abroad, will not be reimbursed.
- Reimbursement of overnight stay expenses.
- Hourly and daily allowances to cover additional expenses for meals, etc., to the extent that the hourly and daily allowances do not exceed the actual additional expenses.

Open Access (not funded)

DFF does not fund expenses associated with Open Access publishing. You can read more about Open Access at the [DFF website](#).

Overhead for operating expenses

The overhead/administration expenses are awarded to the institution defraying and registering the expenses for an operating item, based on the applicable rate for the type of institution in question.

4.3.7.9 Particular conditions for private enterprises

DFF funding to enterprises must be awarded in accordance with EU regulations for state support. For further information please see the [State Support Handbook](#).

As a general rule, DFF awards grants to enterprises as so-called *de minimis* aid in accordance with the *de minimis* regulation¹. An enterprise can receive no more than EUR 200,000 in total *de minimis* aid from public grantors over a period of 3 financial years. If the applicant is an enterprise or part of the funding is to be passed on by the applicant to a participant in the form of an enterprise, a declaration of *de minimis* aid must be completed, signed and attached as an appendix to the application.

4.3.7.10 Overhead/administration expenses

DFF grants overhead/administration expenses to cover indirect costs incurred in connection with carrying out the project, but which are not directly attributable to the specific project. This includes, e.g., joint expenses to cover rent, premises, administration, etc.

Overhead/administration expenses are calculated as a fixed percentage of the grant amount that goes towards the project's direct expenses. DFF grants overhead/administration expenses according to the table below.

Please note that, should you be awarded a grant, and DFF is uncertain about which overhead rate your institution is entitled to, DFF will obtain documentation from you. It will not be taken into account which overhead rate the institution in question has previously received in connection with a DFF grant or other grants.

¹ Cf., [Consolidated text: Commission Regulation \(EU\) No 1407/2013 of 18 December 2013 on the application of Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union to de minimis aid \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#)/[Text with EEA relevance](#) and [Commission Regulation \(EU\) 2020/972 of 2 July 2020 amending Regulation \(EU\) No 1407/2013 as regards its prolongation and amending Regulation \(EU\) No 651/2014 as regards its prolongation and relevant adjustments \(Text with EEA relevance\)](#)

Institution type	Overhead/administration expenses
Danish institutions (including Danish universities and sector research institutes) which are subject to the rules regarding grant-funded research activities in the Danish Ministry of Finance's budget guidelines, and which are authorised to carry out grant-funded research activities.	44%
GTS - Advanced Technology Group Institutes (GTS institutes)	20%
Danish institutions that meet all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> receive and are expected to continue to receive a fixed state subsidy of minimum 25 % (measured in relation to the total annual turnover) for covering operating expenses are non-profit institutions which do not seek to generate profit, and where any profit may not be distributed among the owners carrying out research must be a central purpose 	20%
Public hospitals in Denmark, Greenland and on the Faroe Islands	3,1%
State-recognised Danish museums (cf. the Danish Museum Act) and public museums in Greenland and on the Faroe Islands	3,1%
All other Danish and foreign institutions and companies	0%

4.3.7.11 The principle for calculating differentiated overhead/administration expenses

If your DFF application concerns activities that involve funding of various institutions with different legal status (see the table above), it is necessary to calculate a differentiated overhead for each institution.

For salary expenses, overhead/administration expenses must be calculated on the basis of the institution or business that defrays and registers the salary expenses. As such, it is not crucial if the research activity actually takes place at the institution or enterprise in question. Nor is the principal place of employment of a person or where he/she typically works most hours a decisive factor. If a person is employed by several institutions, these institutions must agree on how the project hours are to be distributed as working hours among them. Each institution will then have to include the salary expenses for its share of the project working hours in the budget. The same principle applies to the division of equipment and operating expenses. The overhead is awarded to the institution(s) defraying and registering the expenses for an operating item, based on the applicable rate for the type of institution in question, see the above table.

4.3.8 Budget confirmation

DFF funding is granted under the condition that the project's budget information in the application is approved, signed and stamped by the management of the administrating institution and signed by the applicant. The administrating institution is defined as the unit, which is responsible for the finance and personnel administration with regard to the project's/applicant's expenses during the project period and ensures administrative legality in connection with terms of employment, accounts, etc.

Stamp and signatures should be provided in the "DFF budget confirmation" template (the appendix must be uploaded to the application as a PDF file). You can find the template on the [DFF website](#).

5

HOW IS THE APPLICATION PROCESSED AND ASSESSED?

5.1 REQUIREMENTS FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO BE GIVEN ACTIVE CONSIDERATION

If the application does not meet the requirements listed below, it can be rejected without prior active consideration, cf., §4 and §5 of the [Executive Order no. 1154](#) of 16 October 2017 on the Functioning of grants under Independent Research Fund Denmark. In this case, you will receive an administrative rejection.

- The application must be submitted via e-grant (www.e-grant.dk).
- The application must be received before the application deadline expires.
- The application must be submitted for one of DFF's funding instruments.
- The application must be written in one of the languages specified (see [section 4.1.1](#)).
- The application must include a project description (see [section 4.3.3](#)).
- The project description must comply with both the specified maximum amount of characters and pages – as outlined in the section on the funding instrument applied for. (See [section 2](#) for information on the relevant funding instrument and [section 4.3](#) regarding information on how the number of characters is counted).
- The application must include the applicant's CV (see [section 4.3.4](#)).
- The applicant's CV must not exceed 2 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.). The 2 A4 pages must contain no more than 6,000 characters, including spaces, figure texts, formulas, etc. (see [section 4.3](#) regarding information on how the number of characters is counted).
- The application must include the applicant's list of publications (see [section 4.3.6](#)).
- The application must include a budget, using the budget template relevant to the funding instrument (www.e-grant.dk).
- The total amount applied for must observe any upper and lower limits that apply to the funding instrument in question.
- The applicant must as a minimum have a PhD degree or equivalent qualifications (does not apply to Non-university Research Education (PhD)).
- For applications to **DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant**, you, as the applicant, must have received your PhD from a Danish institution (see [section 2.3.1.2](#)).
- Applications for **DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant** must include a host declaration from the foreign host institution (see [section 2.3.1.3](#)).
- You, as the applicant, must meet the given PhD age requirements for **DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant** (see [section 2.3.1.2](#)) and **Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant** (see [section 2.3.2.2](#)).
- For applications to **Non-university Research Education (PhD)**, you, as the applicant, must have a Master's degree or equivalent qualifications at the time of application (see [section 2.3.5.2](#)).
- For applications to **Non-university Research Education (PhD)**, the host institution must be a public research institution (see [section 2.3.5.1](#)).
- Applications for **Pre-graduate scholarship | Medical Sciences** must be submitted by the principal supervisor (see [section 2.3.5.2](#)).
- For applications to **Pre-graduate scholarship | Medical Sciences**, there must be no overlap between two pre-graduate grants. The applicant cannot already be in charge of a pre-graduate grant overlapping a new grant (see [section 2.4.5.2](#)).
- Applications for **Pre-graduate scholarship | Medical Sciences** may not include students enrolled in educations that allow more than 6 months for the completion of the master thesis (regardless of whether this option is utilised) (see [section 2.4.5.3](#)).

If your application fulfils the above requirements, it will be submitted for active consideration by DFF on the basis of the submitted material. This means that DFF will not request further information from you after the application deadline and during the processing of the application, irrespective of whether your application is incomplete in relation to the requirements listed under each funding instrument in this call for proposals. It also means that **DFF will not accept any supplementary application materials after the application deadline.**

5.2 HOW TO APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE FUNDING INSTRUMENT IN THE SAME COUNCIL?

If you wish to apply for more than one funding instrument for the same application deadline in the same research council, you must submit a separate, completed application for each instrument. It is possible to submit more than one application for the same funding instrument.

5.3 HOW TO APPLY TO MORE DFF RESEARCH COUNCILS?

You may apply for funding for your project from several research councils if you find that your project cannot be delimited to one council, see the description of the delimitations between the various research councils in [section 1.9](#). If you find that, on scientific grounds, your application should be considered jointly by several research councils, you must do the following:

- You must only submit one application, including all mandatory appendices. When you begin working on your application, you must select the research council that you deem to be the central or main council for your application, based on the call's description of the councils' different fields and delimitations, see [section 1.8](#) and [section 1.9](#).
- In the application form, you must select which additional councils you wish your application to be assessed by, as well as state your reasons for applying to these particular councils, see [section 4.2.1.3](#).
- In your project description you must explain how you, as project leader, will ensure involvement of the different scientific fields necessary to the completion of the project.
- Please note that, in a few cases, the requirements with regard to appendices may vary from council to council. For this reason, you should carefully study the requirements concerning appendices listed in the description of each funding instrument in [section 2](#). If you are in doubt about the terms, you may contact the secretariat of Independent Research Fund Denmark (see [section 7.1](#)).

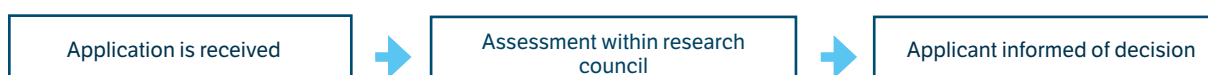
The DFF | Cross-council Committee decides how your application will be processed (see [section 5.5](#)).

5.4 INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FUND DENMARK'S PROCESSING PROCEDURES

All members of the relevant research councils will be involved in the assessment of all applications. Council members who are deemed disqualified due to a conflict of interest in relation to a particular application will not participate in the processing of that application. Regulations for disqualifications can be found in §2 of the [Executive Order no. 1154](#) of 16 October 2017 on the Functioning of grants under Independent Research Fund Denmark.

Your application will be processed in one of the following ways:

Applications without external review:



Applications with external review:



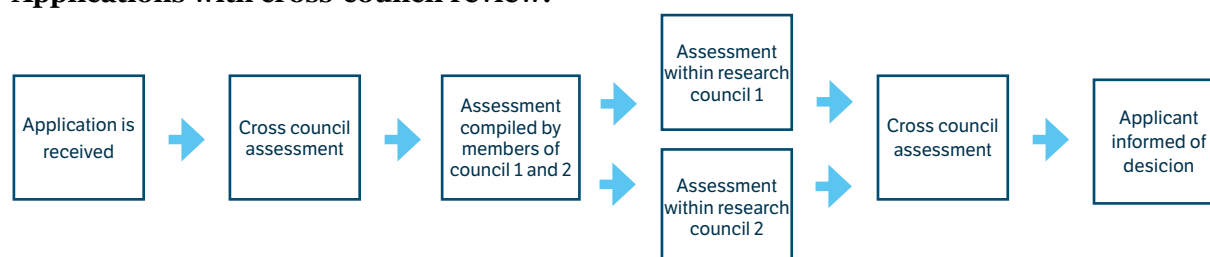
Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant:



Non-university Research Education (PhD):



Applications with cross-council review:



5.5 PROCESSING OF CROSS-COUNCIL APPLICATIONS

DFF finds it important that interdisciplinary applications have the same opportunities for funding as single-disciplinary projects. The council supports interdisciplinary as well as single-disciplinary projects of high quality. DFF has allocated a special pool for applications deemed to be truly suitable for cross-council processing.

Each of the five research councils assesses interdisciplinary proposals involving disciplines within the specific council's area of research. Interdisciplinary applications are processed in collaboration between the research councils, and are coordinated by DFF | Cross-council Committee, composed of the chair persons from each of the five research councils. The committee's work is assisted by selected council members with relevant scientific expertise.

If you have requested that your application is assessed by more than one council, it will be presented to the cross-council committee, which will decide on the processing of the application.

In the same way, applications submitted to only one council will be presented to DFF | Cross-council Committee, if the council applied for assesses the research project to fully or partially fall within the scientific field of another research council.

DFF | Cross-council Committee may make the following decisions about an application:

- The application is assessed by one council only. The application may be referred to another council than the one(s) you applied to, for example, if the research project has only a minor scientific relation to one or more of the council(s) that you applied to.
- The assessment in one council will include a scientific statement from one or more of the other councils.
- The application is assessed as a cross-council application, i.e., the application is assessed by more than one council. Based on the scientific assessments from the involved research council(s), DFF | Cross-council Committee makes the final assessment and decides whether the applicant receives a grant.

DFF | Cross-council Committee is not obliged to follow your requests concerning which council(s) will assess your application. However, your application will never be referred to another council than the one(s) decided by you, if you choose “No” in the section “Submission to other councils” in the application form (under the headline “Referral to other research councils”). If you have chosen that your application cannot be referred to another council, the DFF | Cross-council Committee may still decide to ask for a scientific opinion from one or more of the other councils not chosen by you.

5.6 EXTERNAL REVIEW IN DFF

DFF strives to find external reviewers who are accomplished researchers with a wide range of scientific competencies and who have previous experience as external reviewers. The research councils’ choice of reviewers is based on an overall assessment of the suitable candidates, their availability within the time limits that apply, and whether the review is going to be carried out individually or in a review panel. The research councils may choose not to submit such applications for external review, if it proves impossible to find qualified reviewers within the given time frames.

When DFF approaches a researcher to enquire if he/she will serve as an external reviewer, the fund’s rules of impartiality will be pinpointed to the potential reviewer. Reviewers are also informed that the application material is confidential, and that the reviewer’s assessment and identity will be disclosed to the applicant, who will be given the opportunity to comment on any factual errors and misunderstandings in the review. This is done to ensure that the external review process is carried out in accordance with the rules for administration, which apply to DFF’s work.

All applications to **Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant**, which have been through the first assessment in the research council and have been selected to advance to the second round will, to the extent possible, be sent to external international review.

Moreover, in connection with this call for proposals, the following types of applications will be submitted for international external review:

DFF | Humanities: All applications for DFF–Research Project2 will, to the extent possible, be submitted for review by an external panel. However, projects within smaller research areas and highly interdisciplinary applications will primarily be submitted for individual external review.

DFF | Natural Sciences: All applications for DFF–Research Project2 will, to the extent possible, be submitted for review by an external panel.

DFF | Social Sciences: All applications for DFF–Research Project2 will, to the extent possible, be submitted for review by an external panel.

DFF | Medical Sciences: All applications for DFF–Research Project1 and DFF–Research Project2 within the areas of (i) clinical psychiatry and neuroscience, (ii) basic psychiatry and neuroscience, as well as (iii) metabolism will, to the extent possible, be submitted for review by an external panel.

DFF | Technology and Production Sciences: Applications for DFF–Research Project2 within the following four research areas: (i) signals and systems, (ii) optics, photonics, electronics and power electronics, (iii) veterinary- and animal science including related food science, as well as (iv) biotechnology and bio-technical production will, to the extent possible, be submitted for review by an external panel. If this year’s number of applications is very low within one or more of these areas, the applications in question may instead be sent for individual external review.

DFF | Cross-council Committee: Applications to DFF–Research Project1 and DFF–Research Project2, subject to a cross-council processing, will be sent to an external review panel after the processes in each of the relevant research councils (see [section 5.4](#) and [section 5.5](#)).

In addition, DFF always carries out an external review for all applications where:

- A council member is an applicant or scientific participant in an application, whose budget exceeds DKK 1 million (excluding overhead/administration expenses), submitted to the council of which the applicant is a member, or
- The research council is deemed disqualified, or for other reasons does not possess the necessary scientific expertise to consider the application in question.

Applications for external review will be submitted to an international review panel or to an individual external reviewer. If your application has been submitted for external review, you will always receive a copy of the review, enabling you to comment and respond (consultation procedure). DFF will be entitled to make a decision about your application without waiting for your comments, if the deadline for submitting your reply has passed. DFF uses external reviews as an extension of the basis for the research councils' assessments, and the reviews' function is solely to provide guidance. The final decision rests with the research councils and is based on the criteria described in the call and the prioritisation of the overall field of applicants.

In the application form you may state if there is one or more researchers you would prefer not to be involved in the external review of your application. In such cases, you must provide exact contact information for the researcher in question and briefly explain why they should not review your application.

5.7 WHEN AND HOW WILL YOU BE NOTIFIED OF DFF'S DECISION?

The time of processing for the individual funding instruments is listed in the table in [section 2.2](#). Approximately 2 weeks after the council's decision the applicant will be informed via e-grant whether the application has resulted in a grant or a rejection.

DFF publishes a list of those applicants who have been awarded a grant, approximately 3 to 4 weeks after the research councils have reached a decision. Details about applicants who have not been awarded funding will only be published to the extent that someone requests a right of access to documents under the Danish Access to Public Administration Files Act, e.g., in the form of lists of applicants and the projects for which they have applied (i.e., names of applicants and project titles). Applicants should therefore ensure that the title of the application does not contain information about confidential research activities.

Applicants will receive a letter from the fund via the e-grant system 1 to 3 months after the research council has made its decision regarding granting or rejection. Rejection notices will contain a brief and concise elaboration of the reasons for the decision.

6 YOUR RESPONSIBILITY AS AN APPLICANT

When using the DFF e-grant application portal, it is your responsibility to choose the correct application form and ensure that the information provided is correct. You are furthermore responsible for ensuring that the contents of the mandatory appendices are correct, and that the appendices have been attached to the application. Finally, it is your responsibility that the application has been submitted by the deadline specified for the relevant research council and funding instrument.

This call lists the specific types of formal shortcomings in [section 5.1](#), which will result in an administrative rejection of applications. It is your responsibility to ensure that you fulfil all the formal requirements listed in the call, in order for your application to be submitted for active consideration by the relevant research council.

You are obliged to inform DFF if significant prerequisites for carrying out the project can no longer be met.

6.1 DUTY TO INFORM ABOUT OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

If you are awarded partial or full funding for your project from other sources, you are obliged to inform DFF within 14 days.

Funding may be in the form of financing from other sources.

Partial funding may include cases where you have submitted an application to other funds, the contents of which are not entirely the same as the project with which you applied to DFF, but where there is an overlap in the work packages or operating expenses and equipment applied for.

DFF may require you to submit the grant letter from and the application to the fund from which you received a grant as documentation, in order for DFF to decide whether there is an overlap in the topics of the two projects, and to decide which budget items to cut.

6.2 TECHNICAL DISCLAIMER

The Ministry of Higher Education and Science has an obligation to inform of any errors that make the e-grant system inaccessible, affecting the applicant's possibility of submitting applications within a given deadline. Such technical issues will be announced on the [UFM website](#).

In especially serious cases, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science may extend the application deadline for all relevant applicants. This will also be announced on the website.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Science is not liable for any incorrect information due to software errors, calculation errors, transmission errors and similar errors, just as the ministry will not be held liable for any claims for damages due to incorrect use of the e-grant system.

6.3 THE DANISH OPEN ADMINISTRATION ACT AND THE DANISH PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ACT

The Danish Open Administration Act ([LBK 145](#) of 24 February 2022) also known as offentlighedsloven, provides you with certain rights, just as it secures citizens in Denmark various rights in relation to public authorities' duty of disclosure in connection with administrative procedures. Thus, the material you submit to the Ministry of Higher Education and Science is as a whole covered by the regulations of the Danish Open Administration Act e.g. in relation to the right of access to records. See also the Danish Public Administration Act ([LBK 433](#) of 22 April 2014).

6.4 DATA PROTECTION

The information submitted in your application will be registered in e-grant. Upon request, you have a right of access and rectification of the data registered and stored by us, cf., the Data Protection Act ([Act no. 502](#) of 23 May 2018) and the General Data Protection Regulation. The information you provide, is regularly transferred to the Danish National Archives, subject to the rules of the Archive Act, and National Archives' provisions in this regard.

Read more about the general processing of personal data at the [UFM website](#).

It is not possible to rectify the contents of your application after it has been submitted, other than rectification of personal information.

6.5 TRANSMISSION OF PERSONAL INFORMATION

Read more about the transmission of your personal data on the [DFF website](#).

6.6 AUTHORITIES' RIGHT TO REQUEST OTHER INFORMATION

DFF reserves the right to obtain information on any previous and current applications you have submitted to Independent Research Fund Denmark, Innovation Fund Denmark and/or the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. This information may be used in connection with the processing of your application to the extent it is deemed relevant to the assessment of the current application.

6.7 PUBLICATION

In the event that you are awarded funding, in full or in part, your name and any project participants' names, as well as details about the venue, title and duration of the project, any key figures for the grant and the size of the grant will be published as part of a larger overview of Danish research results and in [DFF's overview of projects](#). The popularised scientific description will typically be published on these sites.

7

SUPPORT FOR YOUR APPLICATION

7.1 QUESTION ABOUT THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Independent Research Fund Denmark's secretariat can provide telephone and written guidance on the administrative and formal issues regarding this call and the application procedures. You may contact the DFF secretariat by telephone at +45 7231 8200 between 9am and 12 (noon) on weekdays or by email: DFF-opslag@ufm.dk.

On [DFF's website](#) you can find answers to the most frequently asked questions.

The secretariat is unfortunately unable to provide guidance on scientific issues. DFF recommends that you instead contact your local research support unit and avail of peer feedback.

7.2 TECHNICAL QUESTIONS (E-GRANT)

If you require help in using the e-grant system, please find more information at [UFM's website](#). If you have technical queries, you can contact e-grant support by telephone at +45 3392 9190 between 9am and 12 (noon) on weekdays or by email: support.e-grant@ufm.dk.

7.3 QUESTIONS ABOUT EXISTING GRANTS

If you have queries regarding an existing grant from DFF you should contact the Administration and Grants Unit in the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science, which manages the administration of grants from DFF. You may contact the unit by telephone at +45 3392 9200 between 9am and 12 noon on weekdays or by email: bevilling@ufm.dk. On the [unit's website](#), you can find answers to the most frequently asked questions regarding grants.