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Guide for Applicants 2023

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 Danish National Research Foundation (DNRF).

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:

- CEO Søren-Peter Olesen, e-mail: spo@dg.dk, tel.: +45 3318 1950
- Senior Adviser Johanne Juhl Ryø, e-mail: jj@dg.dk, tel.: +45 3318 1951

What is a 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 particularly 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.

The DNRF believes that diversity contributes to a successful research environment. The DNRF therefore encourages the applicant (the university) to consider diversity, including, but not limited to gender and sociocultural background, when assessing organizational needs.

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

General funding and call procedure

The DNRF Chair instrument is planned to continue 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 (incl. overhead). Only in very exceptional cases and upon presentation of precise arguments, the grant amount may be as high as DKK 20 million (incl. overhead).

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 satisfactorily fulfils the assessment criteria, 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 start-up activities of faculty in the process of being recruited from abroad (or newly recruited, i.e., employed within the 6 months preceding the relevant deadline for application) as tenured professors at their respective institutions.

It is a prerequisite that significant start-up funding has not been obtained from other sources.

Two applications per university will be accepted at each of the three annual rounds.

Eligible expenses, budget

The grants may cover expenses to implement start-up research activities such as equipment, salaries of young researchers and Pd.D. students, seminars, travel costs, consumables, etc. Salaries of tenured staff, including the DNRF Chair's 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% 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:

Application content

All applications shall consist of the following:

- Applicant information
- An account of the candidate's profile and research plan, and alignment with the strategy of the institution
- CV of the potential or newly recruited international researcher
- An estimated budget for the start-up activities in the grant period
- Information on other funding
- A letter of declaration from the tenured professor
- A letter of motivation and support from the applicant (host institution). The letter must be signed by the Dean.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Science (UFM) has requested that the DNRF collects data from the foundation's applicants to be used across UFM in strategies, analyses, surveys, mapping, monitoring and other initiatives in connection with the following topics:

1. Green research, development, and innovation
2. Digitalization
3. Other themes

Please note that this information must be provided in the application form, however it is not a part of the proposal and will not be included in the foundation's evaluation regarding a possible DNRF Chair grant.

For further details, see the Application Form.

Assessment criteria

The overall assessment criterion is excellence. In assessing the proposal, the foundation will emphasize the following dimensions:

- 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 ground-breaking results, and an appropriate organizational set-up.
- Significant start-up funding has not been obtained from other sources.

Board processing and selection

- The assessment of the applications is performed by the board of the DNRF; that is, there will be no external peer review.
- The final selection in each round is based on the board's assessment of the proposal.
- The board takes decisions at regular 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 in 2023 (three rounds annually):

March 1, August 1, November 1

Selection and award in 2023:

The board will decide on funding of grant at meetings in mid-March, early September, and mid-November. Following applicants will be informed about the board's decision.

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).