

CALL FOR DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH APPLICATIONS 2025



OCTOBER 2024



DANIDA
FELLOWSHIP
CENTRE

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1. Introduction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danida (MFA) provides grants for development research activities as part of Denmark's international development cooperation. The mandate to provide support to development research is explicitly stated in §7 of the Danish Law on International Development Cooperation with the purpose to strengthen research capacity and generate new knowledge in developing countries. "The World We Share", Denmark's current development cooperation strategy, highlights the importance of partnerships between Danish universities and the research community in the Global South.

Research plays a critical role in generating knowledge and informing societal understanding of how to drive transformational sustainable development. Contextually relevant and impactful research is essential for guiding decision-makers and communities in effectively addressing both existing and emerging sustainable development challenges.

The overall objective of Danish funding for development research is to strengthen research capacity and support high quality research in the Global South that produces evidence to address sustainable development challenges and informs decision-making by policymakers and other users of research outputs.

The MFA invites applications for research collaboration projects between Danish research institutions and South-based research institutions in eligible countries. The MFA recognizes the value of longitudinal collaborations and encourage established partnerships to apply with a proposal for a new project. In this call for research applications, eligible main applicants include research institutions from the Global South. Eligibility requirements for the main applicant are explained in section 6. The MFA is committed to promoting equal opportunities and diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, interested parties from all backgrounds regarding ethnicity, religion, gender identity, age, or disability status are encouraged to submit research applications.

The application round consists of two phases. Phase 1 is the first step of a process in which applicants submit an application presenting the **project idea** leading to prequalification. Phase 2 is the submission of a full application by those selected in Phase 1 ("prequalified").

The total allocation available for development research funding in 2025 application round is approximately DKK 200 million. The grants for the Phase 2 applications selected in the 2025 application round will be funded under the 2026 appropriation and final granting is thus conditional on the approval by the Danish Parliament of the 2026 Finance Bill.

The deadline for submission of Phase 1 applications is **29 January 2025 at 13:00hrs CET**. Applications must be submitted in English and electronically via the e-application system, [SurveyMonkey Apply \(SMA\)](#).

Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) manages the MFA's support to development research. For questions concerning the application procedures and general questions relating to this call for applications, please contact the Research Management Team at DFC at ffu@dfcentre.dk.

An online information meeting concerning this call is scheduled for 7 November 2024 at 13:30hrs CET. For more details concerning the information meeting, please refer to [our website](#) where other relevant information also can be accessed, e.g. advice on how to make a good application, assessment criteria and rejection codes, as well as guidance to the e-application system.

2. Research themes¹

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: Under the theme 'climate change and the environment', this call for proposals invites research aimed at addressing climate change and environmental degradation, with a focus on enhancing resilience among poor and vulnerable people. The call emphasizes the importance of avoiding maladaptation, where interventions inadvertently increase vulnerability or exacerbate tensions and conflicts. Proposals are encouraged to explore context-specific climate adaptation or mitigation efforts that consider the fundamental needs of communities and existing governance arrangements. Proposals may focus on topics such as water access and management, nature-based solutions and biodiversity, conservation and environmental protection, environmental justice, food systems, climate-smart agriculture, landscape restoration, urban and peri-urban ecologies, renewable energy, and urban adaptation and planning. A particular emphasis should be placed on vulnerable regions, sectors and groups, while also considering governance and policy frameworks. Applicants across all disciplines are invited to submit proposals, with interdisciplinary approaches particularly encouraged.

GLOBAL HEALTH: Under the theme 'global health', this call for proposals invites research that addresses pressing global health challenges. Areas of interest for this call include the shifting double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases, increasing mental health concerns and One Health issues at the interconnection of human, animal and environmental health. Proposals should examine the underlying socio-economic factors contributing to illness and the provision of care for physical and/or mental health in situations of resource scarcity. Research is encouraged to explore context-specific strategies to ensure that health policies and systems are responsive to population needs, improve health outcomes and build resilience against future health threats, such as epidemics. A particular emphasis should be placed on protecting the most vulnerable groups, including marginalised populations, women, children, young people, people with disabilities, and displaced people. Proposals that contribute to achieving equitable sexual and reproductive health and rights are welcomed. Applicants across relevant disciplines are invited to submit proposals, and interdisciplinary approaches are particularly encouraged.

Applicants can apply with a focus on either of the two themes. Applicants must justify how the chosen research theme addresses the specific needs and priorities of the country where the research takes place.

¹ More general information on Denmark's development cooperation activities within the two research themes can be found here: [How to notes for implementation of the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation \(um.dk\)](#)

3. Guiding principles for development research

In addition to the **thematic focus** of the present call, applicants are asked to carefully consider a number of guiding principles that underpin Danida's support to development research²:

- Development research aims to produce high-quality scientific knowledge that addresses sustainable development challenges. It emphasises the potential application of research findings, with a focus on informing policy and practice for transformational change.
- Development research pays attention to contextual relevance and stakeholder engagement. It recognises the importance of addressing the specific needs and priorities of the countries where the research takes place. It pays close attention to the local context and involves relevant communities, to ensure that research is 'fit for purpose' and responsive to their concerns and insights.
- Development research acknowledges the multidimensional nature of sustainable development challenges. Interdisciplinary approaches are often required to bridge understandings of and tackle complex issues, considering interconnected factors and systems that influence sustainable development outcomes.
- Development research aligns with the principle of leaving no one behind and takes a human rights-based approach. It ensures that research practices are consistent with international human rights norms and principles. It is gender-responsive, inclusive towards vulnerable populations and engages with local knowledge. Potentially negative consequences and outcomes for populations affected by the research are carefully considered.
- Development research recognises the crucial role of researchers and universities in the Global South as providers of scientific knowledge, research-based education and advice to society. It integrates local knowledge systems and involves researchers and institutions that are instrumental in generating and applying knowledge in the Global South.
- Development research requires equitability in research partnerships. Equitable partnerships prioritise mutuality, reciprocity, respect and mutual learning between research partners. It acknowledges and addresses power differences and inequalities in North-South relations, striving for fairness in research partnerships.
- Development research critically examines development efforts to learn from mistakes. Critical research is an essential component in the iterative process of improving development cooperation, structures and partnerships. It contributes to an ethos of learning to design more effective and impactful development engagements.

² See also the [Strategic Guidance Note for Danish Support to Development Research \(March 2024\)](#)

4. Eligible countries

Support to development research is geographically aligned with Denmark's partnership countries, with a particular focus on Africa and low-income countries. In 2025, the eligible countries for research applications include the following:

Algeria, Bangladesh*, Ethiopia*, Egypt*, Ghana*, Kenya*, Morocco*, Nigeria*, Palestine, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia (incl. Somaliland), South Africa**‡, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda, Vietnam*

*Applicants are required to check Denmark's strategic sector collaboration (SSC) programmes in these countries³. Successful applications within the topic of a country's strategic sector cooperation with Denmark are expected to establish links with the relevant sector counsellor at the Danish embassy and the SSC activities.

‡Please note that the following research institutions in South Africa are not eligible as project lead or primary partners: University of Cape Town, University of the Witwatersrand, and Stellenbosch University. The universities may however be included as secondary partners.

Research implemented in more than one of the eligible countries within the same theme can be considered. In such cases, the proposals must pay careful attention to the benefits (and complexity) of comparative research involving several countries under the same project frame. Furthermore, based on a single country, it is possible to integrate regional perspectives to the topic in focus. In such cases, a strong justification and anchorage to the country of focus must be described.

5. Project duration and grant

The expected duration of research projects is up to 5 years within a maximum grant of DKK 10 million for each project.

6. Main applicant

There are two types of main applicants:

1. Danish universities or research-based institutions registered in Denmark and with a capacity to (co-) supervise PhD students
2. South-based universities or research-based institutions in the eligible countries with a capacity to (co-) supervise PhD students, that have been involved in a Danida-funded research project completed after 1 January 2022 and before the date of application, and that fulfil the below mentioned criteria

The application must be submitted on behalf of the responsible institution by the researcher who will be the principal investigator (PI) if the application is successful. It is possible to share the project leadership with a scientific co-PI (secondary). The main PI and the co-PI must both have an affiliation with the applying institution.

³ More information on Denmark's strategic sector cooperation can be found here: [Strategic Sector Cooperation \(um.dk\)](https://um.dk/Strategic-Sector-Cooperation)

To encourage the positive results of well-established partnerships, this call for proposals also welcome applications from institutions in the eligible countries of the current call with previous involvement in a Danida-funded research project (North or South driven). In this case, the institutions that apply as responsible institution must document their substantial role in a Danida-funded research project completed after 1 January 2022 and before the date of application. The applying PI must have held a key role e.g. as PI or work package leader in the previous project. For such applications, the primary partner in Denmark must be the same institution that led or was a partner in the previous Danida funded research partnership, which the application builds on. The research team's CVs must document that at least two key researchers from the applying institution and at least two key researchers from the Danish partner institution had substantial roles such as PI or work package leaders in the previous project.

At the time of submitting the application, the PI(s) must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification, documented clearly in the CV. Applications from younger researchers in general, and women in particular, are encouraged.

Experience shows that the PI(s) play a key role in ensuring that a research collaboration project is successful. It is important to note that an effective engagement/involvement of the PI(s) will entail a substantial workload, particularly at the beginning of the project.

It is important that the PI(s) and the research team are able to document relevant scientific merits and qualifications as well as a research background within the topic and geographical area applied for. A person may appear as PI (or co-PI) on several applications, but maximum one project per PI can be approved for funding.

It is not possible to apply for an extension project of a previous grant, but an application can build on a previous/ongoing MFA supported development research project, in which case it must be clearly stated in the application.

7. Project participants

The application must name the research partner institutions (nationally registered) and other collaborating partners in Denmark and in the country/ies where the research will be implemented (see section 4 on eligible countries), and if applicable, partners in third countries and/or other international partners. At least one researcher from each partner institution (project participant if non-academic partner) must be named in the Phase 1 application.

The gender composition of the team must be carefully considered both concerning researchers from institutions in Denmark and from institutions in partner country/ies.

The application must include at a minimum one nationally registered research institution in Denmark and in the country/ies where the research will be implemented (project lead/primary partner), not including national branches of international research organisations, and possible international partners, public authorities and private sector partners (secondary partners) as relevant.

It is encouraged to involve secondary partners, i.e. from the private sector⁴ and other relevant non-academic institutions in partner countries or in Denmark, and grant funding can be used for their direct input to project activities (including salaries* and travel) but not for overhead expenses. International research institutions and research institutions in countries outside Denmark and outside the partner country/ies can equally be supported by the grant for their direct input to the project activities with no overhead. All partners are encouraged to contribute with additional resources (funding or in-kind) for the projects.

*Private for-profit companies can only be involved as secondary partners if one of the following requirements are met:

- a) The partner does not receive imbursements for salaries

OR

- b) It is clearly justified that the partner brings unique and specialised knowledge, and that this knowledge is not obtainable through university partners or other public or not for-profit organisations. Furthermore, it must be justified that the partner's role cannot be filled through a competitive procurement process.

In both cases, knowledge and data generated within the project cannot belong to the private partner and must be publicly accessible.

Support to PhD students is considered an important part of research capacity strengthening. The application should indicate the intentions for involvement of PhD students in the project. PhD students who are included in the project and from the country/ies where the research will be implemented **must** seek enrolment at a university in the country where the research will be implemented, alternatively at a university in the region. PhD students and postdocs in Denmark may be included in the project for their direct input to the project (not tuition fees and educational grants).

More broadly, research collaboration is another important means to strengthen research capacity and mutual learning. In addition to the education of PhD student, capacity strengthening and mutual learning also materialise through joint fieldwork, joint development of methodologies, co-publishing with both North and South partners as first authors, joint fieldwork, regular knowledge exchange, access to databases and libraries, etc. In order for research partners to mutually benefit from the research collaboration, partnerships should build on the principles of equity (see section 14, useful links), and all partners must contribute actively to the preparation of both Phase 1 and subsequent Phase 2 applications (if prequalified).

When planning the project, attention should be paid to the conditions regarding employment and salaries for involved researchers. Salaries for project researchers must either be compensation/ replacement salary paid to the institution for the time the staff allocates to the project, or

⁴For inclusion of private companies in a research proposal, attention must be paid to the De minimis rules, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/EN/legal-content/summary/de-minimis-rule-exemption-of-small-amounts-of-state-aid-from-notification.html>

compensation payment for over-time, either hourly or performance based. In the case of over-time payment, the accepted maximum overtime workload is 25% (3 months) per calendar year.

8. Description of the project idea

The description of the **project idea** must be structured according to the indicated headings and in the stated order. All headings must be used and none added. It is important to ensure that the application is clear and focused, and although there are no requirements regarding the length of each section in the project description, the project description as a whole must not exceed 12,000 characters (including spacing) plus references.

Heading 1: State of the art, rationale, and relevance

Background to project objectives:

- Based on a state of the art literature review explain how the research will provide new knowledge in the scientific field(s) concerned;
- Highlight how the proposed project relates to prior and on-going relevant research in the specific field, country or region;
- Present a rationale for the constellation of the partnership, including why the research should be implemented in the specific country/countries. If the research will be implemented in more than one country, the rationale for this and added-value and importance for the project should be clearly argued.

Describe the project's importance in terms of informing decision making by policy makers and to other users of research outputs in relation to:

- Addressing specific Sustainable Development Goal(s) and the guiding principles that underpin Danish support to development research;
- Informing development strategies and specific development challenges of the involved country or countries;
- Informing Danish development/strategic sector cooperation priorities in the country.

Heading 2: Objectives and results expected

- Describe project objectives, including clearly identified research questions and research hypotheses;
- List the main expected scientific results and an indication of the research capacity strengthening and mutual learnings;
- Briefly describe the political, institutional and socio-economic context for the research. Consider the expected impact of these on the project results, and include ethical reflections (beyond legal provisions) as well as possible security considerations;
- Briefly outline a strategy for how the project will engage with policy and practice throughout the project cycle.

Heading 3: Indicative project methodology

- Outline of research methodology, including reflections on multidimensional aspects of the research problem and interdisciplinary approaches, if relevant;
- Overall research design and approach to research capacity strengthening and mutual learning;
- Brief reflections on how the project promotes equity in the research partnership and gender sensitivity;
- Reflections on possible limitations and risks in research design and/or team composition and how to accommodate these.

9. Assessment

The Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (the FFU) in Denmark assists the MFA by providing professional and scientific advice in relation to research applications.

Members of the [Consultative Research Committee](#) come from many different disciplines. Applicants must be able to explain the research proposal to someone who is a researcher and has specialist knowledge about some but not all aspects of the theme of the call. A research proposal, therefore, must be easy to understand in terms of “why and how it is research”.

Overall, it must be clear that the proposal constitutes a genuine research project rather than for example registration of data, commissioned research, a product development scheme, a demonstration project, technology transfer, consultancy, or a development project. This means that the research question and scientific contributions of the project must be clearly described.

Prior to the FFU assessment in Phase 1, the Danish embassies⁵ are invited to assess the relevance of the project idea vis-a-vis national development priorities and Danish development cooperation/strategic sector cooperation.

The FFU assesses the Phase 1 applications on the basis of three equally weighted criteria as described below: i) scientific quality; ii) relevance; and iii) the potential effect of the research.

The scientific quality of the proposal is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *The originality and innovative nature of the project, in terms of generating new knowledge;*
- *The focus of the project is well-defined with respect to existing relevant research;*
- *The design of the project in terms of methodological, theoretical and (if relevant) interdisciplinary approach(es);*

⁵ In countries with Danish strategic sector cooperation, the sector counsellor may consult the relevant Danish authorities during the assessment.

- *The research experience and qualifications of the PI(s) and research team.*

The relevance of the proposal is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *The focus of the project is well-defined with respect to the guiding principles for the support to development research and the selected theme;*
- *The project responds to national development priorities and is relevant for Danish development cooperation/Danish strategic sector cooperation;*
- *The project is well-defined with respect to ongoing research projects/programmes in the country/region;*
- *The project is well suited for the political, socio-economic and institutional context, including the security situation.*

The effect of the research is evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- *The potential direct effects with respect to the selected sustainable development goal(s) and in relation to existing development efforts;*
- *The project is positioned for use, e.g. by collaboration with public and private stakeholders which could promote use and uptake of the research findings;*
- *The contribution of the project to strengthened research capacity at individual, partnership and institutional level;*
- *The project builds on the principles of equity in the research partnership and is gender sensitive.*

Partnerships contributing to interdisciplinary and gender sensitive research with a large role for the research institutions in the Global South are encouraged. Considerations about gender sensitivity are encouraged in all aspects of the outlined project, including composition of the research team, data collection strategies, engagement with research participants/communities and analytical framework. In Phase 1, applicants are required to provide information on the gender composition of the proposed research team.

Security considerations and risk assessment

Heightened security considerations pose a challenge in a number of the listed eligible countries at both national and regional level. All research applications are required to consider the security risks affecting the feasibility of research, in particular during fieldwork. Therefore, in Phase 1, applicants are requested to include a preliminary risk assessment and contingency plan for their proposed research. This also include reflections on data security. The purpose of this is to ensure that all applicants have considered the potential physical and data security risks as well as mitigating measures relevant for project implementation.

Assessments should consider risks related to the geographical and thematic focus of the research and also, include other concerns that may hinder or impede project implementation (see

section 14, useful links). A number of countries are considered high-risk countries from a security point of view and research applications focusing on these countries must be particularly careful to prepare thorough risk assessments and include necessary safety measures. These countries include: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Palestine, and Somalia (incl. Somaliland). Risks should be focused on the physical safety of involved researchers (also in a gender sensitive perspective) from all involved countries, especially during fieldwork.

Risks such as a new global pandemic, natural disasters or high turnover of personnel should not be included, unless there is a real and relevant risk of such things happening within the project period. For risks with medium or high likelihood and impact, mitigating measures and preliminary outlines of a contingency plan must be included.

It is the responsibility of the responsible institution and partner institutions to ensure that adequate safety measures are in place for all staff involved, both staff from Denmark and staff from partnering countries. The 'Duty of Care' for project staff lies with the responsible institution and partner institutions, not with the MFA or DFC.

In Phase 2, it will be possible for all applicants to include additional funds in the application to cover relevant security measures. A list of eligible security measure activities and further information will be included in the guidelines for Phase 2 applications. For research in high-risk countries, security measures including as a minimum Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) and First Aid training for researchers conducting fieldwork will be mandatory.

Innovation Fund Denmark Assessment

All Phase 1 applications will be assessed by the Innovation Fund Denmark to determine whether the projects meet the expected level of research quality for governmental grants to research. cf. § 5, subsection 2 of the Consolidated Act on Innovation Fund Denmark <https://www.retsinformation.dk/eli/ta/2021/1660> of August 12, 2021. Applicant hearings will be carried out as relevant, in accordance with §19 of the Danish Public Administration Act.

Process after Phase 1

On the basis of the Innovation Fund Denmark and FFU assessments, the best projects according to the assessment criteria above will be invited to apply in Phase 2 of the application process. In Phase 2, the feasibility of the proposed research project will also be a criterion for assessment.

International peer reviewers are involved in the assessment of scientific quality only in Phase 2. Applicant hearings will be carried out as relevant, in accordance with §19 of the Danish Public Administration Act.

The final scientific quality assessment and prioritisation of projects for funding is conducted by the FFU for the MFA's approval of grants.

In the assessment of a new application by a researcher who is or has been PI for another project, compliance with the terms and conditions of previous MFA grants will be considered.

10. Application process

Phase 1 – 2025	January – March	<p>Deadline for Phase 1 applications:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">29 January 13:00hrs CET</p> <p>DFC administrative screening and administrative rejections</p> <p>Embassy assessment of relevance</p>
	April-June	<p>FFU assessment of applications and prequalification</p> <p>Innovation Fund Denmark assessment</p> <p>Applicant hearing, if and when required (cf. §19 of the Danish Public Administration Act)</p> <p>Reply to applicants</p> <p>Invitation and instructions to a full Phase 2 application</p>
Phase 2 – 2025/26	September	<p>Deadline for Phase 2 applications:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3 September 13:00hrs CEST</p> <p>DFC administrative screening and administrative rejections</p>
	September - October	Peer reviews and applicant hearing
	December - January	<p>FFU assessment and prioritisation of Phase 2 applications for funding</p> <p>Reply to applicants</p>
	January - March	<p>Agreement on budget, etc.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Letters of Grant and endorsements</p>
	April	Official project start date is 1 April 2026

11. Project costs

In the Phase 1 application, an estimate of the grant applied for must be indicated. The total grant is maximum DKK 10 million for a five-year period. Other funding sources and an estimated total project cost should be indicated.

The budget allocation between the involved research institutions in Denmark and in country/ies where the research will be implemented must be balanced. PhD expenses for study stays in Denmark should be included in the South partner's share of the budget.

For international research institutions, partners in third countries, national authorities, private sector partners, and other non-academic partners, the budget can only include salaries and travel

expenses covering their direct input to the project activities, and no overhead will be covered. These costs are not included when calculating the budget shares for Danish and partner country institutions.

Eligible costs

It will be possible to apply for funding for the following budget items:

- Salaries and emoluments;
- Tuition fees and educational grants to PhD students from country/ies where the research will be implemented;
- Expenses for travel and fieldwork, incl. security measures;
- Project and research materials and equipment;
- Publication, dissemination and communication;
- Administration fees (overhead);
- Study stays in Denmark of PhD students;
- External audit.

It is possible to allocate up to DKK 100,000 within the budget frame per relevant researcher to cover costs of air tickets and insurance for accompanying family for longer field stays of more than 3 months in Denmark or partnering country. This applies to researchers based in all involved research institutions, but to maximum two researchers per project.

12. E-application system

Submission of a Phase 1 application must be done via the online application system, [Survey Monkey Apply \(SMA\)](#), and from the SMA account of the prospective main PI. A collection of video tutorials can be found [here on YouTube](#) (the available videos are from the 2023 application round but the instructions are still applicable).

For new users, it is necessary to create a SMA account, and once this step is completed, the programme “Call for research applications 2025” can be accessed. It is possible to invite collaborators to join the online application process, once the application is created in SMA. After submitting the application, the applicant will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt. It is also possible to see whether an application has been submitted or not under “My applications”. If any doubt occurs as to whether an application has been submitted or not, the applicant should send an e-mail to ffu@dfcentre.dk to enquire whether the application has been submitted. This must be done before the application deadline, since applications will not be accepted after deadline.

The Phase 1 application must comprise the completed **e-application form, including CVs and endorsements.**

CVs of PI(s) and other named project participants: The CVs must specify the scientific qualifications, managerial skills, and relevant experience from the country in focus or similar contexts, and must include a list of key publications and patents **relevant for the application**. The length of the CVs must be no more than 2 pages per person. Signature on CVs is not required. Please note that the name and CV of the PI should *only* be listed/uploaded in the task: Basic information.

Endorsements: It is mandatory to provide endorsements from the Head of the responsible institution/department and PI as per the e-application form.

All tasks in the e-application form must be completed, and the application, including appendices, must be written in English. Only the required appendices will be considered. The appendices must be named "CV - Name of the researcher/project participant".

To account for any unforeseen issues on the applicant's side, it is advised not to wait until the last minute before deadline to submit the application.

13. Obligations

Applicants should familiarise themselves with the following before using the e-application system and submitting an application.

The responsibility of the applying institution

The applying institution is responsible for ensuring that all information in the e-application is correct, that the required appendices are uploaded successfully with the e-application, that the contents of the appendices are correct and that the e-application has been submitted before the set deadline of the Call.

It is not possible to make corrections to an e-application after it has been submitted. In case of change in contact information for the PI, it is important to update the system profile accordingly.

In the event of any subsequent substantive changes affecting the submitted application, the applying institution must immediately notify the Research Management Team at DFC at ffu@dfcentre.dk.

The application must reflect possible legal, regulatory or ethical issues and considerations, including required standards or authorisation requirements (such as production standards, quality systems, scientific ethics, data handling and protection, use of animals), as well as research permits, provision of information to relevant authorities etc., and a plan for obtaining these. See also section 14 - list of useful links.

Rejection of applications without substantive consideration

An application will be rejected by DFC without substantive consideration by the FFU and the MFA if the requirements concerning the eligibility of applicants and countries, the application format

and attachments, including the requirement to write in English, and the deadlines as set out in these guidelines are not met.

DFC will not obtain additional information from applicants after the deadline, even if the missing information results in an administrative rejection of the application.

Requirements for the application to be considered by the FFU and the MFA:

- The application must be submitted by an eligible institution: *either*
 - a) a nationally registered university or research based institution in Denmark, with the capacity to (co-)supervise PhD students;
- OR*
- b) a South-based university or research-based institution with a capacity to (co-)supervise PhD students, involved in a Danida-funded research project completed after 1 January 2022 and before the date of application;
- The proposed PI(s) applying on behalf of the responsible institution must at least hold a PhD or equivalent at the time of applying;
- The PI and a possible co-PI must be affiliated to the responsible institution;
- The application must include correct CV of the PI(s);
- The application must include at least one named researcher/project participant from each listed partner institution;
- The application must include at least one nationally registered research partner (primary partner) in an eligible country/in each chosen partner country where the research will be implemented; or for South-based research institutions, at least one Danish research partner as stipulated under section 6;
- The application must include links to the lead institutions' policies on protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH) and anti-corruption (see below);
- All attachments must be complete and successfully uploaded, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure this;
- The application must be endorsed by the PI and the head of responsible institution. Names of endorsers must match the names of PI and head of institution;
- If an endorsement is provided by another person on behalf of, and by mandate from, a head of institution, this must be noted in the comment for the endorsement;
- The application must be submitted via the e-application system SMA;
- The application must be submitted within the set deadline.

Storage of information and data protection

When the e-application system is used, the system will automatically register the applicant's identity, IP address, and the time at which the application was created or last edited. All personal

data will be processed, stored and deleted in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and [DFC Privacy Policy](#). Submitted applications in Phase 1 are shared with the Innovation Fund Denmark, cf. section 9. Read about the Innovation Fund Denmark's handling of data here (only in Danish): [IFD Privacy policy](#).

Technical disclaimer

DFC is obliged to inform prospective applicants of any system errors that make the e-application system unavailable, affecting the applicant's possibility of submitting e-applications within set deadlines. Information regarding such unavailability or other unforeseen events will be posted on [DFC's website](#).

DFC accepts no liability for incorrect information due to software errors, calculation errors, transmission errors and similar errors, or for any claims for damages due to incorrect use of the e-application system.

Other data, which may be obtained by official bodies

The MFA and the FFU reserve the right to obtain information about any previous and current applications an applicant may have submitted to the FFU, and this information may be included in processing of the application.

In the event that project funding has been or will be applied for from elsewhere, the MFA and the FFU reserve the right to obtain information as to whether the amount has been granted. If a project is funded elsewhere, it cannot be funded by this funding window.

Use of funding for other purposes

The MFA may, at its discretion, decide that a proportion of the funding available is to be used for other research cooperation.

Anti-corruption, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment, anti-child labour prevention and anti-terrorism

It is the responsibility of the responsible institution to ensure that the following clauses are included in agreements with project partners and that all project partners and project activities comply with following:

Anti-corruption:

"No offer, payment, consideration or benefit of any kind, which could be regarded as an illegal or corrupt practice, shall be made - neither directly nor indirectly - as an inducement or reward in relation to tendering, award of the contract, or execution of the contract. Any such practice will be grounds for the immediate cancellation of this contract and for such additional action, civil and/or criminal, as may be appropriate. At the discretion of the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, a further consequence of any such practice can be the definite exclusion from any tendering for projects, funded by the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

Protection from sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (PSEAH):

“The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has a zero tolerance for inaction approach to tackling sexual exploitation, abuse, and harassment (SEAH ⁶) as defined in UNSG Bulletin ST/SGB/2003/13 and the definition of sexual harassment in UNGA Resolution A/RES/73/148. The Implementing Partner, and its sub-grantees, will take appropriate measures to protect people, including beneficiaries and staff, from SEAH conducted by its employees and associated personnel including any sub-grantee staff and take timely and appropriate action when reports of SEAH arise. In the event that the Implementing Partner receives reports of allegations of SEAH, the Implementing Partner will take timely and appropriate action to investigate the allegation and, where warranted, take disciplinary measures or civil and/or criminal action. Any violation of this clause will be ground for the immediate termination of this Agreement.”

Anti-child labour:

“The Implementing Partner shall abide by applicable national laws as well as applicable international instruments, including the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and International Labour Organisation conventions. Any violation will be ground for immediate termination of the Agreement.”

Anti-terrorism:

“If, during the course of implementation of this Project/Programme, the Implementing Partner discovers any link whatsoever with any organization or individual associated with terrorism, it must inform the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs immediately and explain the reasons for such transfer, including whether it was made or provided knowingly, voluntarily, accidentally, unintentionally, incidentally or by force. The Implementing Partner agrees that it and/or its implementing partners (including contractors, sub-contractors and sub-grantees) will take all reasonable steps to secure that no transaction made in relation to the Project/Programme will – directly or indirectly – benefit a person, group or entity subject to restrictive measures (sanctions) by the UN or the EU. Any violation of this clause is ground for immediate termination of the Agreement returning to the Danish MoFA of all funds advanced to the Implementing Partner under it.”

In addition to the above, it is a requirement for all responsible institutions to have their own anti-corruption policy and a policy for PSEAH, which must be complied with by all project participants.

The responsible institution must ensure that partners and others that receive part of the granted funds are not included on the the [UN](#) or [EU](#) terror sanctions lists.

⁶ **Sexual harassment** is understood as any kind of unwanted verbal, non-verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature with the aim or impact that a person’s dignity is violated, especially if it happens in a threatening, hostile, degrading, humiliating or offensive environment. **Sexual exploitation** is understood as attempts or actual abuse of position of power to exploit a person’s vulnerability for sexual gain. This also applies to relationships where economic, social, or political advantage is gained from another person on the basis of sexual exploitation. **Sexual abuse** can consist of either a threat of or actual physical abuse of a sexual nature.

Announcement

Information about prequalified and rejected applicants in Phase 1 may be disclosed in the event that access is applied for according to the Danish Public Records Act (Offentlighedsloven).

Access to such information may be granted in the form of lists of who has applied and for what purpose (applicant names and application titles). Applicants should therefore ensure that their application title does not reveal information about the activity that they wish to keep out of the public domain.

Information about granted projects in Phase 2 will be published at the DFC's website and in the Danida Research Portal. This includes name of PI, project title, DFC file number, institutional affiliation, project period, granted amount, countries, information on participating institutions, and the popular science description for the project. Therefore, applicants should only include information in these parts of their application (and reporting) which does not reveal information that they wish to keep out of the public domain.

14. Useful links

[Strategic Guidance note for support to development research](#)

[The World We Share – Strategy For Denmark's Development Cooperation](#)

[Africa's Century – Strategy for strengthened Danish engagement with African countries](#)

[Sustainable Development Goals](#)

[Danida Country policies](#)

[How to notes for implementation of the Danish Strategy for Development Cooperation \(um.dk\)](#)

[The Consultative Research Committee \(FFU\)](#)

[How to write a good proposal](#)

[Assessment criteria, rejection codes and examples phase 1 2025](#)

[Inclusion and equitable partnerships](#)

[Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity – Uddannelses- og Forskningsministeriet \(ufm.dk\)](#)

[Security in research projects](#)

[Phase 2 Invitation and guidelines 2024 \(for reference\)](#)

[Danida science engagement](#)

[Gender sensitivity in research projects – knowledge in action talk](#)



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