

Lundbeck Foundation Fellowships

Terms of Reference for review of applications

Background

The Lundbeck Foundation wants its grants to make a significant contribution to increase research-based knowledge and experience in the field of biomedical, clinical and health sciences in Denmark. At the same time, our grants must help ensure that Denmark always has the best graduates and scientists at all career levels in these fields.

The purpose of the Lundbeck Foundation Fellowship programme is to support highly promising young researchers in their efforts to establish an independent profile and research group. With these grants, we aim to support some of tomorrow's most important contributors to research breakthroughs, significantly impacting research and society.

In keeping with the purpose of the Lundbeck Foundation we seek to "bring discoveries to lives". Therefore, we value projects that present a clear plan for how the anticipated project outcomes can lead to impact on science and/or human health.

Target group

Lundbeck Foundation fellowships are granted to outstanding and promising young researchers who are establishing or expanding their own research groups at non-commercial Danish research institutions. This applies to Danish-based researchers, to researchers from abroad who wish to move to Denmark and continue their research here and to researchers already employed at Danish universities and university hospitals. The fellowships are intended for researchers who have received their PhD degree within the last eight years. The proposed research must be clinical, translational or basic research within the fields of biomedical, clinical or health science, or facilitates research within these fields.

A Lundbeck Foundation Fellowship is intended as a defining grant for the start of the applicants' truly independent research careers. This means that young research leaders who already hold large national or international starting grants are not eligible for Lundbeck Foundation's fellowships.

Evaluation of the application

The assessment will be divided into two steps:

Step 1.

Applications are evaluated by the Lundbeck Foundation's Grants & Prizes Panel who select which applications will continue to the next step.

Step 2.

Selected applications are peer reviewed by three external, international experts who then provide the Foundation with a written report. Applicants will be invited to comment on the written reports. Selected applicants will be invited to an interview by the Grants & Prizes Panel. Based on the application, the three independent peer reviews, the applicants' written reply to the peer

review and interviews with applicants, the Grants & Prizes Panel will make recommendations for funding or rejection to the Foundation's Board of Trustees, who will make the final decision.

The evaluation will be based on:

- Excellence of the applicant (scientific creativity, scientific achievements, scientific collaboration and network, commitment, level of independence as a researcher)
- Excellence of the research project (ground-breaking nature, potential impact, scientific approach, feasibility)
- Excellence of the host environment (scientific skills, facilities, commitment)
- Expected implications for human health, including the feasibility of the roadmap to impact (NEW in 2024).

Each application is given an overall rating according to the definitions below:

Score A: Internationally outstanding; has exceptional novelty, quality and innovativeness; fully meets all scientific standards and excels in many or all of these. Recommended for funding or to continue to the next phase.

Score B: Very good since the applicant meets all scientific standards; or good quality in terms of overall scientific standards; or the reviewer has concerns about one or more aspects of the application.

Score C: Meets some of the scientific standards; or needs significant changes and improvements; or has serious flaws and does not meet the scientific standards. Not recommended for funding.

For the external peer reviewers, the Foundation also welcomes thoughts on where the candidate and project in question, would be placed in comparison with other international projects in the same category they have reviewed within the last 3-5 year.

Each of the three external reviewers will be asked to provide a written evaluation of the application of approximately two pages and will be offered € 600 for their assistance.

Anonymity and confidentiality

It will be made public on the Foundation's website, who are members of the Grants & Prizes Panel. We do not disclose the external reviewers' identities to applicants or to other reviewers.

Research plans and the personal data included in the proposals are of confidential nature and should not be made accessible to others by the reviewer and are not to be distributed or discussed with others. Proposals must be disposed of safely immediately after the assessment process is completed. Confidentiality must also be maintained after the assessment process has been completed.

Conflicts of interest and impartiality

The Lundbeck Foundation applies the rules and principled codes of conduct governing impartiality described below. They are based on the Danish Public Administration Act's chapter 2 on impartiality. The impartiality rules are developed to ensure a balanced presence of professional expertise, transparency and impartiality in the Lundbeck Foundation's decisions.

These rules apply to members of the Lundbeck Foundation's Board of Trustees, members of the Foundation's award panels, external reviewers, executive management and others who may have an influence on the Foundation's decisions on award of grants.

Disqualification

A person will be disqualified from the decision-making process in a specific case if

- 1) said person has a personal or economic interest in the outcome of said case
- 2) said person has a familial relationship to the applicant, i.e. spouse/cohabiting partner (current and former), relation or relation by marriage in direct line of ascent or descent, close collateral relation such as a niece or nephew, or another close relation with a personal or economic interest in the outcome of said case
- 3) said person is or has previously been a supervisor for the applicant or, in any other way, collaborates with the applicant or has collaborated closely with the applicant within the past five years
- 4) said person has acted as a referee for the applicant on the application in question
- 5) said person has released a publication together with the applicant within the past five years
- 6) said person is employed in a public institution (such as a faculty or hospital) in which the applicant is his/her superior, or if said person has supervisory responsibility for the applicant. In specific cases in which a decision is of crucial importance for a particular place of employment, any employee or manager at this institution will likewise be disqualified.
- 7) the applicant is in a research team of which said person is a member or has been a member within the past five years,
- 8) any other circumstances exist that put said person's impartiality in question

A person who is disqualified, or whose impartiality in a specific case may be in doubt, is required to notify the Lundbeck Foundation of such in advance. Non-compliance will be considered a breach of the rules governing impartiality.

Guidelines in the event of disqualification

A person who is disqualified from the decision-making process in a specific case may neither make a decision nor participate in the decision nor participate in any part of the application-handling process.

If a person has a potential conflict of interest or if there is any doubt about the impartiality of said person in any given situation, the director of Grants & Prizes department will decide, whether the conflict of interest should result in disqualification.