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Guide for Applicants

DNRF Chair

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Introduction

This guide provides information to potential applicants (Danish universities only) who intend to submit an application for a DNRF Chair grant.

Applicants are advised to visit www.dg.dk for further information about the foundation.

Applications may be submitted three times a year using an application form that can be downloaded from www.dg.dk. All applications must be written in English. The application form must be submitted as a PDF file and sent as an attachment to an e-mail to DNRFChair@dg.dk. See more details in the application form and below.

Applicants are urged to contact the secretariat if they have any questions about the application process. Questions may be directed to:

Director Søren-Peter Olesen, e-mail: spo@dg.dk, tel.: +45 3318 1950

Senior Adviser Johanne Juhl, e-mail: jj@dg.dk, tel.: +45 3318 1951

What is the DNRF Chair?

The DNRF Chair grant

With the overall purpose of strengthening and enriching Danish research communities, the aim of the DNRF Chair grant is to motivate and support Danish universities to attract and recruit particular outstanding researchers from abroad, including Danes wishing to return from an international position.

The objective of the DNRF Chair grant is to support and boost the start-up research activities of potential or newly recruited outstanding tenured professors at Danish universities right from the beginning of their employment. The foundation welcomes applications within and/or across all research areas: Humanities, Life Sciences, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Technical Sciences.

Excellence is the main criterion when assessing applications for DNRF Chair grants.

General funding and call procedure

The DNRF plans to continue the DNRF Chair instrument through December 2024. The funding of DNRF Chair grants will, on average, be about DKK 40 million per year, equalling a total of DKK 200 million. The foundation foresees awarding about three DNRF Chair grants annually. The average DNRF Chair grant is about DKK 5-10 million. Only in very exceptional cases and upon presentation of precise arguments, the grant may amount up to DKK 20 million.

The grants will be awarded by the board of the DNRF following one public call annually; each call consists of three rounds. See further details below (Overall time frame). Normally,

depending on the applications submitted, only one or two grants per round will be awarded. In the event that no application submitted fulfills the assessment criteria satisfactorily, the board may decide not to award a grant and to transfer unused funding to a subsequent round.

Application procedure

Eligible applicants

All Danish universities may apply for a DNRF Chair grant to support the start-up activities of faculty in the process of being recruited from abroad (or newly recruited, i.e., employed within the last six months preceding the relevant deadline for application) as tenured professors at their respective institutions.

In order to keep the number of applications at a realistic level, only one application per institution will be accepted per round.

Eligible expenses, budget

The grants may cover expenses to implement start-up research activities such as equipment, salaries of young researchers and Ph.D. students, seminars, travel costs, consumables, etc. Salaries of tenured staff, including the DNRF Chair tenured professor, cannot be covered by the grant. Such salaries should be covered by the relevant university.

When submitting an application, applicants are asked to include an estimated budget for the whole grant; see below. Overhead should be included in the budget (44 percent for universities).

Grant period

The grant period is up to 3 years/36 months.

Processing of applications

The DNRF Chair grant is a flexible instrument intended for start-up activities. Accordingly, the processing is kept simple:

- Applications
All applications shall consist of the following:
 - CV of the potential or newly recruited international researcher, including a letter of declaration that states a full-time commitment to the applicant (host institution);
 - A short description of the planned research activities/program and their organizational set-up;
 - A letter of motivation and support from the applicant (host institution), including an explanation of why the activities are not expected to be funded by other sources;
 - Detailed budget for the start-up activities in the grant period, including information on funding from the applicant (host institution) and other sources;
 - A list of other pending applications for grants for the same purpose, if any.

For further details, see the Application Form.

- Assessment criteria

The overall assessment criterion is excellence, meaning

- The potential or newly recruited international researcher has a very high standing in the international research community.
 - The research endeavor/program of the potential or newly recruited international researcher is ambitious and original, has the potential for producing groundbreaking results, and has an appropriate organizational set-up.
 - The planned start-up activities are not expected to be funded by other sources.
- Board processing and selection
 - The assessment of the applications will be made by the board of the DNRF, i.e., there will be no external peer review.
 - The final selection in each round will be based on the board's assessment of the proposal.
 - The board takes decisions at ordinary board meetings or during telephone conferences.

Grant agreement

The DNRF Chair grant will be regulated by a grant agreement drafted on the basis of the general terms of the DNRF.

Overall time frame

The foundation intends to keep the overall time frame as follows:

- Call for applications:
Every January 1
- Deadline for applications (three rounds annually):
Every February 1, June 1, October 1
- Selection and award:
Every March 1, July 1, November 1

Privacy Policy

Before submitting an application, both the applicant and the potential or newly recruited researcher are encouraged to visit the foundation's website www.dg.dk for information on the foundation's Privacy Policy (privatlivspolitik).