

# **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark**

*Research collaboration projects in Danida priority countries  
("Window 1"), 2018*

*Call for Phase 1 applications*

**Deadline: 2 February 2018, 12:00 hrs. (Danish Time)**

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## 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (MFA) provides grants for development research activities as part of Denmark's international development cooperation. Two windows are available in 2018 providing grants for research with partners in Danida priority countries and for research with partners in growth and transition countries.

Within this framework, the MFA invites phase 1 applications for grants related to development research in the Danida priority countries. These are currently Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Myanmar, Niger, Palestine, Somalia, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Phase 1 is the first step of a process in which applicants submit research proposals leading to prequalification. Phase 2 is the submission of a full application by those selected ("prequalified").

Research-based institutions in Denmark, Ghana, and Tanzania are encouraged to apply. The total budget available for this research window is approximately DKK 120 million. The funding is conditional on the Danish Parliament's approval of the 2018 Finance Bill.

The duration of projects is up to 5 years within a maximum grant of DKK 12 million for each project.

A Consultative Research Committee for Development Research (FFU) is tasked with assisting the MFA by providing professional and scientific advice in relation to research applications and projects.

The Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) administers the MFA's support to development research. Questions or queries regarding application procedures should be directed to DFC<sup>1</sup> at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

The deadline for submission of Phase 1 applications is **2 February 2018 at 12:00 hrs. (Danish Time)**. Applications must be submitted in English and electronically via DFC e-application system.<sup>2</sup>

More information and guidelines for applicants is available at link <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>, including advice on how to make a good application by the Consultative Research Committee. Information meetings concerning the 2018 Calls will not be held.

## 2. Objectives

In accordance with the overall objectives of Danida's support for research, grants will be awarded to strategic research cooperation which generates new knowledge relevant to the needs and strategies of the priority countries and to Denmark's development cooperation as well as contributing to strengthening research capacity in these countries. It is important to note that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 constitute an overall thematic framework for development cooperation and research.<sup>3</sup> Further information about the research themes is outlined below.

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<sup>1</sup> For the General Conditions regarding on-going projects, calls, e-application forms, etc. see: <http://dfcentre.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/General-Conditions-2017.pdf> and <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>

<sup>2</sup> See Section 13 for information on how to access and use the e-application system.

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

The supported development research projects must include substantive elements of research capacity strengthening, which focus on national priorities and ownership in developing countries.

### **3. Main Applicant**

Applications can only be submitted by universities or by a research-based institution (public and private, nationally registered institutions) in Denmark, Ghana, or Tanzania, which will be responsible for the grant. The project coordinator must be attached to that institution.

At the time of submitting the application, the project coordinator must hold a PhD or equivalent qualification, documented clearly in the CV. Documented evidence that he/she is a Professor, Assistant Professor, or Associate Professor is regarded as equivalent to a PhD.

Experience shows that the project coordinator plays a key role in ensuring that a research collaboration project is successful. An effective engagement/ involvement of the project coordinator will entail a substantial workload, noticeably at the beginning of the project.

It is important that the project coordinator and the research team are able to document relevant scientific merits and qualifications as well as a research background within the topic applied for. A project coordinator may apply for more than one project, but only one project per project coordinator may be approved for this funding window.

### **4. Other participating researchers, institutions, and private sector partners**

The application must list all partner institutions. The applications from Denmark must list partners in Danida priority countries and possible international and private sector partners, while the research project applications from Ghana and Tanzania must list partners in Denmark and possibly elsewhere. At least one researcher from each partner institution (project participant if private sector partner) must be named in the Phase 1 application.

Research collaboration is considered an important means to strengthen research capacity of institutions in priority countries. In order for research partners to benefit from the collaboration, partnerships should be equal, and partners should be able to contribute actively in preparing both Phase 1 and Phase 2 applications. Research applications which have been prepared without the active involvement of partners in priority countries or Denmark will not be approved. Other important aspects of equal partnerships include joint fieldwork, joint publishing, knowledge sharing, access to databases and libraries, etc.

It is strongly encouraged to involve partners from the private sector and national authorities in the partner country or in Denmark in the research project, and grant funding can be used for their direct work input and expenses in relation to the project activities. Such partners are encouraged to contribute with additional resources (funding or in-kind) for the projects. International research institutions and research institutions in countries outside Denmark and outside the partner countries can be included as sub-contractors and can be supported by the grant for their direct services to the project activities.

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, as well as involvement of post-doc and other researchers.

PhD candidates from the priority countries included in the project must seek enrolment at a university in their home country, alternatively at a university in the region of the partner country. Enrolment in Denmark can only be considered if enrolment in the partner country or the partner country region is not possible, and if sufficient justification for this is provided. More details will be provided in the Call for Phase 2 applications for the prequalified applicants.

## 5. Identifying Danish Research Partners

Applications from Ghana and Tanzania must include relevant Danish research partners. If partners are not already identified from earlier collaborations or professional networks, it is possible to identify relevant Danish researchers by searching the Danish research database <http://www.forskningsdatabasen.dk/> or international databases such as <http://scholar.google.com/> and <https://www.researchgate.net>. Inspiration can also be found by searching among ongoing and past projects at the Danida Research Portal <http://drp.dfcentre.com/>. An overview of the universities in Denmark is accessed at <http://www.dkuni.dk/english>, with links to each of the eight universities in Denmark, and searching may be done among their researchers, according to subject. A brief step by step guide to find a Danish researcher is available at link <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>.

## 6. Research Themes

### The Sustainable Development Goals

The global 2030 agenda and the seventeen United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute an important framework for development cooperation and research. Therefore, it is envisaged that research projects and collaboration on the five themes identified below will be undertaken within the context of the relevant SDGs and that these will be reflected in the justification for the research proposed.

### Theme 1 - Sustainable economic development

Inclusive economic growth is at the core of the sustainable development agenda. Eradicating poverty through the promotion of economic growth and employment is vital in many developing countries. In this context, catalysing knowledge and leveraging finance for investments are means of establishing sustainable business models that both address environmental degradation and create decent jobs while respecting human rights (in terms of working conditions, effective civil institutions, etc.). Furthermore, strengthening job creation through small and medium sized enterprises in both rural and urban areas is high on the economic growth agenda. Targeted research will make useful contributions in terms of defining appropriate policies for inclusive, sustainable growth.

### Theme 2 - Gender equality and development

Although progress has been made in many countries with respect to gender equality and women's rights, much remains to be done. The United Nations gender inequality index reflects disparities in achievement, notably in three dimensions: sexual and reproductive health and rights, empowerment (including education) and the labour market. Inequalities of access to justice are also significant. Masculinity and patterns of male behaviour are increasingly subject to scrutiny, in addition to the traditional concerns with women's rights. More research is needed to enhance understanding of the opportunities for greater gender equality as well as the constraints affecting these dimensions in particular countries and regions.

### Theme 3 - Humanitarian assistance and development

A large share of international development assistance is allocated to a range of humanitarian organisations dealing with both acute and lengthy crises. Relief and emergency assistance is channelled to deal with internally displaced persons and refugees as well as victims of natural disasters. In this context it is important to understand how humanitarian efforts can best contribute to long term, sustainable

development in line with recent international commitments. Research could entail investigating the ways in which different actors – including the diaspora - respond to a crisis or disaster, with a view to peace making and conflict resolution, to “building back better” (after destructive events), to strengthening institutions for long-term service provision, improved preparedness and early warning, etc.

#### **Theme 4 - Climate change resilience**

As climate change leads inexorably to higher temperatures and sea level rise as well as increasingly extreme weather events, adaptation has become a critical issue in many vulnerable regions, both rural and urban. Climate change affects food production and access to water resources, as well as the patterns and prevalence of diseases. According to the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), resilience is the degree to which “a system rebounds, recoups or recovers.” Thus, strengthening resilience has become a key to effective adaptation. Research can contribute to determining how both rural and urban communities can improve their livelihoods while reducing vulnerability.

#### **Theme 5 - State building**

Over the past decade there has been a considerable emphasis on the problems of fragile states, but there is still a need for greater understanding of the world’s more intractable conflicts. Emigration and displacement from affected regions have sharpened the focus of attention on failures in terms of stabilisation. In this context, further research is needed to better understand the drivers of stability, in particular the role of democracy in state building, the establishment of well-functioning and legitimate public institutions for service delivery, how to strengthen businesses and incentivise investment, etc. Relations between states and citizens, the roles of religion, ethnicity and the family, as well as the drivers of growth such as entrepreneurship and access to financial resources and to services (including education, health care, water supply, etc.) could be amongst the research topics.

## **7. Assessment Criteria**

The FFU and MFA assess Phase 1 applications on the basis of three equally important 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 research experience and qualifications of the project coordinator and the team;*
- *The originality and innovative nature of the project, in terms of generating new knowledge.*

The relevance of an application is assessed with respect to the extent that the research topic contributes to solving challenges in relation to the sustainable development goals (SDGs), more specifically:

- *The focus of the project is well-defined with respect to the selected theme;*
- *The project responds to national development priorities relevant for Danish development assistance;*
- *Opportunities for enhanced private sector development.*

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);*
- *The effects of the project in terms of the partnerships with public and private sector which could take the research to the next step;*
- *The contribution of the project to strengthened research capacity.*

As stated in the “General Conditions for Grants to Development Research Supported through Denmark’s International Development Cooperation”, <http://dfcentre.com/research>, MFA may make the processing of new applications by the project coordinator conditional on compliance with the terms and conditions of previous grants, including if the total time allocation for a researcher on several projects exceeds what is considered feasible.

## 8. Project Description

The project description must outline the project idea and 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 4 pages (10,000 characters, including spacing) plus references.

Heading	Content
<b>1. State of the art, rationale, and relevance</b>	Background to project objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on a state of the art literature review and a broader development rationale, explain how the research project will provide new knowledge in the scientific field concerned;</li> <li>• Highlight how the proposed project relates to prior and on-going research in the specific field about which the applicant is aware;</li> <li>• Present a rationale for the selection of partner country/countries;</li> <li>• If more than one partner country is chosen, the rationale for this and added-value and importance for the project should be clearly argued.</li> </ul> Describe the project’s importance in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific Sustainable Development Goal(s);</li> <li>• The development strategies and specific development challenges of the involved country or countries;</li> <li>• Danish priorities in the country in relation to development cooperation;<sup>4</sup></li> <li>• Importance to the private sector where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Objectives and results expected</b>	Objectives and possible research hypotheses must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be driven on the basis of the state of the art;</li> <li>• Address clearly identified research issues and list the main expected scientific results;</li> <li>• Be novel in providing new knowledge and innovative results;</li> <li>• Include substantive elements of research capacity strengthening</li> </ul>
<b>3. Indicative project methodology</b>	Outline the methodology, research design, and approach to research capacity strengthening in general terms.  It must be clear that the proposal constitutes a genuine research project rather than being registration of data, commissioned research, a product

<sup>4</sup> Danish country priorities are reflected in the country policies, which are found at <http://um.dk/en/danida-en/Strategies%20and%20priorities/country-policies/>

	development, demonstration project, technology transfer, consultancy or development project.
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## 9. Required Format of the Application and Appendices

The e-application system is accessible from DFC's website via the following link: <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>. The e-application form may contain information which is important in relation to the application albeit not covered in this Call.

### The Phase 1 application must comprise the following:

- The e-application form
- Appendix A: CVs of all researchers and other project participants named in Step 1A of the Application Form
- Appendix B: Signatures

All steps (including Step 1A) in the e-application form must be completed, and the application and appendices must be completed in English. Only the required appendices will be considered. The total volume of the appendices must not exceed 25 MB. The appendices must be named: "*Appendix (letter) - name of project coordinator*".

**Appendix A - CVs:** A front page of the appendix must be inserted, listing the CVs of the project coordinator and all other researchers and project participants named in the application Step 1A, listed in the order in which they appear.

The CVs must specify the scientific qualifications, managerial skills, and experience from developing countries, 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.

The table of contents and all CVs must be compiled in a single PDF file in which each CV starts on a new page.

**Appendix B – Signatures:** This appendix must include scanned signatures of the project coordinator and the Head of the Responsible Institution/Department as per template.

## 10. Finances

For the purposes of a Phase 1 application, an estimate of the grant applied for is expected for an amount not exceeding 12 million DKK for a five-year period. Other funding sources and an estimated total project cost should be indicated.

The percentage of the budget to Danish and South-based research institutions must reflect the importance given to the research capacity strengthening of the South-based partners, e.g. by providing around 60% of the budget to South-based research institutions and 40% of the budget to Danish partners.

For international research institutions and partners in countries outside the Danida priority countries, as well as to private sector partners, the budget can only include salaries and travel expenses covering their direct services to the project activities, and no administration fees can be covered.

### 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 the priority countries
- Expenses for trips abroad and fieldwork;
- Project and research materials and equipment;
- Publication, dissemination and communication;
- Administration fees (overhead);
- Study stays in Denmark of PhD students from partner countries;
- External audit.

Guiding principles for budgeting is available at link <http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>.

## 11. Application Process

**Submission of the Phase 1 applications:** Submission of a Phase 1 application must be done via DFC's e-application system and must be completed by the deadline specified on the front page of the Call. Shortly after submitting the application, the applicant will receive an e-mail acknowledging receipt. If the acknowledgement is not received within 24 hours, the applicant should send an e-mail to [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk) to ensure that the application has indeed been received before the deadline.

**Reviews of the applications:** All applications received within deadline will be reviewed by DFC for formal requirements (refer to section 12) and applicants rejected for not fulfilling the formal requirements will be informed.

Applications received from Denmark are assessed by the FFU, while applications received from Ghana and Tanzania will be assessed by National Screening Committees (NSC) in these two countries, respectively. Two FFU members are included as members in each NSC in addition to 5 national members.

Applications received from Denmark and applications short-listed through the national screening in Ghana and Tanzania will be reviewed by the Danish embassies concerned in relation to their relevance.

**Prequalification:** Based on the assessment and recommendations by the NSCs, FFU, and the embassy reviews, the MFA decides which applicants will be invited to submit a final application in the subsequent Phase 2 of the application process.

If and when required, the MFA will conduct a hearing process in accordance with § 19 of the Danish Public Administration Act.

**Responses to Phase 1 applications:** Applicants will be informed of the MFA decision in April/May 2018, and the instructions for Phase 2 will be announced shortly thereafter at DFC's website. Applicants who are invited to submit a Phase 2 application will receive specific recommendations or requirements regarding its content based on their Phase 1 application. Applications rejected by the MFA will be informed accordingly. If and when required, the MFA will conduct a hearing process in accordance with § 19 of the Danish Public Administration Act.

**Submission of Phase 2 applications:** The deadline for submission of final applications will be 24 August 2018.

**Peer review:** All Phase 2 applications will be submitted for external peer review to - as far as possible - at least two internationally recognised researchers. DFC appoints the external reviewers, and applicants will have the opportunity to comment on these external opinions in a hearing process.

**Hearing process:** The hearing process concerning the external peer reviews is expected to take place in early November 2018.

**Final Selection:** The Phase 2 applications are assessed by the FFU in early December 2018, on the basis of the application, the external assessments, and any hearing responses-. In the final prioritization by MFA, only a limited number of the Phase 2 applications will be recommended for approval.

Innovation Fund Denmark has endorsed this call text and will also endorse the final grant selection.

**Responses to Phase 2 applications:** Notice on the outcome of the prioritization of the Phase 2 applications will be sent to the applicants in December 2018. The approved projects can expect to start in early 2019 after receiving and endorsing a final Letter of Commitment.

## 12. Obligations

Applicants should familiarize 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 with the e-application, that the contents of the appendices are correct and that the e-application has been submitted before the deadline of the Call.

In the event of any subsequent material changes affecting the information submitted, the applying institution must immediately notify the Research Unit at DFC at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).

The application must reflect ethical considerations and adhere to requirements in Denmark and in the relevant partner countries regarding research permissions, provision of information to relevant authorities, etc.

### **Storage of information**

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 edited will be registered.

### **Technical disclaimer**

The Danida Fellowship Centre is obliged to inform prospectively applicants of any system errors that make the e-application system unavailable, affecting the applicant's possibility of submitting e-applications within any deadlines. Information regarding such unavailability, and other unforeseen events, will be posted on the DFC website <http://dfcentre.com/research/>.

The Danida Fellowship Centre 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.

### **Data Protection Act**

Danish privacy law (Danish Act on Processing of Personal Data, *Lov om persondata*, no. 429 of 31 May 2000 with subsequent amendments) accords the applicant certain rights when information concerning the researchers involved in the application is processed electronically. Please note that at his or her request, they have the right to inspect and verify personal data if such data are processed electronically.

It is not possible to make corrections to an e-application after it has been submitted, except for corrections related to the personal information.

### **Rejection of applications without substantive consideration**

According to Section 6 of the Executive order on the granting function etc. under Innovation Fund Denmark (Executive Order no 1150 of 25 October 2017), an application may be rejected without substantive consideration if the formal requirements or deadlines, as set out in this Call for applications, are not met.

### **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 which an applicant may have submitted to the FFU, and this information may be included in processing of the e-application.

In the event that project funding has been or will be applied for from elsewhere, the MFA and FFU reserve the right to obtain information as to whether the amount has been granted.

### **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.

### **Announcement**

Once the submitted Phase 1 applications have been processed, an announcement will be made at the DFC website, <http://dfcentre.com/research/> as to who have been invited to submit a Phase 2 application. In support of that announcement, the following information may be published on the internet: applicant name, title, workplace, title of application and expected application amount. The purpose of this is to enable applicants to apprise themselves of other prospective programme applicants and research activities and possibly form their own networks with a view to submitting joint applications.

Information about applicants who are not invited to submit a Phase 2 application 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, take care that their application title does not reveal information about the activity which they wish to keep out of the public domain.

## **13. E-application Information**

The Call and e-application system is accessible from DFC's website via the following link:  
<http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>.

- Before the electronic application system is accessible, you will need to register yourself with your e-mail address and password – log on the link “If you have not previously used Danida Fellowship Centre’s electronic application system click here”. If you have several e-mail

addresses, please note that acknowledgement of receipt of the application will be sent to the e-mail address used as your user name in the system.

- To create an application, select the application form “W1 Research in Danida priority countries phase 1.
- Once you have created an application form, you can save and break off from it and resume work at any time by accessing the “Edit” box at the log-in page to the right.
- If you have forgotten your password, please type any password in the box, and by doing this, an e-mail with your correct password will be sent to your e-mail address.
- Your partners can access the application by using the same e-mail address and password.

### **Contact**

For questions concerning the application procedures and in general relating to this Call for applications, please contact the Research Unit at Danida Fellowship Centre at [research@dfcentre.dk](mailto:research@dfcentre.dk).