

AUFF NOVA

**Guide for Applicants
2016**

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AUFF NOVA

Guide for Applicants 2016

The Aarhus University Research Foundation (AUFF) and Aarhus University launched in 2015 a new programme: AUFF NOVA. This initiative aims to stimulate courageous and innovative research projects of high quality. The projects must be pioneering in their field and show clear potential for scientific breakthroughs. The hypothesis or problem behind the project may require development of new methods and it may challenge existing paradigms.

In the evaluation of applications for AUFF NOVA, the scientific potential and the originality of the project will be given higher weight than the CV of the applicants. If relevant, multi-disciplinary elements and synergies within the research team should be clearly identified.

Project duration is 2 or 3 years with a total maximum of **DKK 3 million per project**.

In 2016, the AUFF NOVA program will fund new projects with a total budget of up to **DKK 45.000.000**. Full payment for the whole grant can only be expected if milestone reports are approved yearly.

Application deadline

1 September 2016 at 12.00 (noon, CEST)

Who can apply?

Full time employed researchers at Aarhus University. Applicants must be employed at Aarhus University during the project period, and the research must be carried out at Aarhus University. Please notice that funding is not granted for buy out (frikøb) of full-time employees at Aarhus University.

Application – documents and process

Application system

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 is must filled in via the electronic application system. There are no templates for the application and appendices, however, present guidelines must be followed and the application must be written in English. The following appendices are mandatory and must be uploaded in “*step 3*” in the electronic application system.

All appendices must be uploaded as PDF files. Please name files according to appendix name (Appendix A, Appendix B, etc.).

Appendix A: Synopsis of the project

The synopsis should include background of the project, research questions and hypotheses. The synopsis should focus on the project in relation to current beliefs and contain information on sources, data and methods. Moreover, collaborators in the project, the project’s scientific importance and broader impact must be included. (Maximum of 4800 characters incl. spaces; 2 pages)

Appendix B: Project plan and expected objectives

Including the project's timeline and work plan. Milestones and deliveries should include at least one large national or international research grant application. Moreover, the plan should include the project's future development in terms of content, finance and organisation together with the project's contribution to talent development. (Maximum of 2400 characters incl. spaces; 1 page).

Appendix C: Presentation of the applicant

Including prerequisites, skills, achievements and key publications (maximum of 2400 characters incl. spaces; 1 page).

Appendix D: Presentation of the research group

Presentation of the research group. If relevant, multi-disciplinary elements and synergies within the research team should be clearly identified. (Maximum of 2400 characters incl. spaces; 1 page)

Appendix E: Budget

Specified budget (principal items) for the amount applied from AUFF. (Maximum of 2400 characters incl. spaces; 1 page). Project duration is 2 or 3 years within a framework of up to DKK 1.5 million per year for 2 years or DKK 1 million per year for 3 years; that is a total maximum of DKK 3 million per project.

In addition, the applicant must fill in the box "**Total amount applied from AUFF**" in the electronic submission system.

It is possible to apply for costs related to project implementation, including salary for PhD or postdoctoral fellows. If the budget contains costs related to wages, these must be based on Danish collective agreements and include pension, ATP and holiday payment.

Please note, that it is not possible to apply for hosting big international conferences as part of the project. Moreover, it is not possible to apply for costs covering stays at universities or similar abroad, publication support and guest researcher visits.

Please refer to "**AUFF NOVA 2016 budget guidelines**" for specific budget requirements.

Appendix F: Recommendation letter

Academic recommendation by head of department or similar **MUST** be enclosed (applicant cannot draw up the academic recommendation him- or herself).

Additional information

Main applicant is the designated project manager, but the application will typically include a research group.

AUFF does not grant any funding for projects which already have funding. If the project is under review elsewhere, indicate where and the amount applied for.

It is a prerequisite that the research in the project is carried out at Aarhus University.

Applicants can be contacted for further information or invited for an interview.

Evaluation and selection process

Eligibility screening of applications

Each application will be subject to an eligibility screening and the application must hold all above mentioned mandatory documents in order to pass the screening and continue to the academic evaluation process.

Evaluation criteria

The applications will be evaluated on the following evaluation criteria:

Project: 60%

- Originality (including high risk / high gain and ambition)
- Transparency (correlation between problem and method – and theoretical apparatus)
- Feasibility

Impact: 20%

- Job creation, grand challenges, creative communication
- Planned project deliverables
- Large scale applications (national/international funding sources)

Main applicant and research group: 20%

- CV and international publications and impact

Selection process

Each eligible proposal is 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:

- 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 Jan Engberg, AU Business and Social Sciences

Milestone Reports

A scientific report highlighting preliminary results, deliverables and milestones is to be submitted once a year (1 October) to AUFF in order to activate the grant for the following year. Template for the report can be found on AUFF's website.

Each year's grant can upon request/application be postponed a maximum of 12 month compared to the original plan. However, the request might not be accommodated.

Timeline

- Call: March 2016
- Deadline for applications: Thursday 1 September 2016 at 12:00 (noon, CEST)
- Evaluation period: September-October 2016
- Applicants will receive answers: December 2016
- Expected project start: January 2017

Sources of help and additional information

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

- Administrator Jane Chor by email jchor@au.dk or phone +45 2165 6715