



AUFF NOVA

Guide for Applicants 2023

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About AUFF NOVA

The AUFF NOVA initiative aims to stimulate courageous and innovative research projects of high quality – projects that may have difficulties obtaining funding elsewhere. The project must be pioneering in its 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 applicant.

As the foundation wishes the funds from the foundation to benefit as many different researchers as possible, a 1-year waiting period for applicants applies. This means that if the application was rejected in 2022, the applicant cannot apply this year. Also if the application is rejected this year the applicant is not eligible to apply next year. Furthermore, grant holders cannot apply during the period in which they already hold a NOVA grant from the foundation.

In 2023, the frame for AUFF NOVA is DKK 40,000,000 in total.

AUFF NOVA includes two types of grants with a slight adjustment of the budget available for each project type compared to previous calls. Priority is given to small projects.

1. **Small projects** (up to DKK 600,000), duration 1-2 years
2. **Large projects** (up to DKK 2,500,000), duration 3-4 years

Application deadline is Friday 15 September, 2023 at 12.00 noon

Application process

Who can apply?

AUFF NOVA is available for all researchers with a permanent position at AU. Tenure track assistant professors are considered permanent staff in this regard. Research leaders in fixed, part-time employment at AU, with concurrent clinical employment at AUH, can also apply. Buy-out/'frikøb' is not granted in this scheme.

Applicants must be employed at Aarhus University during the whole project period, and the research must be carried out at Aarhus University.

How to apply

Applications must be completed electronically via <https://auff.grant.nu/profile/#/login>

Once you have registered, you can change/edit your application until submission. The applications system is available in all browsers and on tablets. The applications form is available one month before deadline.

A webinar with Q&A about the scheme will be held on Wednesday 23 August at 13.00 – 14.00. Information about how to access the webinar will be announced at the foundations website (www.auff.dk)

Application requirements and content

Basic information about the applicant must be filled in via the electronic application system. There are no templates for the appendices, however, present guidelines must be followed and the application can be written in Danish or English. The following appendices are required and must be uploaded in the electronic application system. **All appendices must be uploaded as PDF files.**

- **CV**
Presentation of the applicant. CV for the applicant including basic information about education and employment history, skills, achievements and key publications (maximum of 2400 characters; 1 page, 1.5 line spacing).

- **Synopsis**

The synopsis should include a short description of the project, research questions and hypotheses in relation to current beliefs and contain information on sources, data and methods. Moreover, the project's scientific importance and broader impact must be included. (Maximum of 4800 characters; 2 pages, 1.5 line spacing). One extra page with publication references to the synopsis may be added if needed.

- **Project plan**

The project plan should give an overview of 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, financing and the planned contribution to talent development. (Maximum of 2400 characters; 1 page, 1.5 line spacing)

- **Presentation of the research group**

Description of the research group and the competences relevant to the project (Maximum of 2400 characters; 1 page, 1.5 line spacing)

- **Recommendation letter**

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

- **Budget**

Specified budget (principal items) for the amount applied from AUFF (maximum 1 page). Project duration is 1-2 years for small projects or 3-4 years for the big projects. Small projects with a maximum of DKK 600,000 in total and large projects up to DKK 2,500,000, in total. It is possible to apply for costs related to project implementation, including salary for staff (typically PhDs or postdoctoral fellows). Please note, that if the budget contains costs related to wages, these must be based on Danish collective agreements and include pension, ATP and holiday payment.

It is possible to apply for apparatus and instruments or necessary remodeling of laboratories if needed for the project. Attach quotes for the specified to the budget file.

It is not possible to apply for salary to the PI/applicant, since Buy-out/frikøb is not granted in this scheme.

Overhead is not granted in this scheme.

Additional information

Project duration is 1-2 years for small projects or 3-4 years for the big projects. Small projects covers a maximum of DKK 600,000 in total and big projects up to DKK 2,500,000 in total.

Main applicant is the designated project manager, but the project 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, please indicate where and what amount.

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.

Timeline

Deadline for applications: 15 September 2023 at 12:00 (noon)

Evaluation period: September – November 2023

Applicants will receive answers: December 2023

Expected project start: 2024

Evaluation and selection process

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

Review committee

Professor Lotte Bach Larsen, Faculty of Technical Sciences
Professor Jens Blom-Hansen, School of Business and Social Sciences
Professor Michael Møller Hansen, Faculty of Natural Sciences
Professor Helle Prætorius Øhrwald, Faculty of Health
Professor Dorthe Staunæs, Faculty of Arts

Evaluation criteria

The applications will be evaluated based on the following prioritized criteria:

Project:

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

Impact:

- Grand challenges and societal impact
- Planned project deliverables
- Large scale applications (national/international funding sources)

Main applicant and research group:

- CV and competencies
- Talent development

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:

Tove Østergaard Le,
AU PhD and fund services, Aarhus University
Email: toe@au.dk
Mobile phone: +45 2162 4921

See also <http://auff.au.dk/en/grants/>