AUFF
Starting Grants

Guide for Applicants 2017

Content

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The 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. 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).

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 September application round is aimed at growth areas at Aarhus University, and is targeted at assistant and associate professors that are employed at Aarhus University by 1 July 2016 or later.

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

In 2017 there is up to **DKK 47.5 million** for AUFF Professor Starting Grants including both Assistant Professor and Associate Professor. The total budget of DKK 47.5 million will be distributed over the entire year.

Application deadline
1 September 2017 at 12.00 (noon).

In addition, based upon approval by the Dean of the relevant faculty, the heads of departments can apply continuously throughout the year when negotiating about recruitment start-up packages. See procedure below.

Procedure for the application round 1 September 2017
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 July 2016 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 July 2016 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 the relevant 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 to 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 stays at universities or similar abroad, publication support and salary costs for guest researcher visits.

- 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 (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 stays at universities or similar 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 relevant 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.

Procedure for application in recruitment processes (continuously throughout the year)

- 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 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.

- The application must be sent via email to Jane Chor (jchor@au.dk), and 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 is expectable.

- Mandatory content of the application

    1. Appendix A: Research plan
    2. Appendix B: Budget
    3. Appendix C: CV and list of publications
    4. Appendix D: Recommendation letter

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
- 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

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

- Administrator Tove Østergaard Le
  email toe@au.dk
  phone +45 2162 4921