

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

DANISH CARDIOVASCULAR ACADEMY

THE DCAcademy POSTDOCTORAL PROGRAMME

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy invites applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships within the DCAcademy Postdoctoral Programme. The Academy will award a total of eight Postdoctoral Fellowships. The Academy offers two types of Fellowships.

- Four 2-year full Postdoctoral Fellowship of 1,150,000 DKK over a period of two years covering salary; please note that the Danish Cardiovascular Academy does not cover overhead.
- Four 5-year 20 % clinical Fellowship supported by the Danish Heart Foundation amounting to 575,000 DKK over a period of five years covering salary; please note that the Danish Cardiovascular Academy does not cover overhead.

Applications can be within any fields of cardiovascular research.

Deadline for application is Friday September 10th 2021 at 12:00.

Please note that you and your mentor(s) must become members of Danish Cardiovascular Academy before you can submit an application. Sign up at www.DCAcademy.dk

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 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 research*
- *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 a number of exclusive possibilities, as well as some obligations. When accepting the grant, the grantee adheres to the following obligations:

- The DCAcademy grant recipients 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.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows are obliged to participate in the annual DCAcademy Postdoctoral Winter School. Participation is free of charge.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows and their mentors are obliged to participate in the annual DCAcademy Summer Meeting. Participation is free of charge for the fellow.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows must organize an interdisciplinary and/or cross sectorial symposium during the grant period. If this is designed for a broader audience, the DCAcademy would be willing to participate in organizing and carry the economical responsibility of this event.
- All DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows will be appointed as Science Ambassadors for The Danish Heart Foundation. The appointment takes place at the annual DCAcademy-DHF Dinner. When appointed as a Science Ambassador you may be asked to present your research at The Danish Heart Foundation’s events and magazines such as local and national meetings, portraits in “HjerteNyt”, Social Media platforms.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows must contribute to dissemination of their results through The Academy’s website and social media platforms.
- DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellows will be invited for special DCAcademy network-and-dinner sessions at selected national and international scientific meetings.
- DCAcademy grant holders can apply for DCAcademy Travel Grants up to 10,000 DKK pr. grant (Terms and conditions apply).
- Researchers affiliated with the Danish Cardiovascular Academy will be invited to join the DCAcademy Alumni Network, offering annual networking events.

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 mentors (up to three complementary research leaders) and/or collaborators from different research groups, preferably from other disciplines and sectors.

THE CANDIDATE

The candidate must be within 4 years of their PhD degree (excluding periods of sick and parental leave).

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 in a research institution abroad or work in another sector (i.e. industry, university, hospital) during her/his postdoctoral studies.

THE MENTOR(S)

The postdoctoral candidate must have at least one mentor. The mentor must be employed at a university as group leader and be an Associate Professor or higher level. The mentor(s) should be able to document experience within the area of research and with mentorship. DCAcademy encourage applicants to have up to three mentors, representing different research areas, preferably from different locations and sectors. It is only possible to be assigned mentor 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

The following should be prepared by the applicant:

- Project summary (1200 characters)
- Project description including (max 5 pages, including illustrations; excluding references). For readability purposes, standard fonts, font size 12, and line spacing 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
- Description of the research environment, including (max 2 pages)
 - Size and research focus of the involved research group(s)/mentor(s)
 - Are the essential methods established in the research environment?
 - Role and synergy (if more than one mentor) of the mentors in the project
 - Role of mentor(s) in mentoring and educating the post doctorate fellow
- CV from applicant (max 5 pages) and mentor(s) (max 1 page)

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Who can apply?

In order to apply for a DCAcademy Postdoctoral Fellowship, the following requirements must be fulfilled:

- Employment must be associated with a Danish university, hospital, company or other research institution.
- Applicants must be within four years of their PhD degree (excluding periods of sick and parental leave).
- 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.

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

After submitting the application you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application – if you do not receive this email, please contact the Danish Cardiovascular Academy Executive Management Assistant at 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 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 aims of the project?
- **Novelty and innovation:** Does the project employ novel concepts, approaches or methods?
- **Environment and mentor(s):** Does the scientific environment in which the work will be carried out, and the merit of the mentor(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

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT

The selected candidate will be informed about the decision by December 2021.

Employment

The Danish Cardiovascular Academy has no influence on the employment of the Postdoctoral Fellow other than 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 Executive Assistant, Head of Adm. Emil T Brøndum: 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 mentors - 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. This includes affiliation of collaborators – potentially being mentors - 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.