

# DFF Webinar Call for Proposals 2026

Rosita Satell and Mette Falkenberg

22<sup>nd</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026



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FUND DENMARK

# Agenda

- ▶ **1. Welcome and Introduction to DFF**  
Matching of expectations
- ▶ **2. Interview with Council Chairs**  
Two of the five council chairs participate
- ▶ **3. Overview of calls**  
What can you apply for in 2026
- ▶ **4. Consolidation Act on DFF**  
Introduction to the changes to the consolidation act on DFF
- ▶ **5. Significant Changes to the Call for Proposal**  
Changes, new requirements, etc.
- ▶ **6. How will my Application be Processed and Evaluated?**  
Assessment criteria and procedure
- ▶ **7. Introduction to E-grant**  
Application form etc.
- ▶ **8. Closing Remarks**



# Alignment of Expectations

## ▶ Questions we often get:

- How to create a good budget?
- How to write a good project description?
- What makes a good research team?
- How much salary should I apply for as PI?

## ▶ The hard truth:

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



# What we do

DFF supports **independent research** ...

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

... and **thematic research**

- politically determined funds within selected areas
- still based on researchers' own ideas



# Organisational structure of DFF

Board of Directors

Chair Group

DFF  
Humanities

(FKK)

DFF  
Natural  
Sciences

(FNU)

DFF  
Social  
Sciences

(FSE)

DFF  
Medical  
Sciences

(FSS)

DFF  
Technology  
and Production  
Sciences

(FTP)

DFF  
Cross-Council  
Committee

(T-udvalget)

Office of Independent Research Fund Denmark



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# Organisational structure of DFF

## Board of Directors

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research in the  
specialised social  
services

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research on Artificial  
Intelligence

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research in Fertility

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research on learning  
and well-being

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Green Research

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research on artificial  
intelligence on the  
cancer field

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Arctic research

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research on the  
Danish Realm

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Clinical and  
Independent Research

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research in  
Psychiatry

DFF | Ad hoc committee  
for Research on elderly,  
dementia, vulnerability  
and poor well-being

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# Interview with research council chair



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# Interview 22 April 2026



**Kirstine Berg-Sørensen**  
Associate professor, Technical  
University of Denmark (DTU)

Chair of research council:  
"Natural Sciences"



**Robert Tranekær Klemmensen**  
Professor, Lund University

Chair of research council:  
"Social Sciences"

# Interview 27 April 2026



**Marianne Skovsager Andersen**  
Professor, University of Southern  
Denmark / Odense University  
Hospital

Chair of research council:  
"Medical Sciences"




**Susanne Brix Pedersen**  
Professor, MSO, Technical  
University of Denmark (DTU)

Chair of research council:  
"Technology and Production  
Sciences"




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**What do you look for when  
assessing an application?**




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**Do you see any typical weaknesses in the applications, and what can applicants do to improve their application in general?**



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**There are many changes to this year's call. What would you like to highlight?**



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# Calls for Proposals 2026

An overview



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# Calls for Proposals in 2026

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH**



  
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**2026**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE  
**INGE LEHMANN  
PROGRAMME**



  
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**2026**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
**THEMATIC RESEARCH**

- / Research on antisemitism
- / Research on artificial intelligence in the cancer field
- / Research on learning and well-being in primary schools and in upper secondary and vocational education
- / Research on vulnerability and poor well-being
- / Research in the specialised social services
- / Research on elderly and ageing and dementia



  
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**2026**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
**THEMATIC RESEARCH**

- / Research on fertility
- / Research on artificial intelligence
- / Green research
- / Clinical and independent research
- / Research in psychiatry



  
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**2026 - 2029**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
**THEMATIC RESEARCH**

- / Arctic research
- / Research on the Danish Realm



  
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**2026**

# Call for Proposals: Independent Research Funds

Funding Instrument	Application Deadline	Budget Framework Excl. overhead
DFF-Research Project1	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 2,550,000
DFF-Research Project2	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 12:00 noon	Between DKK 2,550,000 and 4,450,000
Sapere Aude: DFF-Research Leader	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 4,450,000
Non-university Research Education (PhD)	16 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 2,150,000
DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant	5 <sup>th</sup> November 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 1,550,000
Journals   Humanities	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 130,000
Pre-graduate Scholarships   Medical Sciences	12 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 12:00 noon 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 150,000



# Call for Proposals: The Inge Lehmann Programme

Funding Instrument	Application Deadline	Budget Framework excl. overhead
DFF-Research Project1 (Inge Lehmann)	17 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 12:00 noon	Up to DKK 2,550,000

## Applicant's PhD Age

- Minimum 2 and maximum 6 years at the time of the expiration of the application deadline

## Applicant's Employment

- Assistant professor/associate professor (adjunkt/lektor), researcher/senior researcher (forsker/seniorforsker), or fellow (docent) at a Danish research institution, which is covered by a job structure at the (Danish) Ministry of Higher Education and Science, the (Danish) Ministry of Culture, the Danish Ministry of Defence, or the Danish Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities



# Call for Proposals: Thematic Funds 2026

Politically Determined Theme	Application Deadline	Budget Framework
Research on artificial intelligence in the cancer field	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000 excl. overhead
Research on antisemitism	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 6,000,000 <u>incl.</u> overhead
Research in the specialised social services	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 8,000,000 excl. overhead
Research on vulnerability and poor well-being	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000 excl. overhead
Research elderly and ageing and dementia	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000 excl. overhead
Research on learning and wellbeing in primary schools and in upper secondary and vocational education	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000 excl. overhead

CALL FOR PROPOSALS  
**THEMATIC RESEARCH**

- / Research on antisemitism
- / Research on artificial intelligence in the cancer field
- / Research on learning and well-being in primary schools and in upper secondary and vocational education
- / Research on vulnerability and poor well-being
- / Research in the specialised social services
- / Research on elderly and ageing and dementia



  
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**2026**

# Call for Proposals: Thematic Funds 2026-2029

Politically Determined Theme	Application Deadline	Budget Framework excl. overhead
Clinical and independent research	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000
Green research	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000
Research on artificial intelligence	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000
Research in psychiatry	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000
Research in fertility	3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000

Same application deadline for these themes in 2027-2029:

- 24<sup>th</sup> February 2027 at 12 noon
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2028 at 12 noon
- 21<sup>st</sup> February 2029 at 12 noon



# Call for Proposals: Thematic Funds 2026

Politically Determined Theme	Application Deadline	Budget Framework
Arctic research	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000 excl. overhead
Research on the Danish Realm	2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2026 at 12.00 noon	Up to DKK 5,000,000 excl. overhead



# Changes to the Consolidation Act on DFF



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# New executive order on the Functioning of Grants

**Since 2020, volume of applications has increased by 30% to 4,500 applications in 2025.**

- The Consolidation Act was amended with effect from 1 January 2026.
- DFF has now legal authority to:
  - introduce new limits on the number of applications per applicant
  - to impose quarantine periods

For more information,  
please consult  
**section 2** of the Call  
for Proposals 2026

# Limitation on the number of applications per applicant

- A maximum of one application submitted per year
- Applicants with two or more active grants (from DFF) may not submit applications

## **Please note**

- Applies only to the applicant (PI)
- In case of administrative rejection, you may not reapply before next year
- Withdrawal of application counts as a submitted application

For more information,  
please consult  
**section 2.1 and 2.2**  
of the Call for  
Proposals 2026

# Quarantine periods (not specified yet)

**Expected one to two year quarantine period if:**

- Application is assessed as being far from fundable in terms of quality
- If the applicant's scientific qualifications are otherwise not assessed to be at a sufficient level.

Please note that it is yet to be determined whether the rules will apply to all funding instruments.

**Not  
implemented  
in 2026 calls  
for proposals**



# Significant Changes in 2026



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# Assessment Criteria

As part of implementing *Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment* (ARRA), DFF has implemented new assessment criteria in 2026.

- Potential for originality and breakthrough
- Scientific quality and approach
- Qualifications and organisation
- Research results and research outputs
- Funding instrument-specific criteria / Theme-specific criteria

The general assessment criteria can be found in section 8 of the relevant call for proposals

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Make sure to read the section of the relevant funding instrument/theme that you wish to apply to for further assessment criteria

# New Templates for CV and Track Record

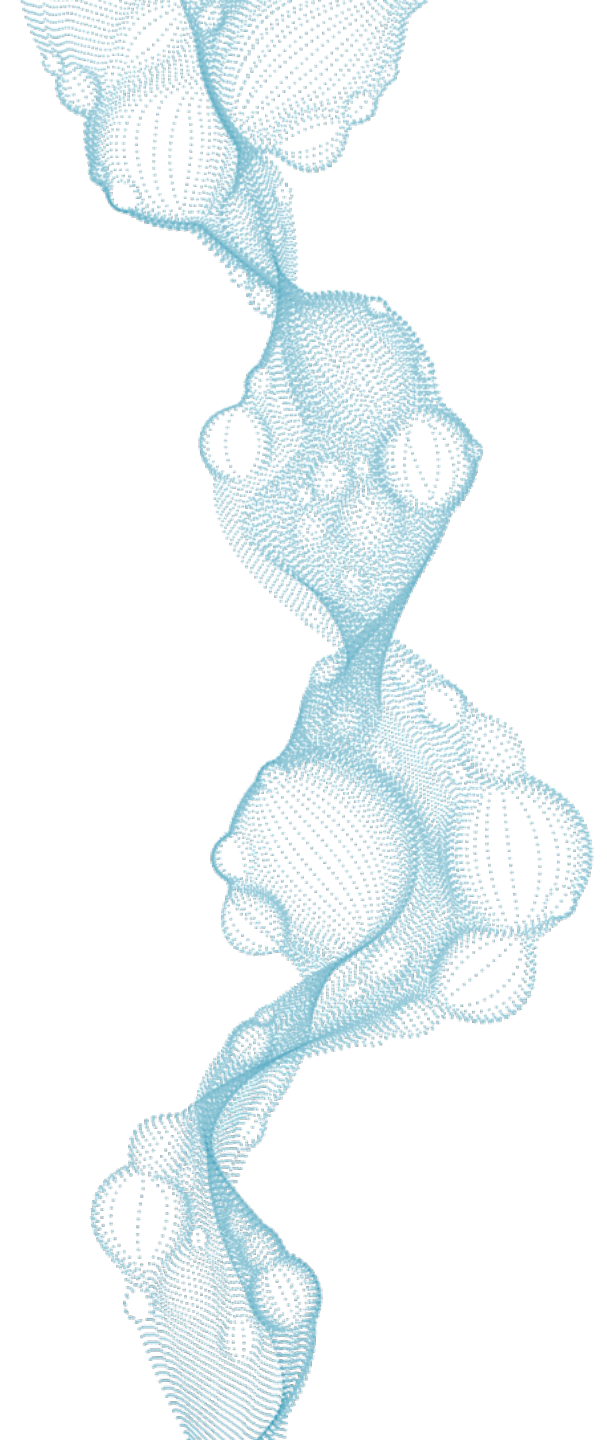
Following the new assessment criteria, DFF has developed new mandatory templates for applicant's and Co-PI's CV and publication list (track record).

[Download DFF – CV template \(Word\)](#)

[Download DFF – Track record template \(Word\)](#)

More information can be found in section 10 of the relevant call for proposal.

Both templates can be downloaded via the fund's website.



# New CV Template

- A combination between a classic and a narrative CV format
- Categories (in addition to background)
  - *Career breaks*
  - *Research statement*
  - *Personal context*
  - *Grants and awards*
  - *Supervision, teaching and leadership*
  - *Collaborations and teamwork*
  - *Contributions to the Research Community*
  - *Contributions to the Wider Society.*

## Education

20XX Degree, Department, Institution, Country

20XX Degree, Department, Institution, Country

## Career breaks

[If relevant, list major career breaks that have affected your career. Do not provide any sensitive information. Please state exact dates and include a brief factual explanation.]

## Research statement

[Describe your contributions to science, your original ideas, research accomplishments, and interests, and explain why you are well suited for your proposed role relevant to this application. (Approx. 5-10 lines.)]

## Personal context

[Describe your career context, for instance the nature of your position, your role and responsibilities, the allocation of your time between research and teaching obligations if relevant, as well as any specific conditions that affect your research career. Do not provide any confidential information. (Approx. 5-10 lines.)]

## Grants and awards

[List major grants and awards you have received, stating the topic, year, amount (if applicable), and funder/source.]

## Supervision, teaching and research leadership

[List your relevant experience in research leadership, mentoring, teaching, supervision, and training. In addition, list the number of master's students, PhD students, and postdocs you have supervised.]

## Collaborations and teamwork

[List your major national or international collaborations within academia or with, for example, industry or practice-oriented partners. Also include relevant experience with scientific teamwork, e.g., within your research group.]

## Contributions to the research community

[List your relevant contributions to the research community. For instance, activities supporting the infrastructure of the research community, such as peer review, committee memberships, chairing, editing, etc., as well as contributions that supports the openness of research – e.g., transparency in processes, methodologies, and results, or early sharing of data and knowledge.]

## Contributions to the wider society

[If relevant, list your relevant contributions to the wider society, such as open collaboration with societal actors, dissemination, knowledge sharing, policy development, committee memberships, community engagement, entrepreneurship, etc.]

# New Publication List Format (Track Record)

- Classic format with narrative elements and more examples
- Categories
  - *Selected outputs (max 5)*
  - *Summary statistics*
  - *List of publications/ research outputs from the past 10 years*
- Only citation, no other metrics may be included (e.g. h-index)

## A) Selected outputs

[List up to five major, relevant outputs or contributions from any time during your career, in descending order starting with the most recent. For each output, include a brief factual explanation (max 3 lines) of its significance, and your role in it. For example, you can include: articles and other scientific publications; methodologies, methods, tools or products development; dataset creation or curation, data or software development; creative outputs, exhibitions; workflows; intellectual property; strategies/policy contributions; patents etc.]

[If there are specific publishing traditions or particular ways of indicating authorship within your field that might be relevant to know for researchers who are not experts in your discipline, you can include a brief factual explanation.]

## B) Summary statistics

[List your total *number* of publications during your career, grouped into relevant categories. Only list publications that are published or accepted for publication. Group your number of publications into categories such as:

- number of journal articles (first-author and last-author, if relevant in your field)
- other categories such as books/monographies; open access publications, etc.
- total number of citations (cite source, e.g., Google Scholar). Do not include any other bibliometrics, e.g., H-index or Journal Impact Factor.]

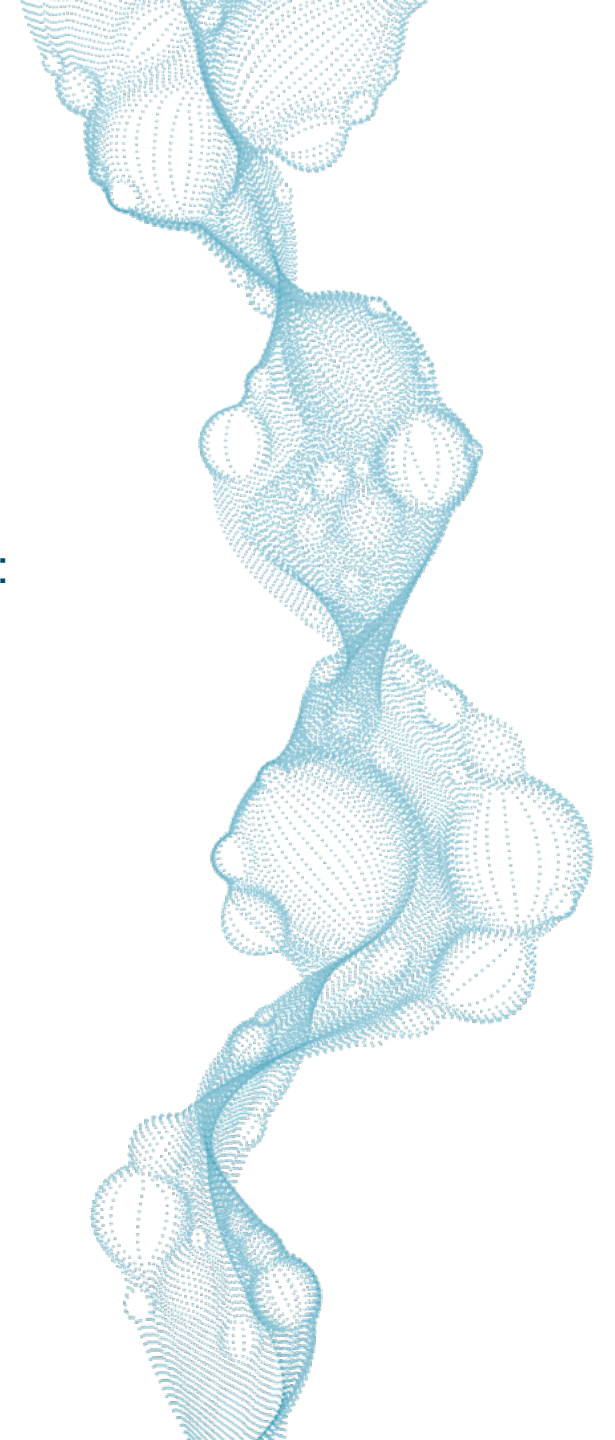
## C) List of publications/research outputs from the past 10 years

[List your academic publications/research outputs from the past 10 years, in descending order, starting with the most recent. If necessary due to space limitations (max 3 pages), the list must be selective, but please indicate this. Only list publications that are published or accepted for publication.]

# Council Specific Funding Instruments

From 2026, three council specific funding instruments are no longer available:

- Explorative Networks | Humanities
- Clinical Scientist Positions | Medical Sciences
- International Research Stay | Social Sciences



# External review

Applications to Sapere Aude: DFF-Research Leader is no longer automatically send in individual external review.

Individual external reviews are used to supplement the council assessment.

Please note that


- reviews are (only) advisory
- as an applicant, you will always have the 'right to reply' to the external review, and the council will include your reply in their overall assessment



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More information on external review can be found in section 14 across the calls for proposals and in the section of the relevant funding instrument/theme

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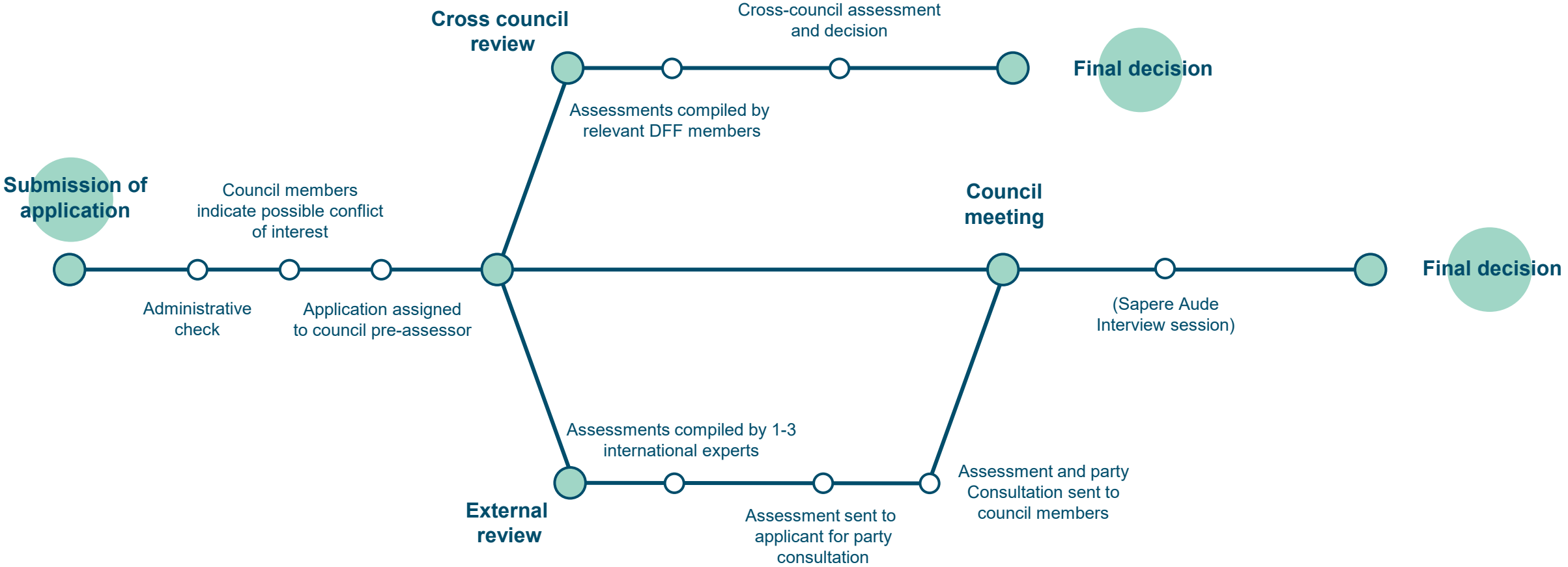
# How will my application be processed and evaluated?

Assessment procedures, general requirements etc.

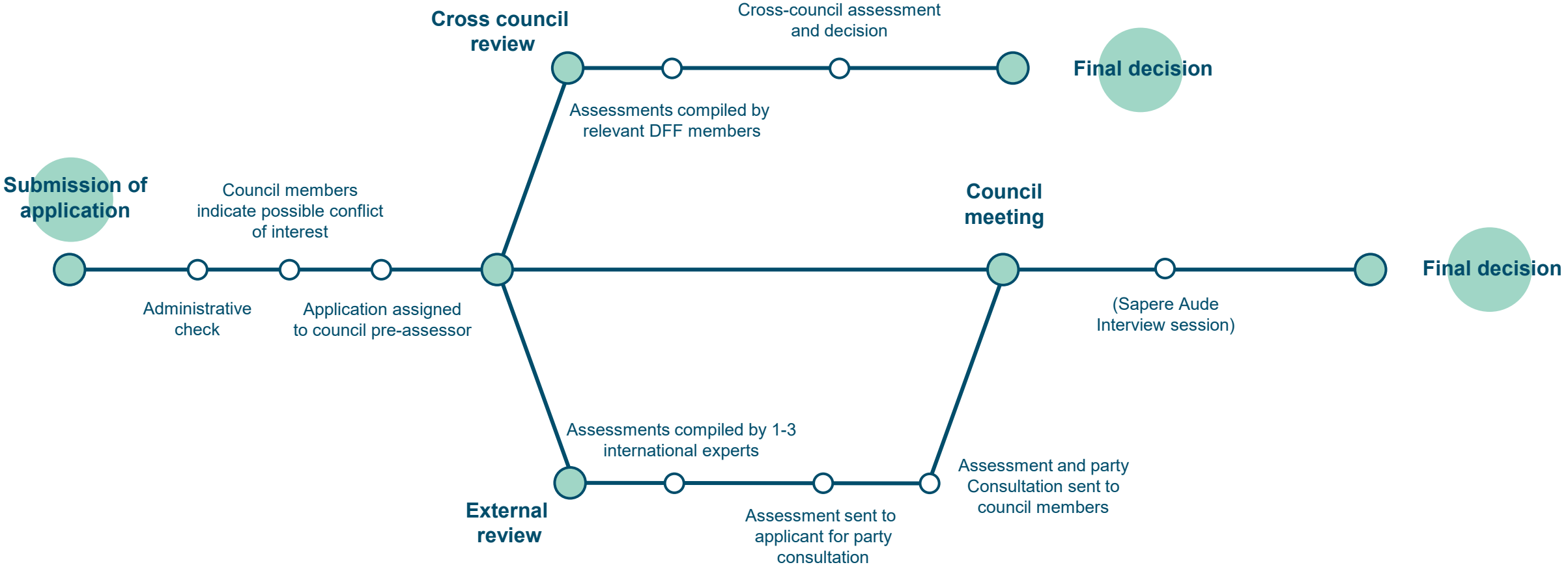


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# Overall assessment procedure in DFF



# Overall assessment procedure in DFF



# General requirements

**Your application must comply with a number of general requirements before given active consideration – among other things:**

- **Submit application** via e-grant and before expiration of deadline
- **Project description** must comply with both the specified maximum allowed number of characters and the maximum allowed number of pages (confer the section on the funding instrument applied for)
- **Applicant's CV** must not exceed 3 A4 pages
- **Applicant's list of publications (track record)** must not exceed 3 A4 pages (including figures, tables, etc.)
- The application must include a **budget** (use **budget template**)

Please confer part A, section 7 in the call for proposals for the full list of formal requirements

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

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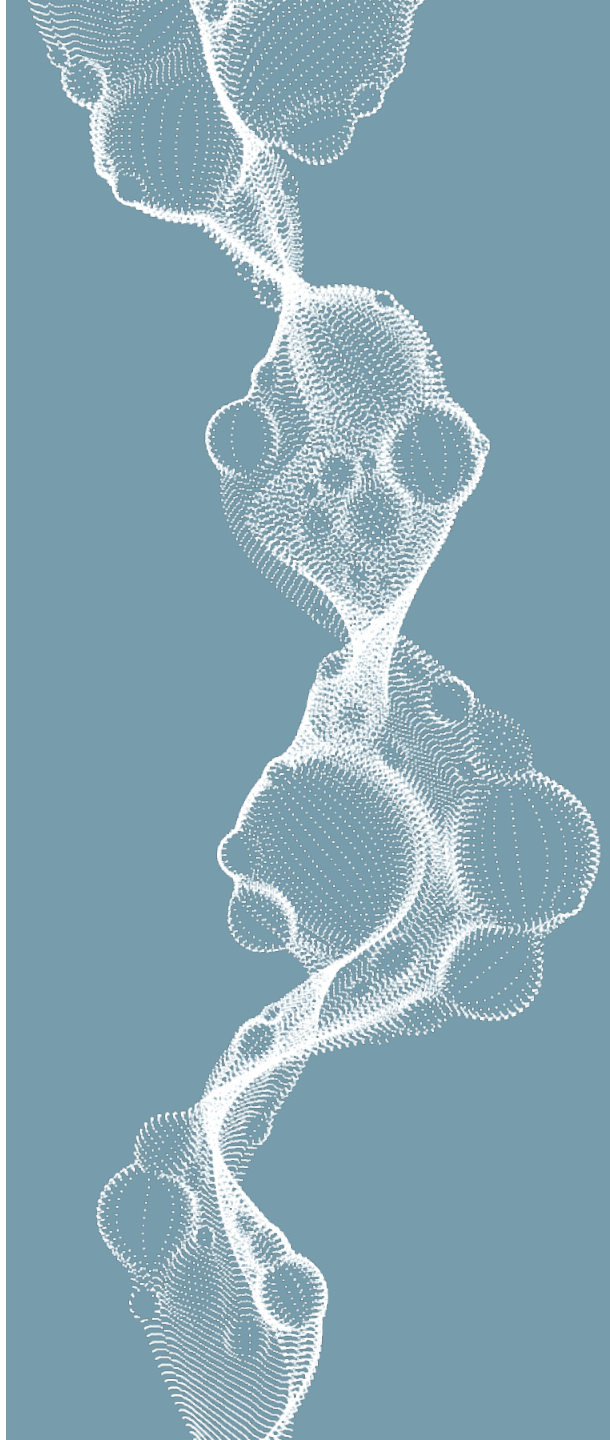
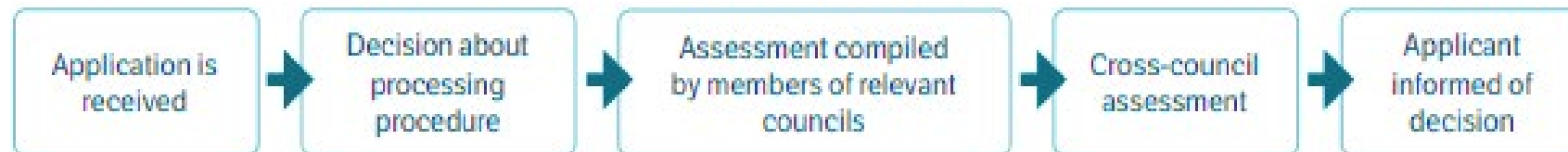
**Your application will be rejected administratively, if it doesn't comply with the requirements**

# Interdisciplinary projects

## DFF encourages interdisciplinary projects

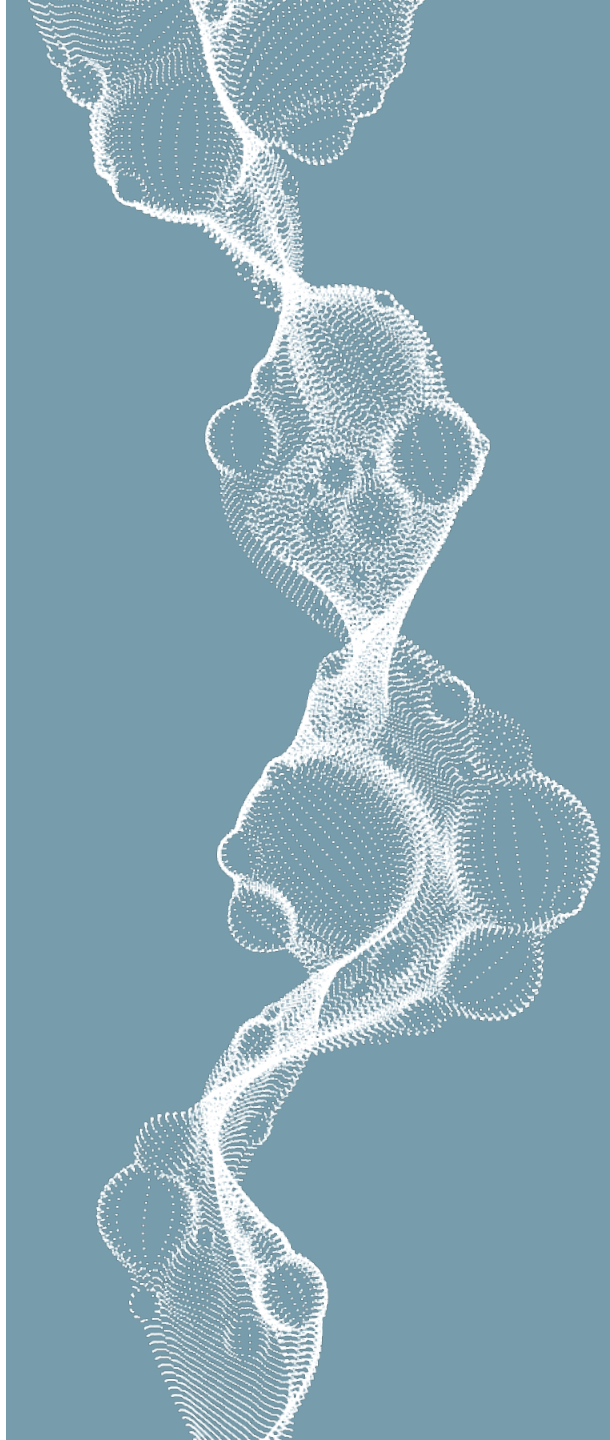
### Please note:

- You must select which main council you deem to be most relevant for your application
- The council might choose to allocate an interdisciplinary application to one of the other councils
- Some applications fall between two councils and will then be assessed within the cross-council committee
- A council can always request an opinion from another council
- **Process for applications with cross-council review**



# After the council decision

- Approximately two weeks after the final decision, you will receive a preliminary notification of the outcome in e-grant
- All names of grant recipients are published on the fund's website: <https://dff.dk/en/our-funded-projects/>
- The official grant letters and rejection letters will be sent to the applicants via the e-grant portal within approximately one to three months after the final decision
- In case of rejection, you will receive a short explanation

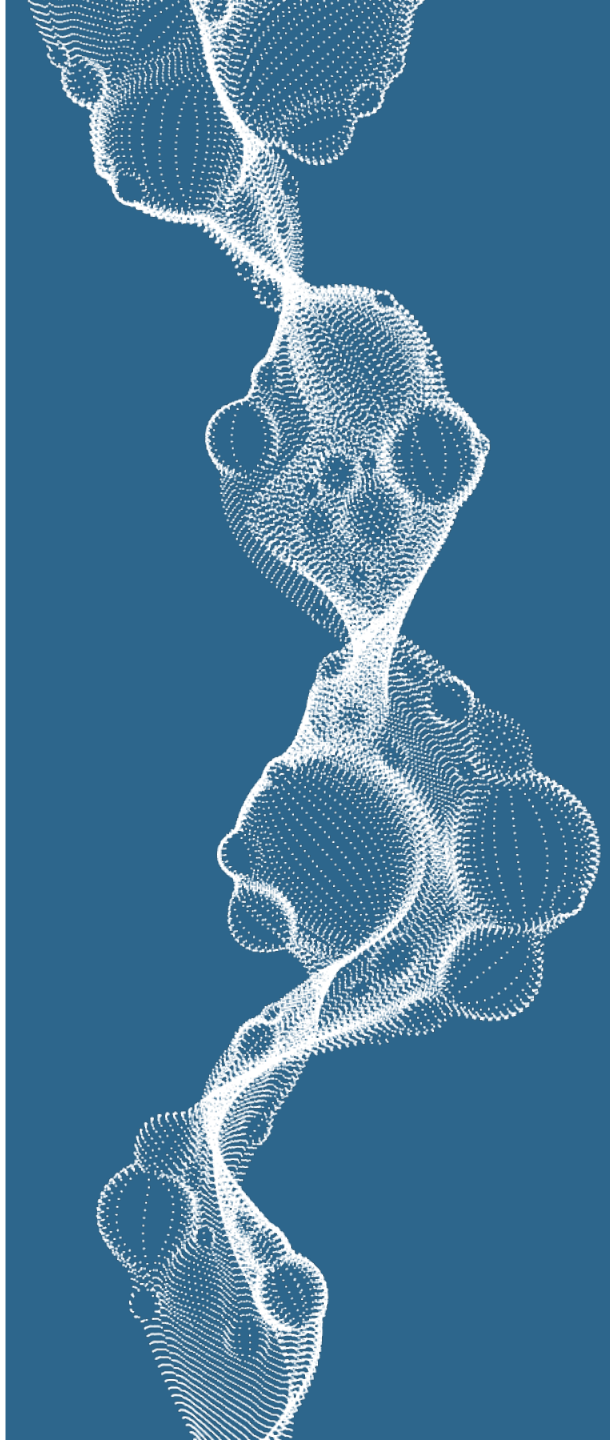


# Application form in e-grant

**Once again: Start well in advance and submit your application in good time before the deadline!**

Find the relevant council/theme and application form on: [www.e-grant.dk](http://www.e-grant.dk)

- Many different fields must be filled in with different information
- Your application does not just consist of a project description and your CV – a number of other appendices are relevant



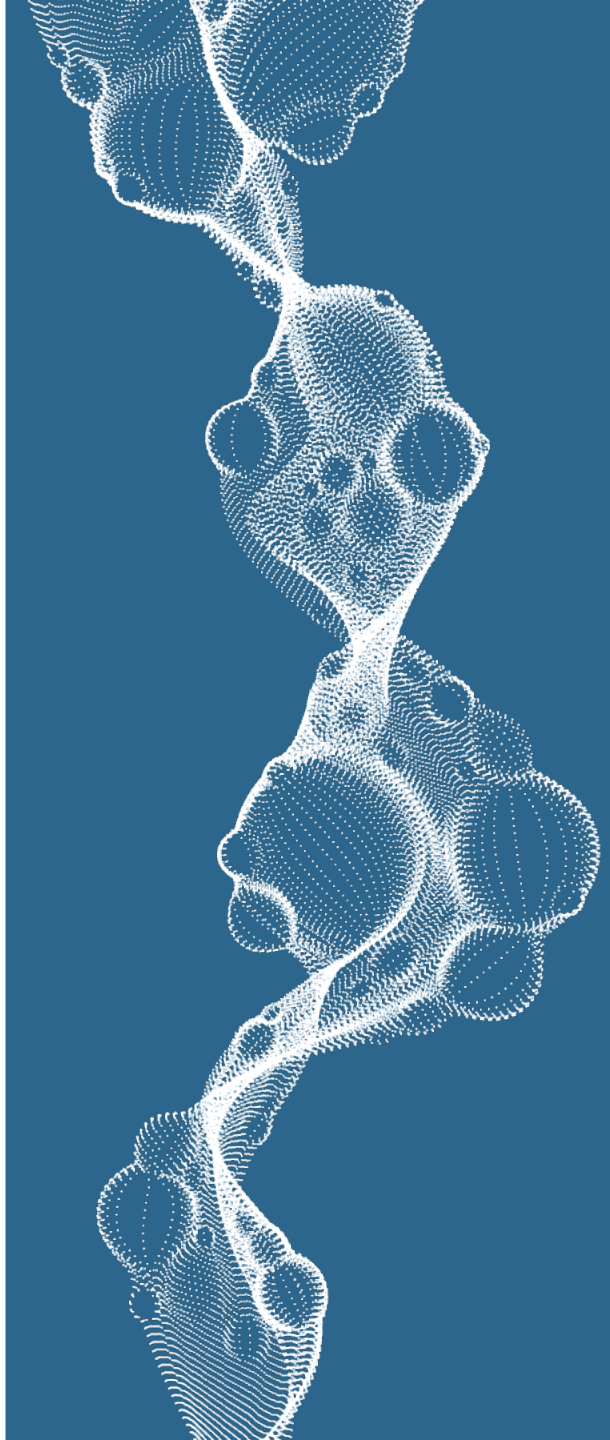
# Application form in e-grant

In addition to the list of appendices, you are required to provide:

- Popularised description of the project (in Danish and English)
- Classification codes (OECD-codes)
- Description of ethical considerations
- Comprehensive list of previous grants and grant applications
- Etc.

Remember to inform us if you receive funding for your project from elsewhere

Get support from your local research support unit



# More topics

- General requirements
- Periods of leave and PhD age calculation
- Statistics
- Budget
- E-grant counting tool
- Research security etc.



**Please read the  
call carefully!**



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# Further questions?

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

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

## Questions regarding scientific content etc.:

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

