

## **The PhD Council calls for PhD scholarship proposals within educational research with focus on the primary and lower secondary school**

In 2011 the Minister for Science, Technology and Innovation appointed a PhD council for the award of PhD scholarships within educational research aimed at the primary and lower secondary school. The council has a total of DKK 32 million available for PhD scholarships in 2021.

The PhD projects must focus on practice-relevant research in the Danish primary and lower secondary school with a view to improving the learning outcome for all pupils.

PhD projects must be organised in collaboration with university colleges and universities. The PhD fellow must be able to teach at the university colleges and to engage in research and development in the educational field, both during their education and subsequently.

The PhD projects may cover issues relating to subject-specific didactics as well as general didactic and educational topics. For the 2021 call, the PhD council will take particular interest in applications within:

- Subject didactics, in particular literacy and practical-musical subjects, as well as tests and assessments
- School development, framework, organization and management, including collaboration with parents
- Students' participation, democratic formation, learning and well-being
- Education for sustainability (from an environmental, social, and cultural perspective)
- Teaching, learning and participation in a digital world, including technological understanding

Interdisciplinary applications and applications within other fields are also welcome.

The applications must show the connection between the research question on one hand and the design and method on the other. It is emphasized that the issues are generally relevant and theoretically and methodologically original, as well as that existing research is discussed. The PhD council appreciates inclusion of quantitative methods when the research question provides a basis for this.

The expected date of commencement for the PhD projects is 1 January 2022.

### **Objective**

The overall objective is to improve the learning outcome of all students in primary and lower secondary school and, in this way, their prerequisites for further education and employment. An improved learning outcome of the primary and lower secondary school can e.g. be achieved by strengthening the subject-specific didactic knowledge and capacity and through increased educational and social-pedagogical competencies.

The goal of the specific initiative is to ensure a higher academic level as the basis for the teaching professions at the university colleges through the education of PhDs who can teach at the university colleges.

### **Evaluation criteria**

- The research quality and feasibility of the PhD project
- The relevance of the PhD project in relation to the objectives of the call for proposals
- The PhD project's plan to make the project relevant to the field of practice including a plan for knowledge transfer through education, knowledge dissemination or development activities
- The PhD candidate's reflections over ethical aspects with particular concern to the applied project
- The academic basis of the PhD project at the university and university college
- The PhD candidate's qualifications

### **Who can apply?**

Only the PhD candidate stated may be included in an application. It is a prerequisite that PhD projects and applications are prepared in collaboration with at least one university college and one university. The responsibility for the grant will be assigned to a university. The university will also be responsible for enrolment of the PhD student in a graduate school. It is a requirement that a preliminary approval for enrolment of the PhD student in a graduate school has been obtained at the time of application.

### **Affiliation with university and university college**

It must be clearly stated in the applications that a PhD project is affiliated with both an active research environment at the university and an active knowledge and development environment at the university college. The application must furthermore include an account of how the university and the university college will facilitate the necessary methodological approaches for the PhD project and how the knowledge transfer from the PhD project takes place.

Upon award of scholarship, the consortium is expected to submit a detailed activity plan within three months of the projects start, for the integration of the PhD fellow within an active research environment at the university and an active knowledge and development environment at the university college.

### **Financial framework**

The grant for each PhD fellowship is a maximum of DKK 1,7 million Danish kroner for a three-year scholarship. This amount includes the PhD student's salary and travel expenses, as well as the education subsidy. There is moreover a 44 percent overhead.

Besides the fellowships there is the opportunity to apply for a smaller grant for research, as the PhD project may be carried out in connection with a larger research project that is directly associated with the individual PhD project. There is also the opportunity to apply for a smaller amount as compensation for contributory basic education and any other institutions where the research project entails a significant additional expenditure.

### **Application**

The application must be filled in electronically on [www.efond.dk/phdraadet](http://www.efond.dk/phdraadet) and consist of the application and a number of appendices that must be uploaded. The appendices template and guidelines can be downloaded from the website [www.phd.au.dk/phd-in-educational-research/](http://www.phd.au.dk/phd-in-educational-research/)

**The deadline for applications is Tuesday 26 May 2021 at 12 noon.**

Applicants will receive an email as confirmation of receipt immediately after the application is received.

All submitted applications will be assessed by an international assessment committee. Notification of the award of a grant may be expected at the end of November 2021.

### **Contact**

For further information, please contact the PhD council secretariat:

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### **Further information**

A PhD council has been appointed and is responsible for implementing the grants. The secretariat function lies with Aarhus University. In 2021, the PhD council will be hosting virtual information meetings for all interested parties Tuesday 2 February at 13.00-14.30. The information meetings will be in Danish only. Further information can be found on the council's website: [www.phd.au.dk/phd-in-educational-research/](http://www.phd.au.dk/phd-in-educational-research/).

Find out more about the PhD council and the Danish government's globalisation agreement of 2011 which forms the basis of the PhD council's award of PhD fellowships on the website: [www.phd.au.dk/phd-in-educational-research/](http://www.phd.au.dk/phd-in-educational-research/).