

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

DANISH CARDIOVASCULAR ACADEMY

THE DCAcademy POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy invites applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships within the DCAcademy Postdoctoral Programme. The Academy will award up to eight Postdoctoral Fellowships. The Academy offers two types of fellowships.

- **2-year full Postdoctoral Fellowship** of 1,150,000 DKK over a period of two years covering salary.
- **5-year 20% Clinical Fellowship** supported by the Danish Heart Foundation amounting to 575,000 DKK over a period of five years covering salary.

Danish Cardiovascular Academy does not cover overhead.

Applications can be within any fields of cardiovascular research.

Deadline for application is Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 12:00.

Please note that you and your principal investigator(s) (PI) must become members of Danish Cardiovascular Academy before you can submit an application. Sign up at www.DCAcademy.dk

The grant must be activated within six months after receiving the grant notification letter (or by further agreement with the Academy).

PURPOSE

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy aims to strengthen the Danish cardiovascular research environment through excellent interdisciplinary education and training of young researchers. The goal is to improve understanding of disease prevention, mechanisms of disease, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease.

With the DCAcademy Postdoctoral Programme we aim to:

- *Promote interdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral cardiovascular research*
- *Position Denmark at an international level within cardiovascular research*
- *Create viable networks across disciplines and sectors within cardiovascular research*
- *Provide training of the postdoctoral fellow to become an independent research leader*

ABOUT THE DCAcademy POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

Enrollment in the DCAcademy Postdoctoral Programme comes with a number of exclusive possibilities, as well as some obligations. When accepting the grant, the grantee adheres to the following obligations:

- The DCAcademy grant recipients are obliged to participate in the mandatory “DCAcademy introduction course” on the 15th and 16th of August 2022 at Hotel Sinatur Gl. Avernæs. The course will give DCA-funded researchers an introduction to the Danish Cardiovascular Academy and how the Academy offers to support them in educational and networking activities. During the course, scholars will be invited into peer mentoring circles, and there will be a guest lecture from The Danish Heart Foundation.
- The DCAcademy grant recipients are obliged to participate in the annual DCAcademy Summer Meeting from the 2nd to 4th of June 2022 at Hotel Sinatur, Nyborg Strand. Participation is free of charge for the DCAcademy fellows.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows must organize an interdisciplinary and/or cross sectorial symposium during the grant period. If this is designed for a broader audience, the DCAcademy would be willing to participate in organizing and carry the economical responsibility of this event.
- All DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows will be appointed as Science Ambassadors for The Danish Heart Foundation. When appointed as a Science Ambassador you may be asked to present your research at The Danish Heart Foundation’s events and magazines such as local and national meetings, portraits in “HjerteNyt”, on social media platforms.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows must contribute to dissemination of their results through The Academy’s website and social media platforms.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows will be invited for special DCAcademy network-and-dinner sessions at selected national and international scientific meetings.
- DCAcademy grant holders can apply for DCAcademy Travel Grants up to 5,000 DKK pr. grant (Terms and conditions apply).

ELIGIBILITY

Due to the collaborative purpose of the grants, the postdoctoral project should bring researchers from different disciplines and/or sectors together. This can be accomplished by having a Primary Principal Investigator and up to three complementary co.principal investigators and/or collaborators from different research groups, preferably from other disciplines and sectors. institution. The candidate and the Primary Principal Investigator must full fill the requirements stated below.

The candidate

- Applicants must have a PhD degree, or be in the final stage of the PhD with a maximum of six months to submission of thesis at application deadline.
- Applicants must be within four years of their PhD degree (excluding periods of sick and parental leave and “hoveduddannelse”).
- Employment must be associated with a Danish university, hospital, company or other research institution.

The DCAcademy strongly emphasizes mobility and will prioritize applications where the applicant carries out his/her postdoctoral studies in another research environment than the one where the applicant carried out her/his PhD studies and/or applications where the applicant plans to stay at a research institution abroad or work in another sector (i.e. industry, university, hospital) during the postdoctoral studies.

The Primary Principal Investigator (PPI)

The postdoctoral candidate must have at least one PPI. The PPI must be employed at a university as group leader and be an Associate Professor or higher level. The PPI should be able to document experience within the area of research and with supervision. DCAcademy encourages applicants to have up to three co-principal investigators and/or collaborators, representing different research areas, preferably from different locations and sectors. It is only possible to be assigned as PPI at one application pr. call.

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Deadline for application is Tuesday 1st March 2022 at 12:00.

Applications must be in English and submitted through the online application system.

www.efond.dk/dca

In the application system you must provide relevant contact information, project title, a short project description and upload the main application document.

The main application document must consist of the following documents, merged into a single PDF-file in the order stated below.

(For readability purposes, all documents must be prepared using standard fonts, font size 11-12, and line spacing between 1.15 and 1.5 must be used.)

To be prepared by the applicant:

- **Project description including**
 - Aims and specific objective
 - Background and significance
 - Preliminary studies/results (if applicable)
 - Hypotheses
 - Project design and methods
 - Risk management strategy
 - Organization incl. the role of the postdoc and the potential role of other team members or technical and administrative staff.
 - Collaborations; including interdisciplinarity, internationalization, and cross-sectorial considerations if relevant.
 - Perspectives
 - Literature cited

(max 5 pages, including illustrations; excluding references)

- **Description of the research environment, including**
 - Size and research focus of the involved research group(s)/PI(s)
 - Experience with the essential methods in the research environment
 - Role and synergy of the PIs in the project (if more than one PI)
 - Role of PI(s) in supervising and educating the post doctorate fellow

(max 2 pages)

- **Budget** (for the entire project, incl how expenses will be financed)
- **Applicants CV** *(max 3 pages)*
- **PhD- certificateⁱⁱ**
- **Primary and co -Principal Investigator(s) CV**
(max 2 pages pr. CV incl. 5 most relevant publication)
- **Confirmation of the employment provided by head of department/head of administration**
- **Other relevant documents** (if needed)

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION PROCESS

After submitting the application, you will receive a receipt of your application by email – if you do not receive this email, please contact the Danish Cardiovascular Academy Executive Management Assistant at etb@biomed.au.dk

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy Executive Management Team will process all incoming applications. Applications not fulfilling the eligibility criteria and/or technical requirements will not be considered.

All eligible applications will be submitted to the Danish Cardiovascular Academy Grant Committee for a scientific evaluation.

Evaluation criteria

- **Applicant:** Scientific excellence and potential of the applicant, including whether the applicant is appropriately trained and well-suited to carry out the proposed project?
- **Significance:** Does the study address an important problem?
- **Approach:** Are the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses adequately developed, well integrated, and appropriate to the objectives of the project?
- **Novelty and innovation:** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods?
- **Environment and PI(s):** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be carried out, and the merit of the PI(s), contribute to the probability of success?
- **Interdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral focus:** This is recommended, and will be evaluated positively, but is not mandatory.
- **Internationalisation:** An international aspect, if relevant, is evaluated positively.
- **Feasibility:** Is the timeframe suitable for completion of the project

In the evaluation process there will be given separate scores for project (40%), research environment (25%), and applicant's qualifications (35%).

The selected candidate will be informed about the decision by June 2022.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy has no influence on the employment of the Postdoctoral Fellow besides allocating the fellowship to the workplace of the Postdoctoral Fellow in question. Confirmation of the employment must be provided by head of department/head of administration of the respective institution/company where the candidate will be employed.

Employment must take place at a Danish research institution, including both academia/hospital and commercial enterprises.

The terms of employment should be based upon a mutual agreement between the Postdoctoral Fellow and the institution/university/company at which the research will take place.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the Danish Cardiovascular Academy, please contact the Executive Director Christian Aalkjær; ca@biomed.au.dk

For information about DCAcademy Postdoctoral programme, please contact Executive Assistant, Head of Adm. Emil T Brøndum: etb@biomed.au.dk.

ⁱ *International collaboration.* The collaboration can be documented by e.g. a collaboration agreement or an email from the collaborator describing the nature of the collaboration. The international collaboration must create actual value for the project and the applicant, and it should therefore be incorporated in the project from the beginning.

Interdisciplinary collaboration. This includes affiliation of collaborators – potentially being PIs - from other research disciplines e.g. basic science, clinical science, industry or integration of different research disciplines in the project. The collaboration must be described with regards to the relevance to the hypothesis, methods and/or idea development. The collaboration should result in synergy between the collaborators.

Cross-sectorial. This includes affiliation of collaborators – potentially being PIs - from other sectors; e.g. life-pharma industry, device companies, general practice, university hospitals; formalized agreements with collaborators from other sectors; and/or change of research/work environment in other sectors. The collaboration can be documented by joint publications, joint and funded applications, patent applications or spin-off companies. The collaboration should result in synergy between the collaborators.

ⁱⁱ If PhD degree has not yet been obtained, you must include a statement from principal supervisor on expected date for completion of PhD-study.