

## Terms of Reference

### Niels Bohr Professorships

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### Terms of Reference for evaluation of proposals for Niels Bohr Professorships

Ref. 26-13

The objective of the [Danish National Research Foundation](http://www.dg.dk) (DNRF) is to promote and stimulate outstanding research at the highest international level at the frontiers of all research fields. The Center of Excellence program is the main funding mechanism, but a number programs and initiatives have also been launched specifically targeted at increasing the level of internationalization of Danish research communities.

#### **What is a Niels Bohr Professorship?**

The Niels Bohr Professorship Program seeks to attract strong, international, senior-level researchers who are able to significantly advance Danish research through the internationalization of a specific area of research in Denmark with lasting, long-term effects.

The focus, structure, and size of the proposed Niels Bohr Professorships are such that they set the stage for research ventures that are not feasible within conventional funding from other sources.

The DNRF welcomes proposals for research programs characterized by novelty, creativity and excellence. Professorships can be established within and/or across all research areas.

The Niels Bohr professor may stay in Denmark for the entire 5-year funding period. Other models in which the Niels Bohr professor remains in Denmark for shorter or longer visits are also welcome; however, the time spent at the Danish host institution is expected to correspond to 50-100% of a full-time equivalent.

Proposals are submitted by the researcher responsible for the research group at the Danish university receiving the visiting professor.

Please read more in the Call for Proposals and the Guide for Applicants available at [www.dg.dk](http://www.dg.dk).

## The proposals

When invited to submit proposals, applicants are asked to give:

- A short summary of no more than 2 pages outlining the research idea and the added value of the proposed research
- A presentation of the research program, including a description of the proposed research idea, its dimension of novelty and potential for groundbreaking results, and an argument for its scientific/scholarly or investigative relevance (not exceeding 5 pages)
- An organizational strategy for securing lasting effects from the internationalization of the research environment (not exceeding 4 pages)
- A description of the host institution's commitment to and vision for the proposed Niels Bohr Professorship, including arguments for how the Niels Bohr Professorship will interact with other related activities and plans of the Danish host institution (not exceeding 2 pages)
- The CV of the proposed Niels Bohr professor, including a brief and concise outline of his or her professional career
- CVs for each of the core members

## The review

Reviewers are not asked to grade or rank the proposals but to deliver an assessment based on arguments and reflections. The review should consist of a 3- to 5-page report addressing the following three focal points. The foundation offers reviewers an honorarium of DKK 3.000 (~ 400 euro).

### 1. Research quality and leadership

- Please give an assessment of the standing of the proposed Niels Bohr professor in the international research community.
- How will the Niels Bohr professor be able to act as a catalyst supporting cohesiveness and demonstrating scientific/scholarly leadership of the Danish research group?
- Is the proposed research original, creative and excellent? Does it have the potential for making breakthroughs in and having an impact on the relevant research field(s)?

### 2. Research organization

- Are the focus, structure, and size of the proposed Niels Bohr Professorship such that they set the stage for excellent research ventures?
- Does the organizational structure of the proposed Niels Bohr Professorship support the program objective of advancing the internationalization of a specific research area with lasting, long-term effects? Is it clear and coherent?
- How strong is the commitment of the Danish host institution in terms of securing a lasting effect of the professorship as well as the plans for how much time the Niels Bohr professor will be spending in Denmark.

### 3. Added value and spillover effect of the Niels Bohr Professorship

- How will the presence of the Niels Bohr professor advance the Danish research environment(s) involved? How will his/her presence influence surrounding research environments?

- Does the proposed Niels Bohr Professorship include high-quality research personnel with the competencies/capacities to ensure the establishment of a creative and dynamic international research environment?
- Will the proposed Niels Bohr Professorship provide an inspirational training ground for young researchers and be an attractive unit for recruitment and training of students and young researchers from abroad as well as from Denmark?
- Will the Niels Bohr Professorship have lasting, long-term effect on the Danish research group(s) involved?

### **Concluding remarks**

Please include some concluding remarks summing up the overall assessment. Please point out the top three strengths and the three weakest points of the proposal.

### **Conflict of interest**

The DNRF takes pride in conducting a very thorough and transparent evaluation when assessing proposals. The evaluation of each proposal involves peer reviews from three external, high-level experts. In order to ensure that assessments cannot be suspected of bias, reviewers must not have a conflict of interest (such as close family relationships or friendships with any of the persons involved in the proposed research, joint projects or co-authorship within the past 5 years, etc.).

Please note that according to Danish law, reviewers cannot remain anonymous in this process. Applicants will receive a copy of the reviews and be asked to comment on them before the DNRF board makes its final decision.