



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

# DANISH CARDIOVASCULAR ACADEMY

### THE DCAcademy PhD PROGRAMME

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The Danish Cardiovascular Academy invites applications for PhD Scholarships within the DCAcademy PhD Programme. The Academy will award a total of 12 PhD Scholarships. Six of these will be either 1/3 or 2/3 PhD scholarships and 6 will be full scholarships co-financed by The Danish Heart Foundation.

Applications can be in any field within cardiovascular research.

### **Deadline for application is Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 12:00.**

A 1/3 or 2/3 PhD-Scholarship from Danish Cardiovascular Academy amounts to 550,000 DKK and 1,100,000 DKK, respectively, to cover two year's salary and tuition fee; The Danish Cardiovascular Academy does not cover overhead.

A scholarship selected by The Danish Heart Foundation amounts to 1,650,000 DKK over a period of three years to cover salary and tuition fee. The Danish Heart Foundation grants are primarily allocated to projects within clinical research, prevention, or public health.

## PURPOSE

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy wishes to strengthen the Danish cardiovascular research environment through excellent interdisciplinary education and training of young researchers. The goal is to improve understanding of mechanisms of disease and improve disease prevention, diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation of cardiovascular disease.

With the DCAcademy PhD Programme, we further aim to:

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

## ABOUT THE DCAcademy PhD PROGRAMME

When enrolled in the DCAcademy PhD Programme the scholars, and their supervisors, have a number of exclusive possibilities, as well as some obligations. When accepting a Danish Cardiovascular Academy grant the scholar and the supervisors agree to adhere to these obligations.

- The DCAcademy PhD scholars are obliged to participate in the mandatory “DCAcademy introduction course”. The course will give DCA-funded researchers a greater understanding of the Danish Cardiovascular Academy and how the Academy offers to support them in educational and networking activities. During the course, the scholars will be invited into peer mentoring circles, and there will be guest lectures from the Danish cardiovascular research environment and the Danish Heart Foundation.
- The DCAcademy PhD scholars AND their supervisors are obliged to participate in the annual Danish Cardiovascular Academy-Summer meeting. Participation is free of charge for the DCAcademy scholar.
- The DCAcademy PhD scholars must organize a midterm symposium providing a broader perspective to the PhD scholars project focus.
- All the DCAcademy PhD scholars will be appointed as Science Ambassadors for The Danish Heart Foundation. The appointment takes place at the annual DCAcademy-DHF Dinner. When appointed Science Ambassador you may be called upon to present your research at Danish Heart Foundation events and magazines. E.g. local and national meetings, portraits in “HjerteNyt”, Social Media platforms.
- The DCAcademy PhD scholars must contribute to dissemination of results through DCAcademy website and Social Media platforms.
- The DCAcademy PhD scholars will be able to apply the DCAcademy for additional 1-year of PhD-salary (after 2 years of completed study). This grant will provide the PhD scholar with the possibility of continuing their research for an additional year as a postdoctoral fellow. This will both ensure more profound exploitation of results/methods developed during the PhD project and bridge the early stage-researcher into a future research career.
- The DCAcademy PhD scholars can apply for Danish Cardiovascular Academy Travel grants up to 10.000 DKK pr. grant (Terms and conditions apply)
- Scholars and supervisors enrolled in Danish Cardiovascular Academy programmes will be invited to join the Danish Cardiovascular Academy Alumni-network, offering annual networking events.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Due to the collaborative purpose of the grants, the PhD-projects should bring researchers from different disciplines and/or sectors together. This can be accomplished by dual-mentorship 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 mentors are highly recommended.

### **THE CANDIDATE**

The candidate must meet the educational criteria for admission to a Danish PhD School. The candidate must have research experience and be no more than 5 years from candidate/master's degree. An education as MSc. (cand. scient.) can be considered as having research experience from the thesis. An MD is expected to have research experience beyond the medical training (e.g. publications, submitted manuscripts, pregraduate research year).

### **THE PRINCIPAL SUPERVISOR**

The principal supervisor must be affiliated with a Danish University<sup>1</sup> and be able to document that the supervisor's group has experience with the essential methods as well as the expertise necessary for a successful PhD-project.

### **THE CO-SUPERVISOR**

To facilitate broad and complementary research training of the PhD scholar Dual Mentorship (or even three complementary supervisors) it is recommended that the supervisor and co-supervisor are from two different sectors. Both mentors are expected to play a highly active role in training and supervising the scholar, including long-term hosting the scholar in her/his research environment.

## INFORMATION ON THE APPLICATION PROCESS

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

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

### **Deadline for application is Friday September 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 12:00**

Please note that you must become a member of Danish Cardiovascular Academy before you can submit an application. Sign up at [www.DCAcademy.dk](http://www.DCAcademy.dk)

#### **The following should be prepared by the applicant:**

- Project summary (1200 characters)
- Project description including (max 5 pages, including illustrations; not including references. For readability purposes, standard fonts, font size 11-12, and line spacing between 1.0 and 1.5 must be used)
  - Overall objective and specific aims
  - Background and significance
  - Preliminary studies/results (if applicable)
  - Hypotheses
  - Project design and methods
  - Risk management strategy
  - Collaborations including interdisciplinarity, internationalization, and cross-sectorial considerations if relevant
  - Perspectives
  - Literature cited
- CV
- Other relevant documents (e.g. grant letter confirming funding of the remaining 1/3 financing of the scholarship (if available))

#### **Prepared by principal- and co- supervisors:**

Description of the supervisors qualifications relevant for the proposed project (max 2 pages including 10 most important publications. For readability purposes, standard fonts, font size 11-12, and line spacing between 1.0 and 1.5 must be used).

- Involvement and contribution to the project
- Contribution to the training of the scholar
- Experience with supervision/mentorship
- Main research areas

- Description of which parts of the project the student is expected to perform independently, and of which parts of the project other research team members will contribute/be responsible
- Description of how the interdisciplinary and/or trans-sectorial aspects contributes to synergies within the cardiovascular research environment<sup>ii</sup>
- CV´s (max 2 pages per CV)

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

### Who can apply?

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

- You must have a Master's degree from a Danish University or an equivalent degree from a foreign university by the time of application<sup>iii</sup>.
- You cannot already be enrolled as a PhD student at the time of receiving the grant notification letter. This means that already enrolled PhD students cannot apply for or obtain funding from the Danish Cardiovascular Academy. The Danish Cardiovascular Academy reserves the right to check with the relevant institution whether you are enrolled as a PhD student.
- The principal supervisor must be associated with a Danish university.
- A principal supervisor can only be principal supervisor on one application for PhD scholarship per Call.
- High-level English language skills are required<sup>iv</sup>.

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

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 should mark that this is a re-applied project.

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

## EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION PROCESS

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy Executive Management Team 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 Danish Cardiovascular Academy Grant Committee 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 aims of the project?
- **Innovation:** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods?
- **Investigator:** Is the investigator 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-sectoral focus: This is recommended and will be evaluated positively by not mandatory.
- **Internationalisation:** An international aspect, if relevant, is evaluated positively.
- **Feasibility:** Are three years suitable for completion of the project?

## TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

Grant notification: The selected candidate and principal supervisor will be informed about the decision by the Danish Cardiovascular Academy by end December 2021.

The principal supervisor is expected to assist the PhD candidate when submitting her/his application for enrolment at the relevant university.

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.

### Place of enrolment and employment

Enrollment will take place at a university in Denmark. Employment is full time and will last for three years, unless an agreement with the Danish Cardiovascular Academy 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.

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 a grant covering salary for the project (except for the 1/3 salary not included in the grant from the Danish Cardiovascular Academy), the Danish Cardiovascular Academy reserves the right to withdraw your PhD scholarship grant or part of it.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

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

For information about Danish Cardiovascular Academy PhD Scholarships, please contact Executive Assistant, Head of Adm. Emil T Brøndum: [etb@biomed.au.dk](mailto:etb@biomed.au.dk).

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<sup>i</sup> *The principal 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 principal supervisor has overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with all formalities relating to the PhD programme. Please note that a principal supervisor can only be principal supervisor on one application for a Danish Cardiovascular Academy PhD scholarship per application round.

<sup>ii</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.



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*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.

<sup>iii</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>iv</sup> The Danish Cardiovascular Academy expect high-level English language skills, 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.