AUFF Starting Grants

Guide for Applicants 2018

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Content

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Aarhus University Research Foundation introduced Starting Grants in 2015 as a new instrument to secure outstanding researchers good career opportunities at Aarhus University and to promote particularly promising and internationally renowned research at the four faculties.

AUFF Starting Grants are primarily intended for recruitment purposes, especially in connection with international recruitment to development areas with the aim of establishing new independent research areas and research groups, which may require attractive employment conditions. Applicants must possess significant international professional experience from foreign universities or other research institutions. In addition, the applicants are expected to have a strong publication record and a résumé of high international standard taking into account the time passed since their PhD degree (subtracting time spent for parental leave).

The foundation receives applications for AUFF Starting Grants continuously through the year in association with negotiations on new appointments upon recommendation by the deans and heads of department.

The application rounds are aimed at growth areas at Aarhus University, and are targeted at assistant professors in tenure track and associate professors that are employed at Aarhus University by 1 September 2017 or later.

All applications will be prioritized by the deans and heads of department.

In 2018 there is up to **DKK 47.5 million** for AUFF Starting Grants. The total budget of DKK 47.5 million will be distributed over the entire year.

1.   Application requirements

Specific rules apply for the two different types of grants

Assistant professor/researcher Starting Grant
- Grants can amount up to DKK 2.4 million for a period of three years.
- Available for applicants that have been employed as **assistant professor/researcher** at Aarhus University by **1 September 2017 or later.**

Associate professor/senior researcher Starting Grant
- Grants can amount up to DKK 4 million for a period of three years
- Available for applicants that have been employed as **associate professors/senior researchers** at Aarhus University by **1 September 2017 or later**.

General criteria for both Assistant Professor and Associate Professor Starting Grants
- The applicant must be employed at Aarhus University during the whole project period. In addition, the research must be carried out at Aarhus University.

- The application must be approved by the head of department and by the dean of the faculty at which the research will be carried out.

The grant can cover costs for starting, consolidating and renewing a research group, including PhD scholarships, salary for postdocs and scientific assistance, research equipment and operating costs etc. The grant cannot include salary costs for the assistant/associate professor and it is not possible to apply for buy out (frikøb) of employees at Aarhus University. Likewise, it is not possible to apply for costs covering longer stays at universities or similar abroad, publication support and salary costs for guest researcher visits.

2.   Application deadlines

- **Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 12 pm CET (noon)**
- **Monday 1 October 2018 at 12 pm CET (noon)**

- If postdoc or PhD salary is included in the grant, the position must be filled through an international call and follow Aarhus University's rules of employment of postdocs or admission of PhDs.

- The application must be submitted via the electronic application system **www.efond.dk/auff.** Once you have registered, you can change/edit your application until submission. Basic information about the applicant must be filled in via the electronic application system.

- There are no templates for the application and appendices, however, current guidelines must be followed, and the application must be written in English. **The following appendices are all mandatory** and must be uploaded in "***step 3***" in the electronic application system. **All appendices are to be uploaded as PDF files**. Please name files according to appendix name (Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.).

    1. **Appendix A: Research plan**
       Research plan for the pursued research field (not a project description) and a description of the setup, i.e. the research group, the manpower and/or apparatus needed for starting up or consolidating an independent group (A maximum of 7200 characters including spaces AND maximum 3 pages. Figures count for 750 characters). If references are relevant to the research plan they can be listed at a fourth page to the application.

    2. **Appendix B: Budget**
       Specified budget (main budget lines, e.g.; salary (PhDs, postdocs and/or scientific assistance), research equipment and operating expenses). A maximum of 2400 characters including spaces AND maximum 1 page. The grant cannot include salary costs for the applicant. Moreover, it is not possible to apply for costs covering longer stays abroad, publication support and guest researcher visits.

    3. **Appendix C: CV and list of publications**
       Applicants CV and list of publications. (A maximum of 7200 characters including spaces AND maximum 3 pages.)

    4. **Appendix D: Recommendation letter**

Academic recommendation letter by the head of department at Aarhus University, approved by the dean of the faculty.

Evaluation and selection process: After the deadline for applications, the applications will be subject to an eligibility screening based on the criteria described above. All mandatory documents must be uploaded in the electronic application system in order for the application to be considered complete.

An answer to the application can be expected 3 months after deadline.

3.   Procedure for application when recruiting new talent

Applications in relation to ongoing pressing recruitment processes, where a Starting Grant is crucial to attracting a highly attractive candidate, who also holds other job offers are received continuously throughout the year from Heads of Departments.

The application must be recommended by the Dean.

- The grant can cover costs for starting, consolidating and renewing a research group, including PhD scholarships, salary to postdocs and scientific assistance, research equipment and operating costs etc. Likewise, it is possible to fund moving expenses and scientific assistance to start research activities at Aarhus University in the period before starting the job as associate professor/senior researcher. The grant cannot include salary costs for the assistant/associate professor and it is not possible to apply for buy out (frikøb) of employees at Aarhus University. Likewise, it is not possible to apply for costs covering longer stays at universities or similar abroad, publication support and salary costs for guest researcher visits. There can be very different needs depending on the area of research and grants can vary according to individual needs.

- Heads of department are asked to forward the application with appendices (see 'AUFF Starting Grants, Guide for Applicants 2018' for details) as one PDF file via email to: **Tove Østergaard Le, Talent Development, AU Research Support and External Relations**, email: toe@au.dk.

- The application must be written in English. **The following appendices are all mandatory.** When applying as part of a recruitment process a rapid processing of the application can be expected.

- Mandatory content of the application

    1. **Appendix A: Research plan**
       Research plan for the pursued research field (not a project description) and a description of the setup, i.e. the research group, the manpower and/or apparatus needed for starting up or consolidating an independent group (A maximum of 7200 characters including spaces AND maximum 3 pages. Figures count for 750 characters). If references are relevant to the research plan they can be listed at a fourth page to the application.

    2. **Appendix B: Budget**
       Specified budget (main budget lines, e.g.; salary (PhDs, postdocs and/or scientific assistance), research equipment and operating expenses). A maximum of 2400 characters including spaces AND maximum 1 page. The grant cannot include salary costs for the

applicant. Moreover, it is not possible to apply for costs covering longer stays abroad, publication support and guest researcher visits.

3. **Appendix C: CV and list of publications**
   Applicants CV and list of publications. (A maximum of 7200 characters including spaces AND maximum 3 pages.)

4. **Appendix D: Recommendation letter**
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4.   Review procedure for all applications

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated by a review committee appointed by the board of Aarhus University Research Foundation. The review committee consists of five professors, one AU-designated from each faculty and one jointly appointed by the faculties. The review committee will make recommendations for funding to The Aarhus University Research Foundation.

Review committee
- Head of committee: Professor Karl Anker Jørgensen, AU Science and Technology
- Professor Klaus Mølmer, AU Science and Technology
- Professor Helle Vandkilde, AU Arts
- Professor Jens Otto Lunde Jørgensen, AU Health
- Professor Jens Blom-Hansen, AU Business and Social Sciences

5.   Sources of help and additional information

For additional information regarding the electronic application system, the application process or the Starting Grant programme in general, please feel free to contact:

- Tove Østergaard Le
  Central Talent Development Unit, AU Research & External Relations
  E-mail: toe@au.dk
  Phone +45 2162 4921