



Danish
Cardiovascular
Academy

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

DCAcademy Postdoctoral Programme

Deadline 21st February 2025

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THE DCAcademy POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy invites applications for 2-year fully financed Postdoctoral Fellowships within the DCAcademy Postdoctoral Programme.

A **2-year DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellowship** amounts to 1,150,000 DKK over a period of two years covering salary. The Danish Cardiovascular Academy does not cover overhead.

Applications can be within

- Clinical cardiovascular research.
- Basic cardiovascular research
- Epidemiological cardiovascular research
- Public Health cardiovascular research

Deadline for application is Friday 21st February 2025 at 12:00

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

The grant must be activated within six months of 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 early career 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 researchⁱ*
- *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 some exclusive possibilities, as well as some obligations. When accepting the grant, the grantee adheres to the following obligations:

- The DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellow must participate in the mandatory DCAcademy introduction course on the 14th and 15th of August 2025 at Hotel Sinatur Gl. Avernæs. The course will give DCAcademy-funded researchers an introduction to the Danish Cardiovascular Academy and the DCAcademy Educational Programme as well as international guest lectures. During the introduction course, fellows will be invited into the DCAcademy Peer Mentoring Programme and work on their personal presentation skills.
- The DCAcademy grant recipients are expected to participate in the annual DCAcademy Summer Meeting from the 22nd to 24th of June 2025 at Hotel Sinatur Storebælt, Nyborg. Participation is free of charge for the DCAcademy fellows.
- The DCAcademy postdoctoral grant recipients are expected to participate in at least one DCAcademy Winter Meeting during the grant period. Participation is free of charge for the DCAcademy fellows.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows must organize an interdisciplinary and/or cross sectorial MidTerm Symposium providing a broader perspective to the fellows' project focus. The symposium will be financially supported by the DCAcademy.
- All DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows 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 DCAcademy and The Danish Heart Foundation in promoting their activities and create awareness of the importance of cardiovascular research.

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 Principal Investigator (PI) and up to three complementary co-principal investigators and/or collaborators from different research groups, preferably from other disciplines and sectors/institutions. The candidate and the PI must fulfill 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 Principal Investigator (PI)

The PI must be employed at a Danish university as group leader and be Associate Professor or at a higher level. The PI 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 PI at one application pr. call.

INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be in English and submitted through the online application system.
www.efond.dk/dca

Deadline for application is Friday 21st February 2025 at 12:00

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 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 (including statistics)
 - Risk management strategy ("plan B")
 - Organization; the role of the applicant and the role of other team members or technical and administrative staff.
 - Collaborations; including interdisciplinarity, internationalization, and cross-sectorial considerations if relevant.
 - Perspectives

(max 5 pages, including illustrations; excluding references)

The Grant Committee urges applicants to focus project description on project and methods and to keep introduction/background very short!

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

- Role of PI and co-PIs in supervising and educating the applicant
(max 2 pages)
- **Budget** (for the entire project, incl. how running expenses will be financed)
- **Applicants CV** (max 3 pages)
- **PhD- certificate**ⁱⁱ
- **Principal and co-principal Investigator(s) CV**
(max 2 pages pr. CV, incl. 5 publications relevant to the project)
- **Confirmation of employment in case of fellowship, provided by head of department/head of administration**
- **Other relevant documents** (if needed)

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 Academy at etb@biomed.au.dk

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy secretariat 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 May 2025.

DCAcademy does not provide feedback on rejected applications.

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 Danish Cardiovascular Academy administration: 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.