

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Cross-Academy Scholarships  
Danish Cardiovascular Academy  
&  
Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy

Deadline 7th February 2024

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## THE DCAcademy PhD PROGRAMME

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The Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCA) and the Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy (DDEA) invite applications for **three 2/3-financed DCA-DDEA Cross-Academy PhD scholarships** of 1,100,000 DKK each (covering salary and tuition fee) over a period of two years.

The purpose of the scholarships is to strengthen the collaboration between cardiovascular research and research within diabetes, metabolism, and endocrinology in Denmark. Applications must therefore be transdisciplinary across the fields of diabetes, metabolism or endocrinology *and* cardiovascular research.

The principal supervisor of the PhD project must be within cardiovascular research and, the co-supervisor must be within diabetes, metabolism or endocrinology.

**Deadline for application is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 12:00**

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

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

### PURPOSE

The DCA and DDEA aims to strengthen the Danish research through excellent interdisciplinary education and training of early career researchers.

With the DCA-DDEA PhD Cross-Academy Scholarships, we further aim to:

- *Promote interdisciplinarity and cross-sectoral cardiovascular research.*
- *Position Denmark at an international level within cardiometabolic research.*
- *Create viable networks and collaboration across disciplines and sectors.*

## ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

When accepted for the DCA-DDEA PhD Programme, scholars and their supervisors have a number of exclusive possibilities, as well as some obligations. When accepting the grant, scholars and supervisors agree to adhere to these obligations.

- The PhD scholar must participate in the mandatory DCAcademy introduction course on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 at Hotel Sinatur Gl. Avernæs. The course will give DCA-DDEA funded researchers an introduction to the Danish Cardiovascular Academy and the DCAcademy Educational Programme, as well as international guest lectures. During the introduction course, scholars will be invited into the Peer Mentoring Programme and work on their personal presentation skills.
- The DCA-DDEA scholar are expected to participate in the annual DCAcademy Summer Meeting from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2024 at Hotel Sinatur Storebælt, Nyborg. Participation is free of charge. Main supervisors are strongly encouraged to participate.
- The DCA-DDEA scholar must organize a MidTerm Symposium providing a broader perspective to the PhD scholars' project focus. The symposium will be financially supported by the DCA and DDEA.
- All DCA-DDEA scholars will be appointed as Science Ambassadors for The Danish Heart Foundation and the Danish Cardiovascular Academy. As ambassador, the grant recipient is expected to actively disseminate their research as well as assist the academy and the Danish Heart Foundation in promoting their activities and create awareness of the importance of research.

## ELIGIBILITY

To support the aims of the DCA and DDEA, the PhD-projects should bring researchers from different disciplines and/or sectors together. This can be accomplished by dual supervision where the scholar has supervisors and/or collaborators from different research groups, preferably from different disciplines and sectors. Longer research stays at the research environment of both supervisors are highly recommended. The candidate and the main supervisor must fulfill the requirements stated below.

### The candidate

In order to apply for the DCAcademy Cross-Academy PhD Programme, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- The candidate must have a master's degree from a Danish university or an equivalent degree from a foreign university by the time of application<sup>i</sup>.
- Must have a main supervisor within cardiovascular research affiliated with a Danish university.
- Must have a co-supervisor within diabetes, metabolism og endocrinology affiliated with a Danish university.
- High-level of proficiency in English is required<sup>ii</sup>.

Furthermore, the candidate must be no more than 5 years from candidate/master's degree (excluding periods of maternity and paternity leave, disease, and "hoveduddannelse"). It is evaluated positively if the applicant has research experience. An education as MSc. can be considered as having research experience from the thesis; an MD may document research experience from publications, submitted manuscripts or pre-graduate research year.

Supervisors cannot apply for PhD scholarships, only candidates may apply. You can only apply for one PhD Scholarship per application round. You may re-apply up to three times and it is important that you indicate whether your application is a re-application for the same or similar project or a different project.

### The main supervisor

The main supervisor must be within cardiovascular research and affiliated with a Danish university<sup>iii</sup>, and provide documentation that the supervisor's group has experience with the essential methods as well as the expertise and funding necessary for a successful PhD-project. It is only possible to be the main supervisor on one application per Call.

## The co-supervisor(s)

The co-supervisor must be within diabetes, metabolism or endocrinology. To facilitate broad and complementary research training of the PhD scholar, it is recommended that the scholar has two or more co-supervisors representing different areas and/or sectors. All supervisors are expected to play a highly active role in the training and supervision of the scholar.

## THE APPLICATION

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

[www.efond.dk/dca](http://www.efond.dk/dca)

In the application system you must provide relevant contact information, project title, short project description in English, 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.

## To be prepared by the candidate

- **Project description including:**
  - Aim and specific objectives
  - Background and significance
  - Preliminary studies/results (if applicable)
  - Hypotheses
  - Project design and methods, including statistics
  - Risk management strategy ("plan B")
  - Perspectives(max 4 pages, including illustrations; excluding references).

- **The candidate's contribution including:**
  - Description of which parts of the project the candidate is expected to perform independently.
  - Description of which parts of the project other research team members will contribute/be responsible for  
(max 1 page)
- **Candidate's CV**  
(max 2 pages)
- **Grade transcript**
- **Other relevant documents**

## To be prepared by main supervisor

- **Description of the main supervisors' research environment including:**
  - Description of how the interdisciplinary and/or trans-sectorial aspects contribute to synergies within the project area<sup>iv</sup>
  - Supervisors' involvement and contribution to the project
  - Experience with supervision and relevant methods
  - Contribution to the research training of the scholar  
(max 2 pages)
- **CV**, including 5 publications most relevant for the proposed project  
(max 2 pages per CV)

## To be prepared by the co-supervisors

- **Description of the co-supervisors' research environment including:**
  - Description of how the interdisciplinary and/or trans-sectorial aspects contribute to synergies within the project area<sup>v</sup>
  - Co-supervisors' involvement and contribution to the project
  - Experience with supervision and relevant methods
  - Contribution to the research training of the scholar  
(max 2 pages)
- **CV**, including 5 publications most relevant for the proposed project  
(max 2 pages per CV)

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

After submitting your application, you will receive a receipt of your application by email – if you do not receive this email, please contact the Danish Cardiovascular administration at [etb@biomed.au.dk](mailto:etb@biomed.au.dk)

## EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION PROCESS

The DCA and DDEA will process all incoming applications. Applications not fulfilling the eligibility criteria and/or technical requirements will not be considered.

All eligible applications will be forwarded to the DCA and DDEA Grant Committees for a scientific evaluation.

### Evaluation criteria

- **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?
- **Innovation:** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches, or methods?
- **Applicant:** Is the applicant appropriately trained and well suited to carry out this work?
- **Environment:** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be performed, contribute to the probability of success?
- **Interdisciplinarity** and cross-sectorial focus: This is recommended and will be evaluated positively but is not mandatory.
- **Internationalisation:** An international aspect, if relevant, is evaluated positively.
- **Feasibility:** Are three years suitable for completion of the project?

In the evaluation process there will be given separate scores for project (50%), research environment (25%), and applicant's qualifications (25%).

The selected candidate will be informed about the decision by May 2024.

DCA and DDEA does not provide feedback on rejected applications.



## TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

Applicants must be aware of the fact that specific requirements can vary from one university to another e.g. required research experience, publication of articles in peer-reviewed journals, English skills. The main supervisor is expected to assist the candidate when submitting her/his application for enrolment at the Graduate School.

### Place of enrolment and employment

Enrollment must take place at a university in Denmark. Employment is full-time and will last for three years unless an agreement with the DCA or DDEA is made. Employment takes place at a Danish research institution or a private life sciences company where the PhD project will be carried out.

Enrollment and employment should be within six months after receiving the grant notification letter. If this is not achieved, the grant will be retracted. Upon the enrolment, the enrolment letter must be submitted to the DCA.

If the PhD project includes close research collaborations between two universities (one Danish university and one university abroad), it is possible to obtain a joint or double PhD degree (according to the rules in force and Danish legislation), but enrollment must take place at one of the Danish universities (home university). For further information, the PhD candidate should contact the institution where she/he will be enrolled.

Terms of employment are according to the agreement between the Danish Confederation of Professional Associations and the Ministry of Finance.

### PhD programme

The PhD programme must be completed in accordance with The Ministerial Order on the PhD Programme at the Universities, Ministry of Higher Education and Science and the regulations and guidelines defined by the university where employment will take place.

If you receive additional grants covering salary for the project (except for the 1/3 or 2/3 salary not included in the DCA-DDEA grant, the DCA and DDEA reserves the right to withdraw your PhD scholarship grant or part of it.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the DCAcademy PhD programme, please contact the Executive Director Christian Aalkjær; [ca@biomed.au.dk](mailto:ca@biomed.au.dk)

For information about DCAcademy PhD Scholarships, please contact Emil T Brøndum: [etb@biomed.au.dk](mailto:etb@biomed.au.dk).

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<sup>i</sup> If the exam is not yet passed, the applicant should enclose a statement from the supervisor of the Master thesis confirming when the thesis will be handed in and when the exam will take place. The Master's degree certificate must be forwarded to the Danish Cardiovascular Academy Executive Management Team no later than six months after receiving the grant notification letter. If we have not received your Master's degree certificate six months after receiving the grant notification letter or if you do not pass the Master's exam, the scholarship will be withdrawn.

<sup>ii</sup> The Danish Cardiovascular Academy expects high-level proficiency in English oral as well as written. Please be aware of the fact, that specific requirements can vary from one university to another with regards to English language skills. We refer to the individual PhD schools of the Danish university where you will apply for enrolment.

<sup>iii</sup> *The main supervisor* must be employed at the faculty at which the student applies for enrolment, and he/she must conduct research as an associate professor or professor within the subject studied by the PhD student. The main supervisor has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with all formalities relating to the PhD programme. Please note that a main supervisor can only be main supervisor on one application for a Danish Cardiovascular Academy PhD scholarship per application round.

<sup>iv</sup> *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*: Such as affiliation of collaborators 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 description of the hypothesis, methods and/or idea development. The collaboration should result in synergy between the collaborators.

*Cross sectorial*: Such as affiliation of collaborators from other sectors e.g. industry, 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 based on affiliation and educational background of authors,

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joint and funded applications, patent applications or spin-off companies. The collaboration should result in synergy between the collaborators.

*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:* Such as affiliation of collaborators 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 description of the hypothesis, methods and/or idea development. The collaboration should result in synergy between the collaborators.

*Cross sectorial:* Such as affiliation of collaborators from other sectors e.g. industry, 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 based on affiliation and educational background of authors, joint and funded applications, patent applications or spin-off companies. The collaboration should result in synergy between the collaborators.