

Everything about Villum Young Investigator

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Introduction to the document “Everything about Villum Young Investigator”

The Document “**Everything about Villum Young Investigator**” collects all information needed to apply for Villum Young Investigator in one document. The information is collected from various sites at Villum Fonden’s webpage, as well as from our experience from earlier applications, and our dialogue with Villum Fonden. The document also provides specific rules at SDU for preparing the budget as well as for sending the final application to NATApplications@sdu.dk to be archived in SDUpro.

You can always find the most recent update of this document by visiting our webpage.

https://www.sdu.dk/en/om_sdu/fakulteterne/naturvidenskab/samarbejde/ert/type+of+grants/starting+grants/april-june/villum+young+investigator

The date for last update is indicated in the upper right corner of the document.

Enjoy the reading

External Relations Team at NAT

If you want to access the original information from Villum Fonden you can go here:

<https://veluxfoundations.dk/en/teknisk-og-naturvidenskabelig-forskning/young-investigators>

Support documents

Main support document:

Everything about Villum Young Investigator

Appendices for the support document:

01 VYI Project Description Template

02 VYI Budget Template

03 ERT Budget Example

04 ERT Letter of Support Example

Important dates

The call is announced once a year with application deadline in June and decision in late December.

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 6 April | Announcement of the call |
| 9 June, 12:00 noon | Application deadline |
| Primo November | Selected applicants are invited for interviews/unsuccessful applicants are notified |
| 24 - 26 November | Interviews conducted by the scientific committee |
| Ultimo December | Final grant approval/rejection notifications issued |

Who to contact at External Relations Team?

If you after reading the support documents have any questions or want more individual feedback in your proposal writing, we encourage you to contact the External Relation Team. Depending on your department you should primarily contact:

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Biology | Harald Hasler-Sheetal | hasler@sdu.dk |
| BMB | Philip Hallenborg | philipha@sdu.dk |
| IMADA | Jan Andersen | jande@sdu.dk |
| FKF | Marie Grimstrup | marg@sdu.dk |

Who to contact at Villum Fonden?

If needed, you can also contact the Villum Foundation directly:

*Michel M.H.
Kristensen*

Senior Adviser, Head of programme,
VILLUM FONDEN

Phone: +45 29 41 78 89
Email: mmk@veluxfoundations.dk



Can be used for recruitment from Denmark or abroad

This instrument can be used for applicants already employed at SDU, recruited from other research institution in Denmark or from research institution abroad.

Limitations in relation to applicant and research field

Applicants must have 2-8 years research experience after completion of PhD. This is calculated from the PhD diploma date until the submission deadline this year 9 June 2021.

Applicants who have been on maternity/paternity or parental leave after obtaining their PhD, the period after their PhD can be extended by calculating the actual number of weeks of leave and multiplying that by 2. An applicant who would like a leave period to be taken into account should indicate the length of the leave, the year the leave was taken and nature of the leave on page 1 of his/her CV.

Associate professors must not have more than two years' standing at the time of the application deadline. Meaning that if you have been employed as an associate professor for more than two years prior to the application deadline, as indicated by your employment contract, you are not eligible for the Villum Young Investigator Programme. Any leaves of absence, such as working in the private sector, military service, or sick/parental/care leave, will be taken into account when determining how long you have been employed as an associate professor.

You can only apply a total of two times for a Villum Young Investigator grant. Note that this is a quite severe limitation considering that you have 6 years where you are eligible to apply. **Hence; don't waste your "two attempts" on a not well-prepared application.**

The Villum Young Investigator must be your first grant to establish your own research group. By your own research group, the foundation means at least 2 researchers in addition to the PI for example one PhD student and one Postdoc. **Applicants are not eligible if they have received an ERC Starting Grant, Sapere Aude – DFF Starting Grant, Novo Nordisk Hallas-Møller Investigator Grant, Carlsberg Foundation Distinguished Fellowships or similar grant intended to help promising young research leaders establish their own research group and an independent research profile.** Please note that the other way around is absolutely fine; if you have received a Villum Young Investigator grant you can hereafter apply for the grants mentioned above – actually the purpose of VYI is to make you more competitive especially in relation to ERC grants.

Villum Fonden **does not support health or veterinary research**, i.e. research focused on the health of humans and animals, including nutrition, medicine, biomedicine, pharmacology and research within diagnostics and methods for examination and treatment. Furthermore, **applicants affiliated with departments whose main scientific focus is within these areas (including university health departments, hospitals, the Danish Cancer Society, and DTU Health Tech) are not eligible to apply** and will receive an administrative rejection.

Grant amount and duration

Researchers currently employed by a Danish university can apply for a maximum of **DKK 6 million, including 15% for indirect costs.** Researchers currently employed by a university outside Denmark - and

have been so for at least 2 of the past 3 years at the time of application - can apply for a maximum of **DKK 8 million, including 15% for indirect costs.**

The duration of the grant must 5 years. It is not possible to apply for less or more than 5 years. You can apply for less the DKK 6 million if you need less money for your project.

The project should start between Jan 2022 and Dec 2022 You can start in Jan 2022 with only yourself on the project and recruit the first team member later in the year. You can also start your own work later in the year at the same time as your first recruited employee will start in your group.

A total of DKK 130 million is expected to be allocated to the programme in 2021. In 2020 there was 19 VYI receiver and it will probably be around this number in 2021 too.

Aim of programme

The ideal applicant is an **exceptionally talented young researcher within technical and natural sciences.**

VILLUM FONDEN supports internationalisation, and with the Villum Young Investigator Programme we encourage Danish universities to support and recruit Danish as well as international researcher talents.

Applicants are typically experienced postdoctoral researchers, assistant professors or associate professors. Associate professors must not have more than two years' standing at the time of the application deadline. Any leaves of absence, such as working in the private sector, military service or sick/parental/care leave, will be taken into account when determining how long an applicant has been employed as an associate professor.

Applicants are selected based on their research accomplishments, creativity and potential to become research leaders.

Applicants must have a clearly defined research goal for the full five-year grant period, and the research must be of such scale that it requires the **formation of a research group made up of at least two researchers in addition to the grant holder/PI.**

Selection process

The selection process is divided into two steps.

Step 1: The Villum Young Investigator Committee evaluates the applications based on the **Terms of Reference** and recommends to the board of VILLUM FONDEN which applicants should be invited for an interview.

Step 2: Based on the application and the interview with the applicant, the Committee recommends to the board of VILLUM FONDEN which applicants should receive a Villum Young Investigator grant.

Evaluation criteria (at Villum Fonden they call this terms of reference)

The Selection Committee's terms of reference

The objective of the Villum Young Investigator Programme is to find the best, most inquisitive researchers within the technical and natural sciences and to give them the freedom to pursue new and original ideas which have the potential for significant scientific breakthroughs and impact.

Evaluation of the applicant

- Does the applicant have a documented record of original research accomplishments?
- Has the applicant demonstrated leadership skills (in the form of corresponding authorships, PI on grants, conference organisations, head of committees or the like)?
- Is the applicant likely to demonstrate sound management, mentorship and supervision in the training and advancement of young researchers?
- Is the applicant sufficiently qualified to lead an initiative of this size?
- Does the applicant have a national and international network (resulting from periods abroad, collaborative projects or the like)?
- Does the proposed research have the potential to elevate the applicant to an international research leader within his/her field? Does the applicant have the potential to receive an ERC Consolidator Grant or similar following a Villum Young Investigator grant?

Evaluation of the research

- To what extent does the proposed research present new and original ideas?
- Does the research have the potential to lead to significant scientific breakthroughs and make an impact?

Research environment

- Is the research environment at the host institution ideal for the proposed research and for recruiting and training Danish and foreign PhD students and postdocs?

Concluding remarks

Concluding remarks summing up on the overall assessment:

- Indicate the three top qualities and the three weakest points of the application.
- On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (outstanding), rank the applicant and the research proposal compared with the other applicants and research proposals you have assessed in the past five years, considering the career stage of the applicant.

Villum Young Investigator Committee

- Chair [Helmut Bölcskei](#), Professor, Department of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering and Department of Mathematics, ETH
- [Susanne Mandrup](#), Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Southern Denmark
- [Bo Elberling](#), Professor, Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen
- [Duncan Sutherland](#), Professor, Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center, Aarhus University
- [Hans Ågren](#), Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, X-ray Photon Science, Uppsala University
- [Lars Samuelson](#), Professor, Solid State Physics, Faculty of Engineering, Lund University

- [Eva B. Vedel Jensen](#), Professor, Department of Mathematics, Aarhus University
- [Philip John Withers](#), Professor of Materials Science, The University of Manchester
- [Yvonne Buckley](#), Professor of Zoology, Trinity College Dublin

Please note that for Villum Young Investigator applications there is no external review by peers within your specific research field. All applications are evaluated by the committee members listed above.

Guidelines for writing the Project Description (Application)

The information below is identical to the information in the attached appendix "01 VYI Project Description Template"

Applications should illustrate the commitment to building up a thriving research environment and creating an impact. Successful applications will indicate how a Villum Young Investigator grant will advance these activities.

Write the project description in Times New Roman; 12 point; 1.15-line spacing; and right, left, top and bottom margins of at least 2 cm.

Include the following items in the order they are listed:

A: Your previous application (if any) – 1,200 characters, including spaces

If you have applied once before, please state the:

Year you applied and title of the application

Shortly indicate what has changed since you applied the last time e.g., regarding the proposal, your CV and the feedback you received (if any) following the rejection of your previous application.

B: Summary of the application – 2,500 characters, including spaces

You should not think of your application summary as a technical paper.

The summary should instead in layman's terms describe your research field, state of the art and what you consider your most original scientific key insight the project is based on. The aim is to get across the importance

of what you are doing, how you are doing it, how it contributes to extending the state of the art and the expertise you have that qualifies you for success.

You are also asked to include personal reflections about such things as your leadership potential, level of scientific independence, support of colleagues and ability to work as part of a team.

C: Scientific achievements/discoveries – 3,000 characters, including spaces

List your most important scientific achievements/discoveries and explain how they have affected, or likely will affect, the research field(s). You may refer to your most important publications, as listed in section C. (See below.)

D: Important publications

List and provide a [hyperlink](#) to up to three of your publications and explain why you consider the publications significant to you personally (“breakthrough” publication, a first publication as first/last author etc.)

E: Research funding – 1,500 characters, including spaces

List the most prestigious research funding you have received as a main PI or significant co-PI. Provide a paragraph describing the scientific significance of each research grant as well as any financial share above DKK 250,000 exclusively received by you. (Not more than five grants.)

F: Lectures, conferences and research stays – 1,500 characters, including spaces

List up to five of the most important invited oral presentations, such as lectures at international meetings, that you have delivered, if any. List up to five of the most important conferences, if any, that you have been involved in organising and your role. List research stays abroad of longer than six months, if any.

G: Supervision – 1,500 characters, including spaces

Indicate the total number of PhD and MSc students that have obtained their doctoral or master’s degrees under your supervision or co-supervision. Include the names and current affiliations of selected students and indicate whether you were the individual’s main supervisor. You may also list important teaching programmes or courses you have headed or significantly contributed to; if relevant, please indicate the approximate number of ECTS-credits of your contributions.

H: Scientific honours – 1,500 characters, including spaces

List any scientific prizes/honours you have received and provide a paragraph describing the significance of each one.

I: Other important issues – 1,500 characters, including spaces

Indicate your projected commitment to the current project, as a percentage of your total research obligations during the grant period. The recipient of a Villum Young Investigator grant is expected to spend at least 80% of his/her research time on the proposed project. **Frequently asked question: Is the PI required to spend 80% of his/her working hours on the Villum Young Investigator grant? No, not necessarily. The PI is required to spend a substantial amount of time on his/her Villum Young Investigator grant project and at least 75% of her/his total time on work related to technical and/or natural sciences and education in general.**

Indicate any issues you believe are important for assessing your past research achievements.

J: Planned research – Not more than six pages, including figures and tables (a page contains about 3,400 characters, including spaces)

Descriptions of planned research should provide a clear statement of work and outline the overall plan, including activities to be undertaken and, where appropriate, a description of experimental methods and procedures.

The following elements are to be included:

- Objectives for the proposed work and expected significance
- A description, in generic terms, of the relation of the proposed work to the present state of knowledge in the field (state of the art) and what you consider your most original scientific key insight the project is based on.
- The relationship, in generic terms, of the proposed work to the work already in progress in your research group/department and elsewhere
- A statement, in layman's terms, of what your competitive edge is
- Expected results of the proposed work and a discussion of their general impact. When the word "impact" is used it refers to the scientific and societal effects of academic achievements (e.g. new methods, new knowledge) and capacity building (e.g. development of talents, establishment of collaborations or partnerships).
- A description of how the proposed research could affect your profile as a researcher and lay the foundation for your future career
- The number of postdocs, PhDs and other staff members involved in the project and an explanation and justification of their number in terms of your leadership, teamwork capability and project activities. You are expected to form a research group consisting of at least two researchers in addition to the grant holder/PI (for example one PhD student and one postdoc)
- ***Bibliography (the list of papers or other works referred to in this section is not included in the six-page limit)***

K: Institutional affiliation and recruitment – 1,500 characters, including spaces

Where will you carry out the project? Is the research environment at the host institution ideal for the proposed research and for recruiting and training PhD students and postdocs? How do you envisage attracting junior researchers to your research group?

L: Collaborations – 1,500 characters including spaces.

List up to five of your most important current collaborators, emphasizing any that are relevant to the project for which you are applying for a grant.

The submission consists of 4 pdf files

The submission consists of the below-mentioned 4 documents as pdf files. **Each individual file must not exceed 5 MB.**

Pdf 01: Project description (Application)

See description above on how to write the Project Description

Pdf 02: CV & Publication List in one document

A: Your CV must not exceed 2 pages and should be organized as follows:

No requirements on font type and size for the CV

- Personal data
- Education (academic degrees with date and year of attainment)
- Current and previous academic employment. In the case of temporary employment, please specify the date of termination of your current contract.
- **Any periods of leave** (such as maternity, parental or nursing leave, military service, humanitarian relief work, etc.). For leave periods, please indicate the reason for leave and start and end dates. Applicants who have been on maternity/paternity or parental leave after obtaining their PhD, the period after their PhD can be extended by calculating the actual number of weeks of leave and multiplying that by 2. An applicant who would like a leave period to be taken into account should indicate the length of the leave, the year the leave was taken and nature of the leave on page 1 of his/her CV.
- Academic awards and honours.
- Management experience, including experience in project management
- Scientific focus areas
- International collaborations
- Supervision (Ph.D. students and postdocs)

B: Following your CV please list your publications from the past 10 years.

For the publication list there is no page limit and no requirements on font type and size.

Pdf 03: Budget

See appendices: "02 VYI Budget Template" & "03 ERT Budget Example"

Villum Fonden is quite flexible with the budget in case the project is granted, so what you provide here is a provisional plan.

Researchers currently employed by a Danish university can apply for a maximum of **DKK 6 million, including 15% for indirect costs**. Researchers currently employed by a university outside Denmark - and have been so for at least 2 of the past 3 years at the time of application - can apply for a maximum of **DKK 8 million, including 15% for indirect costs**.

The size of the budget should reflect expenses typical for the proposed research field.

The grant can be used to hire postdoctoral researchers or PhD students, purchase equipment, pay for technical and administrative assistance or other standard project expenses.

The budget must consist of at least two researchers in addition to the grant holder. Depending on the seniority of the applicant this could be 2 PhD students, 1 PhD student & 1 Postdoc, or 2 Postdocs.

If, at the time of the application deadline, the applicant is employed by the university in a tenure-track programme, or have another tenured position (permanent), the applicant cannot apply funding for his/her own salary. **In this case SDU must continue to pay the applicant salary throughout the five-year grant period.**

The applicant can apply funding for parts of his/her own salary, if at the time of the application:

- **The applicant is employed in a non-permanent and non-tenured position at SDU**
- **The applicant is recruited to SDU, either from another research institution in Denmark or from abroad**

We recommend applying for maximum 6 months of the applicant's salary per year.

PREPARE YOUR BUDGET FOLLOWING THE GUIDELINES FROM NAT ECONOMY:

<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/naturvidenskab/budgetapproval>

- **As a rule at SDU, you must reserve at least 20% for overhead.** Since VYI only allows 15% overhead you need to include costs for your own salary (when that is possible, see more below), for a technician in your section, for computer purchases as well as fees for licenses/agreements already in use (could be software licenses or service agreements for laboratory equipment).
- **Include holiday allowances in the last year's salary for PhD students**
- Before you start calculating the budget using SDUbudgetsheet **you must create a so-called "trusted folder"** where you can run the macros needed for SDUbudgetsheet.
- You can find guidance on how to create a "trusted folder" in this link under "FAQ: I can't turn on macros in the SDUbudgetsheet. What do I do?"
<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/naturvidenskab/budgetapproval>
- It should be possible to select your "OneDrive" folder and make this a trusted folder. Remember to click the box that you also trust all subfolders! However, sometimes it does not work with "OneDrive" then you can select your "Desktop" and make this your trusted folder.
- **Hereafter open SDUbudgetsheet by clicking on "SDU's budgetark" in following link**
<https://syddanskuni.sharepoint.com/Sites/warm2/skabeloner/budgetark/SitePages/Home.aspx>
After the excelsheet has opened click on "Files" in the upper left corner, Choose "Save as" and save the excelsheet in your "trusted folder". Hereafter you should be able to open and work in the Budgetsheet.
- **Now calculate the budget using SDUbudgetsheet**
Use the instructions found in the link below under "Is there a guide to SDUbudgetsheet?"
<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/naturvidenskab/budgetapproval>
- **Get the budget approved by your Head of Section as well as your Head of Department**
- **Get the budget approved by FSØ**
Use the **standard mail** found in the link below under "Get the budget approved by FSØ"
<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/naturvidenskab/budgetapproval>

Concrete examples of budget calculations in SDU budget sheet:

- If the PI is not already in a permanent position at SDU, you can apply salary for the PI. ERT recommends applying for max 4 months’ salary per year, since there must be enough money within the max of 6M DKK to include two PhD students as well as other expenses:

| Budget | 2022-2026 | | | | | |
|---|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|----------------|
| | Total | | Applied | | Co-fin. | |
| | Md | DKK | Md | DKK | Md | DKK |
| SALARIES | | | | | | |
| PI - if not in a permanent position at the time of application (June 2021) / Adjunkt (1/2022 - 12/2026) | 30,0 | 1.521.000 | 20,0 | 1.012.000 | 10,0 | 509.000 |
| PhD student / Ph.d. starttrin 4-1 (8/2022 - 7/2025) | 36,0 | 1.443.000 | 36,0 | 1.443.000 | | |
| PhD student / Ph.d. starttrin 4-1 (8/2023 - 7/2026) | 36,0 | 1.480.000 | 36,0 | 1.480.000 | | |
| SALARIES TOTAL | 102,0 | 4.444.000 | 92,0 | 3.935.000 | 10,0 | 509.000 |
| OPERATING EXP. | | DKK | | DKK | | DKK |
| Equipment (apparatus) | | 200.000 | | 200.000 | | |
| PhD taxameter for 2 PhD students | | 480.000 | | 480.000 | | |
| Personal computer, licenses for software and service agreements for equipment | | 80.000 | | 80.000 | | |
| Running costs | | 200.000 | | 200.000 | | |
| Conferences including travelling | | 180.000 | | 180.000 | | |
| In and outgoing research visits | | 138.000 | | 138.000 | | |
| OPERATING EXP. TOTAL | | 1.278.000 | | 1.278.000 | | 0 |
| COST TOTAL | 102,0 | 5.722.000 | 92,0 | 5.213.000 | 10,0 | 509.000 |
| Overhead 15% as allowed by Villum Fonden | | 781.950 | | 781.950 | | |
| BUDGET TOTAL | 102,0 | 6.503.950 | 92,0 | 5.994.950 | 10,0 | 509.000 |

- If the PI is already in a tenure track Assistant Professor position at SDU or in a permanent Associate Professor position at SDU at the time of application (June 2021) – you cannot apply salary for the PI. Here you could include e.g. 20% time for a Lab Technician or Research Assistant, who is already employed in your section, to make the overall economy better for the section:

| Budget | 2022-2026 | | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|
| | Total | | Applied | | Co-fin. | |
| | Md | DKK | Md | DKK | Md | DKK |
| SALARIES | | | | | | |
| PI already in permanent position at SDU / Lektor (1/2022 - 12/2026) | 30,0 | 1.796.000 | | | 30,0 | 1.796.000 |
| Post.doc. (8/2022 - 7/2025) | 36,0 | 1.896.000 | 36,0 | 1.896.000 | | |
| Post.doc. (8/2023 - 7/2026) | 36,0 | 1.943.000 | 36,0 | 1.943.000 | | |
| Technician in 20% position over the entire project period / Videnskabelig assistant (1/2022 - 12/2026) | 12,0 | 522.000 | 12,0 | 522.000 | | |
| SALARIES TOTAL | 114,0 | 6.157.000 | 84,0 | 4.361.000 | 30,0 | 1.796.000 |
| OPERATING EXP. | | DKK | | DKK | | DKK |
| Equipment (apparatus) | | 300.000 | | 300.000 | | |
| Personal computer, licenses for software and service agreements for equipment | | 80.000 | | 80.000 | | |
| Running costs | | 200.000 | | 200.000 | | |
| Conferences including travelling | | 180.000 | | 180.000 | | |
| In and outgoing research visits | | 96.000 | | 96.000 | | |
| OPERATING EXP. TOTAL | | 856.000 | | 856.000 | | 0 |
| COST TOTAL | 114,0 | 7.013.000 | 84,0 | 5.217.000 | 30,0 | 1.796.000 |
| Overhead 15% as allowed by Villum Fonden | | 782.550 | | 782.550 | | |
| BUDGET TOTAL | 114,0 | 7.795.550 | 84,0 | 5.999.550 | 30,0 | 1.796.000 |

- If the PI is a recruitment from abroad the budget is 8M DKK, then you can apply up to 6 months' salary for the PI per year:

| Budget | 2022-2027 | | | | | |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|------------|----------|
| | Total | | Applied | | Co-fin. | |
| | Md | DKK | Md | DKK | Md | DKK |
| SALARIES | | | | | | |
| PI is recruited from abroad / Lektor (6/2022 - 5/2027) | 30,0 | 1.815.000 | 30,0 | 1.815.000 | | |
| Post.doc. (10/2022 - 9/2025) | 36,0 | 1.903.000 | 36,0 | 1.903.000 | | |
| Post.doc. (10/2023 - 9/2026) | 36,0 | 1.950.000 | 36,0 | 1.950.000 | | |
| Technician in 15% position over the entire project period / Videnskabelig assistant (1/2022 - 12/2026) | 9,0 | 391.000 | 9,0 | 391.000 | | |
| SALARIES TOTAL | 111,0 | 6.059.000 | 111,0 | 6.059.000 | 0,0 | 0 |
| OPERATING EXP. | | DKK | | DKK | | DKK |
| Equipment (apparatus) | | 336.000 | | 336.000 | | |
| Personal computer, licenses for software and service agreements for equipment | | 80.000 | | 80.000 | | |
| Running costs | | 200.000 | | 200.000 | | |
| Conferences including travelling | | 180.000 | | 180.000 | | |
| In and outgoing research visits | | 96.000 | | 96.000 | | |
| OPERATING EXP. TOTAL | | 892.000 | | 892.000 | | 0 |
| COST TOTAL | 111,0 | 6.951.000 | 111,0 | 6.951.000 | 0,0 | 0 |
| Overhead 15% as allowed by Villum Fonden | | 1.042.650 | | 1.042.650 | | |
| BUDGET TOTAL | 111,0 | 7.993.650 | 111,0 | 7.993.650 | 0,0 | 0 |

Pdf 04: Letter of support

See appendix "04 ERT Letter of Support Example"

The institute/department that would host a successful applicant must submit a Letter of Support clearly demonstrating its support and recognition of the application. ERT has attached a word template that could be used for this purpose. The LoS must be signed by the Head of Department and you can also include a signature from your Head of Section if you like.

Please note that the requirements for the Letter of Support has been updated since last year, so it is now stressed that the university should state that the candidate has the scientific qualifications required to be considered for a tenure-track programme at a Danish university: If the applicant is not in a tenure-track programme at the time of application, your department will be asked to state that you have the scientific qualifications required to be considered for a tenure-track programme at a Danish university. Furthermore, the department is encouraged to state that receiving a Villum Young Investigator grant will increase the applicant's chances of being selected for a tenure-track programme at the host institution.

The letter of support is important to the foundation and may be used to decide between two equally qualified candidates from the same institution. If two applicants are equally qualified, the applicant with a tenure-track faculty position or similar will be chosen.

ERT recommends writing in the Support Letter that in case the Villum Young Investigator is granted, it emphasizes the excellence of the applicant and SDU will strive to employ him/her in a [tenure track position as Assistant Professor/ permanent position as Associate Professor] as soon as possible.

Tenure track position <https://employment.ku.dk/tenure-track/tenure-track-at-ucph/>

Online submission

The application must be submitted via the online application portal:

<https://veluxfoundations.dk/en/ansoeger-en/start-en-ansoegning-english#/form/step2>

In the online form the applicant has to go through the 7 steps outlined below:

Step 1: You have now started to submit a project for Villum Young Investigator

This page is for information only. Nothing to select or fill out.

Hereafter click **Next**

Step 2: Consent to administer personal data

Tick of these boxes:

- I hereby consent to VILLUM FONDEN and VELUX FONDEN processing my personal data in accordance with the purpose mentioned above including that VILLUM FONDEN and VELUX FONDEN shall be allowed to make the data accessible to other countries in their database of granted projects, which can be seen here: <http://veluxfoundations.dk/en/about/projects-granted>.
- I hereby consent to VILLUM FONDEN and VELUX FONDEN using pictures and films, showing me, for the purpose of marketing on the foundations' website and on social media, including Facebook, LinkedIn, Vimeo and Twitter. The pictures may be both portraits and reports.
- I hereby consent to – in the event that my/our application is awarded a grant – VILLUM FONDEN and VELUX FONDEN using photos, showing me, in the foundations' yearbook or any other printed profile material in connection with the awarded grant mentioned.

Don't tick of this box. Since it is not relevant in relation to Villum Young Investigator applications:

- By ticking off here you declare that you have given the external project staff connected with the application the information contained in [this declaration](#) about VILLUM FONDEN's and VELUX FONDEN's processing of their personal data.

Hereafter click **Next**

Step 3: Project information

PROJECT TITLE (120 characters)

Have you applied for financial support (for the same research project) from other sources? Yes or No

Field(s) of research

Applicants are required to indicate their field(s) of research in the application system. The field categories that can be chosen and a description of each category, can be found in the online system:

MAIN AREA OF RESEARCH

- Mathematics
- Fundamental Constituents of Matter
- Condensed Matter Physics
- Physical and Analytical Chemical Sciences
- Synthetic Science and Informatics
- Universe Sciences
- Earth System Science
- Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry
- Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and Systems Biology
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical engineering, Electronic engineering, Information engineering
- Mechanical engineering
- Materials engineering
- Medical engineering
- Environmental engineering
- Environmental biotechnology
- Industrial biotechnology
- Nanotechnology
- Universe Sciences

ADDITIONAL AREA OF RESEARCH (OPTIONAL) – same list as above

ADDITIONAL AREA OF RESEARCH (OPTIONAL) – same list as above

If your project does not fit into any of the categories mentioned above, please add a new category to the list in the field called “OTHER AREA OF RESEARCH” below.

OTHER AREA OF RESEARCH

Project finances

TOTAL BUDGET – **Remember to select DKK**

AMOUNT APPLIED FOR – **Remember to select DKK**

START DATE dd.MM.yyyy – **The starting date should be between 01.01.2022 and 01.01.2023**

END DATE dd.MM.yyyy – **The project must be 5 years**

Hereafter click [Next](#)

Step 4: Applicant

Are you applying on behalf of an organisation?

Select Yes

Publisher behind the project – here they mean the university

ORGANISATION **Syddansk Universitet**

CVR NUMBER **29283958**

ADDRESS **Campusvej 55**

POSTAL CODE **5230**

CITY **Odense**
COUNTRY **Denmark**
PHONE **6550 1000**
WEBSITE www.sdu.dk

Department

DEPARTMENT (IN DANISH)
ADDRESS
POSTAL CODE
CITY
COUNTRY
PHONE
WEBSITE

Project owner (contact details in current employment)

FIRST NAME
LAST NAME
TITLE (75 characters)
GENDER
BIRTH YEAR
NATIONALITY
ADDRESS
POSTAL CODE
CITY
COUNTRY
PHONE
MOBILE
EMAIL

ORCID

All applicants are required to submit their ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID), which assures that applicants have a unique ID in the application system and helps to distinguish them from other researchers when making queries in Web of Science or similar databases. Applicants can obtain their ORCID <https://orcid.org/>. ORCID should be entered in the contact-information section in the application system.

Have you previously applied for a grant from VILLUM FONDEN or VELUX FONDEN?

Select **Yes** or **No**

Hereafter click **Next**

Step 5: Co-applicants

Don't add any co-applicants – just click **Next**

Step 6: Upload documents

Here you upload the 4 pdf documents:

Pdf 01: Project description – Choose the type “Application” for upload

Pdf 02: CV & Publication List in one document – Choose the type “CV” for upload

Pdf 03: Budget – Choose the type “Budget” for upload

Pdf04: Letter of support – Choose the type “Expression of interest” for upload

Hereafter click **Next**

Step 7: Your submission is almost complete

Below you will find an overview of the information registered for your project. You will be able to edit the information if necessary. To process your project, it is important that all the information registered is correct.

When you have checked that the shown information is correct you can press **Submit**

After submission – send your application to NATApplications@sdu.dk for archiving

After submitting your application in the online system, you will receive an e-mail with a from Villum Fonden. *You will not receive a full pdf of your application since their submission system is not able to generate this. Therefore, you can only trust that the final documents are all good.*

It is very important that you create an “all-in-one-pdf” of your submission and send it to NATApplications@sdu.dk. This is a requirement from SDU, since only hereby your application will contribute to the SDU statistics on funding applications.

Therefore, we ask you to put together your final submission in a “all-in-one-pdf” file including:

- Application receipt from Villum Fonden
- Pdf 01: Project description
- Pdf 02: CV & Publication List in one document
- Pdf 03: Budget
- Pdf04: Letter of support
- Budget approval from your Head of Department (e-mail is fine)
- Budget approval from FSØ

The interview

Last year’s applicants received invitation for interview on 3 Nov 2020. Interviews were taking place on Microsoft Teams between Wednesday 11 Nov and Friday 13 Nov 2020.

The applicants got following information about the interview: The nine members of the VILLUM Young Investigator Programme Committee will be present along with VILLUM FONDENS Director of Science Thomas Bjørnholm and a few people from the secretariat will participate on TEAMS.

- You are asked to prepare 15 minutes presentation (pdf) of your project for the interview
- After your presentation, there will be 15 minutes for discussion

The members of the committee will not all be experts within your field of research, however they are experienced scientists and used to relate to projects in other areas of science. A good presentation will state your research question, explain the general idea behind the project and add enough detail to show that the project is solid science and carefully thought out. Your presentation should also include e.g. how

your research will change the scientific field and how you will recruit your staff and create an inspiring scientific environment for your Postdocs/ Ph.D. students?

Your presentation should contain one slide that identifies what you consider your most original scientific key insight the project should be based on.

We asked the foundation to elaborate a bit on this requirement. Michel Kristensen said that they wanted the applicant to emphasize his/her own independent and original research idea that this project is built on. The applicant should provide arguments how he/she got this idea independent from the “big research group” he/she is working in. It is often difficult for the foundation to judge whether the applicant got the idea on his/her own or is just working on an idea from the group. Michel also emphasized the importance of showing exactly what state-of-the-art barrier you target. State-of-the-art is about the most competing results out there. Provide solid arguments for a current barrier in state-of-the-art and what is the original idea you got to overcome this barrier.

It is also our experience that it is wise to emphasize:

- The big problem for human/environment/society you are trying to solve e.g. in relation to green transition or future technologies.
- The curiosity driven creative and original ideas you have got and successfully pursued throughout your carrier. Present your carrier track as a compelling story where you argue for the shifts that you have deliberately taken.
- It is also a good idea to make 1-3 slides focusing on your conceptual novel research hypothesis and the state-of-the-art barrier you plan to overcome.

Successful applicants will join a community

As a Villum Young Investigator, you will join a community of like-minded researchers and attend one or two seminars each year on relevant topics, such as recruitment or research management.

Rejected applications

Unsuccessful applicants will not receive a detailed rejection letter. However, they will have the opportunity to call Head of Programme, Michel M.H. Kristensen, on +45 2941 7889, Mondays and Fridays, for a short conversation about the motivation for the rejection of their application.