



# AUFF NOVA

Guide for Applicants 2026

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## About AUFF NOVA

The AUFF NOVA initiative aims to stimulate courageous and innovative research projects of high quality and The aim of AUFF NOVA is to stimulate courageous and innovative research projects of high quality – projects, which may have difficulties obtaining alternative funding. 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, the scientific potential and originality of the project will be weighted higher than the applicant's CV.

**In 2026, the frame for AUFF NOVA is DKK 48,000,000 in total.**

AUFF NOVA includes two types of grants. Priority is given to small projects.

1. **Small projects** (up to DKK 600,000 + 20% overhead), duration 1-2 years
2. **Large projects** (up to DKK 2,500,000 + 20% overhead), duration 3-4 years

**Application deadline is Thursday 10 September, 2026 at 12.00 noon**

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.

As the foundation wishes the funds from the foundation to benefit as many different researchers as possible, grant holders cannot apply during the period in which they already hold a NOVA grant from the foundation. Furthermore, a 1-year waiting period for applicants applies. This means that if the application was rejected in 2025, the applicant cannot apply this year. Also, if the application is rejected this year the applicant is not eligible to apply in 2027.

Buy-out/'frikøb' is not granted in this scheme. All grants receive a fixed rate of 20% in overhead on top of the actual project costs.

Applications that do not comply with the form requirements will be administratively rejected. Read more about specific frameworks and form requirements in the application guide for AUFF NOVA.

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

A webinar with Q&A about the scheme will be held on Wednesday 19 August at 13.00 pm – 14.00 pm. The webinar is held on Zoom and sign up is not needed.

**Join the webinar through this link: <https://aarhusuniversity.zoom.us/j/67306655733>**

## Application process

### Who can apply?

AUFF NOVA is available for researchers with a permanent position at Aarhus University. Applicants must be employed at Aarhus University during the whole project period, and the research must be carried out at Aarhus University. Tenure track assistant professors are considered permanent staff in this regard. Research leaders in

fixed, part-time employment at AU (minimum 20% employment at AU), with concurrent clinical employment at AUH, can also apply.

## How to apply

The application must be submitted via the electronic application system <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. The applications form is available one month before deadline.

## Application requirements and content

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

- **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, 1.5 line spacing). One extra page with publication references to the synopsis may be added if needed.

- **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, financing and organisation together with the planned contribution to talent development. (Maximum of 2400 characters incl. spaces; 1 page, 1.5 line spacing). A separate Gantt chart (or similar) can be included in one additional page.

- **Appendix C: Presentation of the applicant**

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

- **Appendix D: Presentation of the research group**

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

- **Appendix E: 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 large projects. Small projects with a maximum of DKK 600,000 in project costs (excl. overhead) and large projects up to DKK 2,500,000 (excl. overhead) in project costs.

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

**All grants will receive a fixed rate of 20% in overhead on top of the actual project costs. This implies that the total amount for small projects maximum can amount to 720,000 DKK and 3,000,000 DKK for large projects.**

Please type in the full sum applied for in the section named "Total amount applied from AUFF" in the electronic submission system. **Please include the overhead costs here as well.**

- **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

Project duration is typically 1-2 years for small projects or 3-4 years for large projects.

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 for 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

**Call:** February 2026

**Deadline for applications:** 10 September 2026 at 12:00 (noon)

**Evaluation period:** September – November 2026

**Applicants will receive answers:** December 2026

**Expected project start:** 1 January 2027

## 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 Michael Møller Hansen, Faculty of Natural Sciences

Professor Dorthe Staunæs, Faculty of Arts

Professor Helle Prætorius Øhrwald, Faculty of Health

Professor Jens Blom-Hansen, School of Business and Social Sciences

Professor Lotte Bach Larsen, Faculty of Technical Sciences

## Evaluation criteria

The applications will be evaluated based on the following 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

## 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:

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