

AUFF
Starting Grants
Guide for Applicants
2016

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AUFF Starting Grants

Guide for Applicants 2016

The Aarhus University Research Foundation introduced in 2015 Starting Grants 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. The grants are intended for the establishment, consolidation and start-up of independent research groups. The applicants must possess significant international working experience from foreign universities or other research institutions. In addition, the applicants are expected to have a strong publication record and document that their research is of high international standard taking into account the time passed since their PhD degree (subtracting time spent for parental leave).

In 2016 the frame for AUFF Starting Grants is up to **DKK 50 million** and covers both Assistant Professor Starting Grants (Adjunkt/forsker) and Associate Professor Starting Grants (Lektor/seniorforsker).

Application deadlines

- **15 April 2016 at 12.00**
- **1 September 2016 at 12.00**
- **1 November 2016 at 12.00**

In addition, based upon approval by the Dean of the relevant academic area, the heads of departments can apply outside the application rounds in connection with a potential negotiation about recruitment start-up packages.

Who can apply?

Researchers employed at Aarhus University and Head of Departments at Aarhus University. Specific rules apply for the two different types of grants:

- **Assistant professor/researcher Starting Grant**
AUFF offers a number of Starting Grants to assistant professors/researchers in order to attract particularly talented and internationally recognized young researchers at Aarhus University and provide optimal conditions to consolidate the establishment and start-up of independent research groups.
- **Associate professor/senior researcher Starting Grant**
AUFF offers a number of Starting Grants to associate professors/senior researchers in order to attract internationally renowned researchers as associate professors at Aarhus University and provide optimal conditions to consolidate the establishment and start-up of independent research groups.

Assistant professor/researcher Starting Grant (Adjunkt/forsker):

Available for applicants that have been employed as **assistant professor/researcher** at Aarhus University after **1 January 2015**. If the assistant professor/researcher in question is not yet employed at Aarhus University, the head of department, and not the candidate, can apply for a Starting Grant. The applicant must be employed at Aarhus University during the entire project period, and the research must be carried out at Aarhus University.

The application must be approved by the head of the relevant department and by the dean of the faculty at which the research will be carried out. In this process all applications for each faculty shall be prioritized by the head of department and the dean and their preliminary ranking will be forwarded to the Review Committee.

The grants can cover costs for starting a research group, including PhD scholarships, scientific assistance, research equipment and operating costs. The grant cannot include salary costs for the assistant professor/researcher and it is not possible to apply for buy out (frikøb). Moreover, it is not possible to apply for costs covering 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. Under certain circumstances, **up to DKK 2.4 million can be granted for a period of three years.**

If a PhD position is included in the grant the position must be filled following Aarhus University's rules for PhD recruitment.

Associate professor/senior researcher Starting Grant (Lektor/seniorforsker):

Available for applicants that have been employed as **associate professors/senior researchers** at Aarhus University after **1 January 2015**. If the associate professor/senior researcher in question is not yet employed at Aarhus University, the head of department, and not the candidate, can apply for a Starting Grant.

The applicant must not, within the last three years prior to 1 January 2015, have been employed as associate professor/senior researcher or professor at Aarhus University. The applicant must be employed at Aarhus University during the whole project period with no specific end-date to their contract. In addition, the research must be carried out at Aarhus University.

The application must be approved by the head of the relevant department and by the dean of the faculty at which the research will be carried out. In this process, all applications for each faculty shall be prioritized by the heads of departments and the dean and this preliminary ranking will be forwarded to the Review Committee.

The grants 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. Moreover, 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 associate professor and it is not possible to apply for buy out (frikøb) of employees at Aarhus University. Moreover, it is not possible to apply for costs covering 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. Under certain circumstances, **up to DKK 5 million can be granted for a period of three years.**

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 or admission of PhD.

Application process

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.).

Appendix A: Research plan

Research plan (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 4800 characters including spaces AND **maximum 2 pages**. Figures count for 750 characters.). If references are relevant to the project description they can be listed at a third page to the application.

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 stays at universities or similar abroad, publication support and guest researcher visits.

Appendix C: CV and list of publications

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

Appendix D: Recommendation letter

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

Additional information:

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

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.**

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:

- 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

Timeline

An answer to the application can be expected 2 months after deadlines.

The total budget of DKK 50 million will be distributed over the entire year.

If the application is rejected, it is possible to apply again in a later round in 2016.

If the application for a Starting Grant is part of a recruitment process it is possible for the head of departments to apply outside deadlines by sending the application as described above to Jane Chor (email jchor@au.dk). When applying as part of a recruitment process a rapid processing of the application is expected.

Deadlines in 2016

- 15 April at 12:00
- 1 September at 12:00
- 1 November at 12:00

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:

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