Guidelines:

Industrial Postdoc

Please be aware that this document is a translation of the legally binding Danish version of the guidelines.

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Contents

1. The programme

1.1 Industrial Postdoc – in brief

An Industrial Postdoc project is a business-oriented research project, lasting one to three years and carried out in a private or public company by a researcher who has gained a PhD degree within the last five years. The project includes a significant high quality of research at an academic level that calls for a person with PhD competences. In addition, the project must have a clear focus on the business-related development of the company with a direct or indirect business-related significance and impact. The Innovation Fund funds part of the company's salary expenses for the postdoc candidate, among other things.

The Industrial Postdoc must be employed full time by the company, and the project is carried out in collaboration with a public research institution. The Industrial Postdoc shares their working time between the company and the research institution, according to the needs of the project. The company and the research institution must both assign a mentor to the Industrial Postdoc.

Industrial Postdoc is one of Innovation Fund Denmark's Industrial Researcher programmes that furthermore include Industrial PhD. An application for an Industrial Postdoc is in competition with other Industrial Postdoc and Industrial PhD applications. Both programmes do overall contribute to ensuring the Fund's objective of creating growth and employment in Denmark and supporting solutions to specific societal challenges. The Industrial Researcher programmes have the following specific objectives:

- To educate and develop research talents to become industrial researchers
- To contribute to business-oriented research, development and innovation in Denmark
- To strengthen the collaboration between companies in Denmark and universities or research institutions at home and abroad

Innovation Fund Denmark finances part of the Industrial Postdoc's salary and travel expenses in the company as well as the research institution's expenses for mentoring, equipment and other expenses of the project.

1.2 Who may apply?

An Industrial Postdoc project is a collaboration between a company, a research institution and an Industrial Postdoc. It is possible for a company and research institution to apply for a project without a candidate.

Innovation Fund Denmark wants to promote diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, all interested parties – regardless of research area, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or age – are encouraged to apply for funding from the Fund.

Requirements for project partners:

1.3 Company and company mentor

The company must meet the following criteria:

- Have a branch with an independent CVR number and geographically located in Denmark that will employ the Industrial Postdoc.
- Have the finances and facilities to manage the project throughout the entire project duration.
- Be financially independent of the research institution. This means that:

  - the research institution may own a maximum of 25% of the company; and
  - there may not be any significant[1] cash flow from the research institution to the company.
- Assign a company mentor to the project.
- Be part of the private sector.
- Must not be an 'undertaking in difficulty' as defined in Article 2 (1), No. 18 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. This condition does, however, not apply to companies that were not "undertakings in difficulty" as of 31 December 2019, but came into difficulties between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021.
- Have complied with any repayment orders issued by the European Commission in one or more decisions where state aid granted by the Danish authorities has been found illegal and incompatible with the internal market.
- Must not be subject to compulsory dissolution, bankruptcy, voluntary liquidation or suspension of payments.

To be part of the private sector, the company must meet the following criteria:
- Be neither a state, nor a regional, nor a municipal company or be an interest organisation for public organisations.
- Have a turnover of which a maximum of 50 % is publicly funded (incl. EU subsidies and payments from citizens as required by law).

If the company is not part of the private sector, public organisations may apply in separate application rounds. Read more about this in section 7.

Supervisors/Mentors

The company must appoint a mentor. The mentor is the company's formal representative in the project and works with the Industrial Postdoc and the research institution's mentor on the implementation of the project. It is the company mentor who must create and submit the application in e-grant. The company mentor is responsible for the professional sparring with the Industrial Postdoc and should have sufficient knowledge about the subject of the project to be able to give qualified supervision during the project. It is possible to appoint several co-mentors and third parties.

The company mentor must meet the following criteria:
- Have experience within the project theme (research experience is not required).
- Have in-depth industry knowledge.
- As a minimum have a bachelor's degree or considerable experience with the subject area

Between them, the company and research mentors must have the research-relevant competencies to give the Industrial Postdoc qualified academic sparring about the project. Thus, it is not a requirement that the

[1] There may not be any cash flow between the research institution and the company that causes financial dependency between them. Ordinary trade in products or services, etc. on commercial terms or redistribution of public project funding in collaboration projects is not considered to be a significant cash flow.

company mentor has research experience as long as the requirement is met jointly with the research mentors.
The company mentor does not have to be employed in the company, but must work in the private business sector on a daily basis.

1.4 Research institution and research institution mentor
The research institution participating in the project must meet the following criteria:

- Be able to document a significant research effort within the project area.
- Appoint a research mentor to the project.
- Be part of the public sector.

To be part of the public sector, the research institution must fulfil at least one of the below criteria:

- Be a state, regional or municipal organisation or an interest organisation for public organisations.
- Have a turnover of which more than 50 % is publicly funded (incl. EU subsidies and payments from citizens as required by law).

The research institution may be placed in Denmark or abroad. It must appoint a mentor who will work with the Industrial Postdoc and the company on the implementation of the project. The research mentor will be the research institution's formal representative in the project and be responsible for the research-related sparring with the Industrial Postdoc.

A research institution mentor must meet the following criteria:

- Be a recognised researcher within the subject area of the project.
- Be engaged in a research-relevant environment within the subject area of the project on a daily basis.

1.5 Industrial Postdoc candidate
A company and university can apply for an Industrial Postdoc project both with and without a named candidate. If the application is submitted without a candidate and the project is approved, the company and the university must find a candidate who meets the requirements within six months from the date the grant is awarded.

An Industrial Postdoc candidate may be approved for the project if they meets the following criteria:

- Have gained a PhD degree within the last five years at the time of the application deadline (maximum five years from the date given on the PhD diploma, excluding parental or sick leave)
- Be able to document high-quality research experience within the project subject area in terms of publications, research-based patents or something similar.

The candidate may apply prior to submitting their PhD thesis, but must in that case in the application include a statement from the primary supervisor concerning expected submission and successful defence within eight months following the application deadline.

1.6 Thematisation of Industrial Postdoc
Based on the political agreement "Agreement on the Allocation of the Research Reserve, etc., in 2025," dated November 1, 2024, the Innovation Fund can support Industrial Researcher projects that fall within at least

one of the four themes listed below. If the project does not align with a theme, non-thematic funding can be applied for.

Green research, technology, and innovation

Cf. the government's green research strategy from 2020 and in accordance with the agreement "Fart på fremtidens grønne løsninger" (Accelerating future green solutions) from 2024 Innovation Fund Denmark invests in knowledge-based innovation projects that develop the green technologies and solutions needed to transform society towards a sustainable future. This is with a focus on climate, climate resilience, nature, biodiversity, environment, including aquatic environment, and growth and employment. Among other things, it is a priority to strengthen Denmark's position within the field of renewable energy expansion and increase the opportunities for market access through new cross-border energy systems.

The theme relates to green projects within e.g.:

- Energy production and efficiency, including innovation in sector coupling, the interaction between the different parts of energy systems, and hybrid projects (e.g. energy islands)
- Agriculture and food production, including solutions targeting climate-efficient, sustainable, and resilient agricultural and food systems
- Transportation
- Environment and circular economy
- Nature and biodiversity
- Sustainable behaviour and societal consequences of climate change, including understanding of behaviour in relation to climate challenges and the green transition, as well as tools that may support the transition
- Sustainable construction technology to transform the industry into being sustainable throughout the value chain and all phases of construction

A key aspect of projects eligible for support is their contribution to the green transition and that the expectations of these contributions are made explicit in the applications. Furthermore, applicants are encouraged to focus on interdisciplinarity integrated into the project. For example, this could involve projects that combine natural scientific and technological research with humanities and social sciences research, which can provide valuable knowledge related to, for instance, behavior, incentives, regulation, and market conditions. The projects may also support the development of local "Business Lighthouses" ("Erhvervsfyrtårne").

Life science, health, and welfare technology

The theme aims to support strategic and challenge-driven technology development and innovation within life sciences, healthcare, and welfare technology.

The funding can help leverage Denmark's strong knowledge- and research position in the field, transforming it into inventions, products, and technologies that will benefit Danish citizens, the healthcare system, corporate profitability, and Danish export.

The innovation can contribute to the development of e.g.:

- Development of new medicinal products, including personalised medicine
- Development within the field of digital health, including the field of health data, medical devices, and the application of artificial intelligence, including solutions for home treatment
- Strengthening of local health care and the development, testing and implementation of welfare technology within, among others, elderly care, social services, and healthcare
- Digital prevention and treatment solutions for individuals with physical and mental conditions
- Clinical outcomes end economic impact of whole genome sequencing etc.

The funding should contribute to creating societal value and economic growth for private and public companies and/or users in society. Where relevant, projects should be executed through collaboration between the businesses and relevant knowledge providers. Where applicable, principles of data ethics should be considered, including responsible use of data and transparency.

Critical and digital technologies

The theme supports innovation within critical and digital technologies essential for strengthening Denmark's position in the international technological race benefitting national security, competitiveness, and the functional capacity and social cohesion of the welfare society.

The theme focuses on bolstering innovation in production technology and areas fields deemed of critical significance by the EU, many of which have dual-use potential for both civil and military applications, including:

- Biotechnology
- Semiconductors
- Robot and drone technology
- Materials technology
- Artificial intelligence and big data
- Cybersecurity and information security, including enhanced data utilization to support the development of a digital welfare society with focus on citizen trust and citizenship
- Quantum technology
- Methods for citizen engagement and digital inclusion
- Particle research

Finally, projects that promote Danish universities' and companies' technological research through collaborations within the international organizations of which Denmark is a member (CERN, ESO, EMBL, ESRF, EU-XFEL, ESS, etc.) are supported. This ensures that Danish expertise is utilized internationally and advanced through active participation in the development of tomorrow's technologies.

The effort aims to, among other things, support Danish companies to engage internationally and actively participate in the development of tomorrow's technologies. Where relevant, principles of data ethics should be considered in supported projects, including responsible use of data and transparency.

Space technology
The theme is to strengthen fundamental and applied research and innovation within space technology, as well as to enhance capacity building in Danish research and innovation environments within the space sector.

This should be seen as part of the 'Strategy for Space Research and Innovation' published by the Ministry of Education and Science in November 2024, which aims to increase the societal benefits of Danish space research, innovation, and technology development by 2035.

Space technology projects are supported within, for example:

- Space-based green solutions for climate, environment, and nature (including land use and monitoring),
- Quantum- and space-based communication,
- Defense and security,
- Utilization of space data combined with artificial intelligence, digital twins, and supercomputers

Non-theme specific funds
This funding is aimed at projects that do not fall within the four themes above. These projects may, e.g., be within the humanities or social sciences research. Grants awarded in the form of non-theme specific funds should meet exactly the same requirements that apply to the projects applying within the themes. When submitting the application, you need to argue why the project does not fall within one of the four themes above.

2. What can I apply for investment in?
Innovation Fund Denmark finances part of the company's expenses for the Industrial Postdoc's salary and travel activity and the research institution's expenses for the Industrial Postdoc project. Innovation Fund Denmark will pay out funding to both the company and the research institution. The funds may only be used to cover the respective project-related expenses of the company and the research institution, and only within the project period as defined in e-grant

2.1 How large an investment can I apply for?
Funding for the company
Innovation Fund Denmark finances up to DKK 22,000 per month of the Industrial Postdoc's salary during the project period although covering only a maximum 50 % of the total salary (i.e. actual salary expenses calculated on the basis of the annual gross salary, including pension, insurance and holiday pay). Bonuses cannot be included in the gross salary.

The company will also for every month of the project period have DKK 2,500 at its disposal for travels for the Industrial Postdoc (in connection with the Industrial Postdoc's participation in project-relevant conferences at home and abroad as well as stays abroad). For each travel this covers one round trip ticket to the destination, visa, travel insurance and accommodation. Meals, daily/local transport, books, etc. are not covered. The funds may be freely spent throughout the project period and are not tied to any particular month. The cost must be incurred during the project period as defined in e-grant.

The company must pay all other expenses for the project, including equipment, materials and data collection. This also includes personal equipment for the Industrial Postdoc, such as laptop and mobile phone.

Please note that a maximum of 50 % of a company's total expenses for an Industrial Postdoc project may be financed by public funds.

Funding for the research institution
Innovation Fund Denmark will grant the research institution up to DKK 10,000 (including overhead) for every month of the project period. The amount may cover the research institution's project-related expenses for:

- The research mentor's sparring with the Industrial Postdoc.
- The research mentor's participation in conferences. This will cover one round trip ticket to the destination, visa, travel insurance and accommodation. Meals, daily/local transport, books, etc. are not covered.
- Project-relevant equipment, materials, apparatus (acquisition and/or use) and external services.
- Work on the project by other employees (does not include HR and financial functions, rent, public utilities, etc.).
- Publication and dissemination of research results.

The funds cannot be used for the Industrial Postdoc's salary or travel expenses. The funds may be spent freely throughout the entire project period and are not tied to a particular month. The research institution must submit financial accounts at the end of the project and return unused funds to Innovation Fund Denmark. The cost must be incurred during the project period as defined in e-grant.

2.2 What can the investment finance, and how long may be project last?

The financing may cover a maximum of 50 % of the project costs in the company.
The project may last from 12 to 36 months. The application must specify how many months of funding you are applying for.

3. Application

The application deadlines are determined on an ongoing basis and published at https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/p/industrial-researcher . The application and all communication must be in Danish, English or a combination of these two languages.

3.1 How do I apply?

Your application must be created and submitted via the electronic application system: www.egrant.dk

It is the company mentor who must create and submit the application (by pressing submit from their own e-grant account). This is crucial, as it is the company mentor's responsibility to ensure the application is accurate. At the same time, the company mentor will automatically be designated as the "Kontaktperson ved bevillingshaver" on the project once the submit button is pressed.

The research institution mentor must also register at www.egrant.dk. Once the company mentor has created the application, the research institution mentor who participates in the application must be added. The same applies for the Industrial Postdoc candidate if applying with a specific candidate. This is done by clicking the

"Tilføj ny deltager" button in the application on e-grant. These steps are necessary for the application to be processed.

The applicants must register as a user of the system with either a username and password or with MitID before an application can be created.

You create a new application by locating the correct call under 'Search options' and press 'Start your application'.

3.2 What should the application include?
It is a requirement for all applications that the formal criteria listed below are met. If an application does not comply with these requirements, the Innovation Fund Denmark may reject it without further assessment. In this context, the application consists of: 1) an application form in e-grant, 2) a project description template (available on the website and to be attached to the application in e-grant), and 3) various appendices.

Re 1: Application form in e-grant
All fields in the form must be completed. The form includes, among other things, sections on:

- Project title and period
- How the project aligns with the theme under which the application is submitted
- Abstract in Danish
- University
- Company/companies – including the project budget and the company's financial situation. If the company has a foreign branch, the financial details of the Danish part of the company must be provided
- Declarations
- Mentors
- Candidate (if a candidate is included in the application)
- Objectives and success criteria
- Time allocation (it must be specified how the candidate will divide their working time between the company and the university to ensure a significant affiliation with both environments)
- Courses, conferences, and international stays

Re 2: Project Description Template
It is a requirement that the Innovation Fund's official project description template is used. The template is available on the Innovation Fund Denmark´s website and is updated regularly. The most recent version must be used, and all formatting requirements stated in the template must be followed.

The template contains the following main sections, all of which must be completed:

- State of the art (including references)
- Project description (including references)
- Structure and timeline
- Commercial significance and impact (for private companies) *or* usefulness of the project (for public sector organisations)

Re 3: Appendices
The following documents must be attached:

- **CVs of mentors:**
  - CV of the company mentor (max 2 pages, including publication list)
  - CV of the university mentor (max 2 pages, including publication list)
- **If a named candidate is included in the application, the following must be attached**:
  - CV of the candidate
  - PhD certificate (or other signed documentation confirming successful PhD defence)
- **Signatures**: A template is available on the Innovation Fund Denmark´s website. The following parties must sign the application (electronic signatures with verified identity are accepted):
  - Company mentor
  - Financially responsible person at the company
  - University mentor
  - Financially responsible person at the university
  - Candidate (only if applying with a named candidate)
  - Third-party mentors (only if third-party involvement is included in the application)

If the application does not comply with the formal requirements and deadlines stated above, as well as those specified in the application form in e-grant, the project description template, and in the appendix templates, or if incorrect templates have been used, Innovation Fund Denmark may reject the application without active consideration, i.e., without assessment of the academic content of the application, cf. Article 5 in the Ministerial Order on the grant function etc. under Innovation Fund Denmark.

It is possible for a company and a university to apply to the Industrial Postdoc programme without a specific Industrial Postdoc candidate. If the application is approved, the partners should find and have an approval for a qualified candidate within six months of receiving the approval.

Innovation Fund Denmark publishes titles, summaries and participants of approved projects on Innovation Fund Denmark's website. Therefore, you need to make sure that the title and summary do not contain information that you wish to keep confidential.

4. Assessment

4.1 How does the assessment process take place?

The first step in the assessment is an evaluation of whether your application meets the administrative requirements described in these guidelines.
The second step is an academic assessment of the application. The basis for the assessment is the material which you as an applicant submitted via e-grant, and which falls within the framework of the Industrial Researcher programme guidelines. In addition, the assessors will rely on the prior knowledge they possess, i.e. the reason why they can be appointed as assessors, as well as knowledge that can be obtained through publicly available sources (e.g., literature and article databases, patent databases and company databases).

4.2 Who evaluates the application?

The Innovation Fund Denmark Industrial Researcher Committee, comprising recognised researchers as well as research and business experts within various disciplines, will assess the applications. The Committee

makes a recommendation to Innovation Fund Denmark that will make the final decision. You can find more information about the Industrial Researcher Committee on the Innovation Fund Denmark website.

The Committee may decide to obtain external assessments in cases where additional professional or academic competencies are needed for the assessment – in such cases, the external assessment will be submitted to the applicant for consultation. The applicant needs to be aware that if an external assessment is used, the assessment that the applicant receives in consultation will only constitute part of the overall assessment basis. Thus, the final assessment may yield a different result than what is indicated in the submitted external assessment. Also, academically qualified employees at Innovation Fund Denmark may, as well, take part in the assessment of the application. An assessment made by an Innovation Fund Denmark employee will not be sent for consultation.

4.3 How will the application be evaluated?

The application will be assessed on the basis of the following assessment criteria:

The quality of the idea

The project must overall be at Postdoc level, and it must be realistically possible to complete it within the project period. The quality of the project will be specifically assessed with regard to:

- Research-relevant novelty
- Quality of the description of state-of-the-art within the subject area
- Relevance and level of the theoretical basis
- Quality of hypotheses and/or research questions
- Relevance and concretisation of selected methods and data basis.

Impact

The project must have a clear business significance and impact for the Danish part of the company and is assessed specifically with regard to:

- The expected contribution of the results to the company's business foundation and/or earnings.
- The plan for and probability of implementation and commercial realisation of the results.

Please note that it is not sufficient that the project promotes and brands the company or acts as a lever for additional project funding.

Quality in execution

The application must demonstrate that the project is well structured, and that the partners are competent and relevant. The following will be specifically assessed:

- Feasibility and organisation of the project (including structure and time schedule, role distribution, the Industrial Postdoc’s time distribution, plan for dissemination and publications).
- The establishment of a significant association between the Industrial Postdoc and both the company and the research institution.
- The quality of the project partners' qualifications.

4.4 How do I receive a response to my application?

An Industrial Postdoc application may be approved, conditionally approved or rejected. The applicant will receive a response through e-grant.

Approval

If the project is approved and given a letter of commitment, the project must start at the earliest on the day the letter of commitment is awarded and no later than six months after the letter of commitment is awarded.

Conditional approval

If the application is conditionally approved, you will receive a decision outlining the conditions for final approval in e-grant. If, e.g., you have applied without a candidate, it will be a condition that you find a qualified candidate. You submit documentation for having satisfied the conditions to the Fund via e-grant. Only when the project has met the condition for final approval will you receive the letter of commitment. It is also only when the project has received final approval that the project can start and it must start no later than six months after the final approval is given. The condition must be fulfilled no later than six months after the decision is issued.

Rejection

If the application is rejected, you will receive a reasoned rejection in e-grant. It is possible to reapply at the next application deadline, choosing the same or a different theme (see section 1.6.). When re-applying, you need to explain how the reasons for rejection have been dealt with. All material, including new signatures, must be resubmitted upon re-application, and the application must be re-created in e-grant.

4.5 When will I receive a response to my application?

The Innovation Fund Denmark aims to process applications within 13 weeks. The Committee may decide to obtain more information from the applicant for the assessment. In that case, the processing time may be longer.

5. From approval to start-up of the project

5.1 What happens after my application is approved, and when may the project start?

An approved project can start on the day on which the letter of commitment is issued at the earliest and no later than six months after the day on which the letter of commitment is issued. The final start date of the project must be stated by the research institution in the letter of commitment. The start date must, as a general rule, be no later than six months after the issuance of the letter of commitment. If a conditional approval has been given, the condition must also, as a general rule, be fulfilled within six months. If an approved project has not started within six months of approval, or if the condition is not met after six months, e.g. because a suitable candidate has not been found, the Innovation Fund reserves the right to withdraw the grant.

If the project is approved, Innovation Fund Denmark creates a grant case on www.e-grant.dk. You must submit financial accounts, reports and other written documents to the Fund via e-grant, depending on your obligations in the project. Likewise, you ask for approval of project changes and otherwise communicate with the Fund's employees via e-grant. All project partners should be entered into the grant case in e-grant. It is the responsibility of the project parties, that the relevant people are attached to the case.

5.2 Which terms of employment will apply to the Industrial Postdoc candidate?

Employment

In an Industrial Postdoc project, the Industrial Postdoc is employed by the company and thus works under the terms and conditions that apply to private employment. The Industrial Postdoc must be employed full time during the project. The Industrial Postdoc's work assignments and time must primarily be used on the Industrial Postdoc project and only to a limited extent on related research activities. Also, the Industrial Postdoc's time must be distributed between the company and the research institution in a way that is appropriate for the project, ensuring affiliation to both environments.

The employment must, as a minimum, be subject to the general terms and conditions for salaried employees. Other terms of employment may follow from a collective agreement, if any, or from an individual agreement. Non-compete clauses or the like in the employment contract must not limit the possibility to obtain employment elsewhere.

Pay

The Industrial Postdoc's total salary (the sum of salary and pension) must at least correspond to the total salary for postdoc employees in the state as determined by the relevant collective agreement. Questions about specific salary levels may be directed to the relevant union.

6. During the project

All communication with the Innovation Fund's staff takes place via e-grant. This is also where you must submit any requests for changes to the project (e.g. leave of absence or change of mentor), as well as final reports. Deadlines for submitting the required documents will always be stated in the case file in e-grant. If the documents are not submitted within the specified deadlines, the Innovation Fund may terminate the project, revoke the remaining grant, and demand repayment of the full amount already disbursed.

The company mentor is responsible for the company's communication with the Fund via -grant, including the company's submission of required documents via e-grant. The research institution mentor is responsible for the research institution's communication with the Fund via e-grant, including the research institution's submission of required documents via e-grant.
All communication between the Innovation Fund and the project takes place via e-grant. It is the project participants' own responsibility to ensure that the relevant persons are assigned to the case at all times.

6.1 How will the investment be paid out?

Innovation Fund Denmark pays 85 % of the full grant to the company and the research institution up front. For Danish organisations, the grant is paid to the NemKonto linked to the organisations' CVR numbers. When the project has finished and Innovation Fund has approved the final reporting from both the company and university the last part of the grant will be paid.

6.2 what do I need to report during the project?

The research mentor and the research institution ensure ongoing academic follow-up of the project, while the business mentor ensures the anchoring of the project in the company. The foundation's follow-up therefore focuses on the collaboration, results and effects.

At the end of the project, the company must complete a final report that evaluates the project in relation to effects, results and process. Submission of the final report is one of the prerequisites for the fund to make the final payment to the company.

The foundation does not require any additional reporting during the project period.

6.3 What will happen if I cannot comply with the plan?

Duty to inform and approval of changes

The company and the research institution must immediately notify Innovation Fund Denmark if there are significant changes in the premises for the grant. This includes, among other things, a change of mentor, leave of absence, major interruptions or delays and significant academic changes. Significant academic changes are changes that are so extensive that the project cannot be immediately recognised when compared to the project that was originally approved.

The project may only continue when and if the Fund approves the changes. If the duty to inform is not complied with, the Fund may decide to discontinue the grant and ask for funding paid out to be paid back. The change request must be submitted via e-grant.

Leave of absence

The Industrial Postdoc may ask for leave of absence. The request must be submitted via e-grant.

The Fund needs to approve the request before the leave may start. Innovation Fund Denmark does not provide grants during part time or leave periods, incl. parental and sick leave. The end date of the project may be postponed in accordance with the leave period and the grant will instead be provided during the extended period. If the company receives reimbursement from another public sector due to, e.g. parental leave or long-term illness of the Industrial Postdoc, it is necessary to apply for leave from the Industrial Postdoc project.

6.4 What do I need to do at the end of the project?

The company will receive the last part of the total grant when Innovation Fund Denmark – at the end of the project – has received and approved:

- A financial report
- An auditor's statement for the company's final accounts.
- The final project evaluation.

The research institution receives the last part of their grant, when Innovation Fund has received and approved

- Financial report
- The final project evaluation

The final evaluation consists of a form that evaluates the project with regard to impact, results and process. The evaluation form must be completed by the project partners before the Fund may effectuate the last pay-

out to the company and the research institution. The Fund does not need to receive other academic reporting during the project.

The partners' grant expenditures during the project period must be stated in the final accounts, after which the Fund will settle with both partners. Be aware that this may mean that the company and the research institution will have to pay back some of the prepaid grant at the end of the project.

The company must also declare in good faith that the total public subsidies given to the company do not exceed 50 % of the company's total project costs.

7. Industrial Postdoc in the public sector

If an organisation, cf. section 1.3, is not categorised as a private company, it is – in the context of Industrial Researcher – considered to be a public organisation.

The organisation may apply for an Industrial Postdoc in the public sector in connection with the call for Industrial Researcher for public companies. Please check the website regularly for notices and deadlines for public Industrial Postdoc. The grant amounts are the same as for private companies. The thematisation of the Industrial Researcher programmes described in section 1.6 also applies to Industrial Postdoc projects in the public sector. For further information, see https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/p/industrial-researcher.

The purpose of Industrial Researcher in the public sector is:

- To support research, development and innovation in the public sector through targeted and application-oriented research projects.
- To develop researchers with insight in research, development and innovation in the public sector.
- To build networks and support knowledge sharing between public organisations and research institutions.

7.1 Special conditions

Public organisations that have the authority to issue PhD degrees may not act as a host company in a public Industrial Postdoc project, but may act as a research institution. Other public institutions, e.g. university hospitals, may only function as a host company in a public Industrial Postdoc project within the research-relevant main areas (social sciences, health sciences, etc.) in which they do not already have permanent research activities.
The company mentor must work in the public sector on a daily basis rather than in the private sector.

7.2 Special assessment criteria

No financial impact is required for the applicant company in connection with a public Industrial Postdoc project. Instead, the project will be judged on the novelty and use-value it has for the organisation.

The use-value for the organisation may, e.g., consist of:

- streamlining
- knowledge building that directly increases the organisation's competencies
- systematic dissemination of knowledge
- strengthening the quality of the organisation's work or services.

In addition to the use-value of the organisation, a public Industrial Postdoc project must be of benefit to society.

The project will therefore also be assessed based on its broader societal value which may, e.g. be that the use-value of the project for the institution:

- is disseminated to other similar organisations.
- leads to improved living conditions for citizens in the community.
- Leads to improved conditions for the business community.

In addition to the above special assessment criteria, the criteria for the quality of the idea and the quality of execution, cf. section 4.3, also apply to public Industrial Postdoc applications.

8. State aid

Investments in the Industrial Researcher programme are provided in accordance with article 25 of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on certain categories of aid and their compatibility with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty), as the part of the project receiving funding should in its entirety fall within one or more of the categories “fundamental research” or “industrial research” as defined in the General Block Exemption Regulation article 2 (84) and (85).

The company can receive funding to cover up to DKK 22,000 per month for salary as well as DKK 2,500 for travel expenses. Irrespective of those limits, the public funding for the company may not exceed 50 % of the company’s eligible project costs.

9. Information management

9.1 Registration of information

The e-grant application system will automatically register selected information. When you register as a user, e-grant registers your identity, IP address and the time when the application was created or edited.

9.2 Applicant’s responsibility

It is the applicant's responsibility that the information in the electronic application is correct, that the necessary appendices are attached to the application, that the content of the appendices is correct, and that the application is submitted prior to the expiration of the application deadline.

Innovation Fund Denmark will normally not ask for further information for use in the processing of the application unless this is indicated in the other sections of the guidelines. Likewise, material and other documentation attached to the application and submitted further to the specified application material will generally not be included in the application assessment.

The applicant is obliged to inform Innovation Fund Denmark immediately if there are significant changes in the submitted information, including if funding has been received for the project or parts of it from third parties.

9.3 Correction of application information

It is not possible to correct the content of the application after the application deadline, except for correction of possible personal information.

9.4 Procuring other information

If funding for the project has been applied for or will be applied for elsewhere, Innovation Fund Denmark reserves the right to obtain information on whether the amounts have been granted.

9.5 Privacy policy

The privacy policy of Innovation Fund Denmark concerns our treatment of your personal data when we have the obligation as data controller.
We treat your personal data in compliance with existing legislation, including the general data protection act and the law on data protection.

Link to Innovation Fund Denmark Privacy Policy.

10. Publication of information

Innovation Fund Denmark will publish an overview of the projects that receive an investment, and Innovation Fund Denmark will for this ask the applicants to write a short, simply worded description of the project to be used for publication. You should therefore make sure that neither the project title or the project description include any confidential information.

In addition, information about the participating project partners (company/university), the project title and duration, key figures from the investment and the size of the investment may be published on the Innovation Fund Denmark website (www.innovationsfonden.dk), in the Danish National Research Database, as well as in Innovation Fund Denmark's publications.

Applicants should furthermore be aware that Innovation Fund Denmark on request (due to e.g. the Danish Open Administration Act) may without any furter notice to the applicants pass on lists containing information about the name of the company, project title, the investment applied for, the final decision (rejection/approval) as well as, in some cases, the actual investment for all submitted Industrial Researcher applications.

If a request for access into specific applications and possibly other relevant case documents is made in accordance with the Danish Open Administration Act, Innovation Fund Denmark will, in dialogue with the applicants, ensure that no business-sensitive information and/or any other information that cannot be disclosed according to law, is disclosed.

Open access

Innovation Fund Denmark has adopted the provisions of the 'Open Access-politik for offentlige forskningsråd og fonde'. This means that published scientific articles which are the result of full or partial funding from Innovation Fund Denmark, must be made freely available to everyone via Open Access, if the scientific journal allows it.

RPI and the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

Innovation Fund Denmark emphasises Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), which aims to create a better connection between research and innovation processes and results and society's values and needs. In Innovation Fund Denmark, we promote RRI both in the Fund's overall strategies and through our projects, and we adhere to the EU Commission's definition and implementation of RRI.

Read more about RRI and our requirements on Innovation Fund Denmark's website (under rules of procedure, rules concerning competence to act, etc.).

Please note that the projects in which Innovation Fund Denmark invests should involve relevant stakeholders and institutions in the research and innovation process. This implies, among others, that projects that have or may have a great impact on society and/or the individual citizen, ethically or technologically, must enter into direct dialogue with the general public to ensure the dissemination of information and relevant discussion in society.

Innovation Fund Denmark reserves the right to establish specific requirements in this regard for the projects in which the Fund invests. In cases where the project deals with technologies or processes that may have a significant impact on society, the consequences of the technology or processes must be clearly described in the application. It is therefore expected that these projects include all relevant competencies and methods, and that socially relevant research angles are integrated – e.g., anthropology or similar.

Innovation Fund Denmark also supports the principles set out in the national code of conduct for integrity in Danish research. Innovation Fund Denmark expects that funded projects adhere to the instructions in the RRI and the Code of Conduct.

Data management

Innovation Fund Denmark encourages that handling of project-generated data takes place in accordance with the FAIR principles (FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), as described in the EU 'Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020' (version 3.0, 26 July 2016).

In this way, it is, for example, possible to build on previous research results, verify results by other researchers, avoid duplication of work, accelerate innovation and create transparency and credibility about results.

11. About these guidelines

11.1 Legal basis

These guidelines have been established in accordance with section 18, subsection 2 (1) in the Danish Act on the Innovation Fund Denmark, cf. Consolidation Act No. 156 of 13 February 2025, and Ministerial Order No. 1150 of 25 October 2017 on the grant function, etc. under Innovation Fund Denmark.

Investments in the Industrial Researcher programme are provided in accordance with the framework of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on certain

categories of aid and their compatibility with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty), Chapter 1 (Articles 1-12) and Chapter 3 (Article 25).

11.2 URIS Guidelines

We inform applicants that Innovation Fund Denmark adhere to the guidelines for international research and innovation (URIS). For more information, see: https://ufm.dk/publikationer/2022/afrapportering-udvalg-om-retningslinjer-for-internationalt-forsknings-og-innovationssamarbejde.

The applicant guarantees that receipt and use of the investment from Innovation Fund Denmark does not violate existing national or international sanctions, including sanctions on freezing funds or bans on direct or indirect control. The applicant should be aware that in connection with the conflict between Russian and Ukraine, EU has considerably restricted the access to making funds and economic resources available for specific physical or legal individuals, entities or organisations according to EU Council Regulation No 269/2014 “concerning restrictive measures in respect of actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine”, and the applicant must guarantee that receipt and use of the investment from Innovation Fund Denmark does not violate this regulation. A consolidated list of person, groups and entities subject to EU sanctions is available on “Consolidated list of persons, groups and entities subject to EU financial sanctions - Data Europa EU”.

11.3 Technical disclaimer

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science is responsible for e-grant and has a duty to inform about errors that make e-grant so inaccessible that it affects the applicant's ability to submit e-applications within the application deadline. Information on inaccessibility will appear on Uddannelses- og forskningsministeriets hjemmeside/Drift status.

In particularly serious cases, Innovation Fund Denmark may extend the application deadline for all relevant applicants. This will likewise appear on Uddannelses- og forskningsministeriets hjemmeside/Drift status as well as the Innovation Fund Denmark website.

Innovation Fund Denmark and the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science are not liable for incorrect information as a result of software errors, calculation errors, transmission errors and similar errors, or for any claims for compensation as a result of the incorrect use of e-grant.