Research Support

DFF Sapere Aude Introduction

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jan" 2021

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Research Support

Agenda

12:30 – 15:00:

Introduction to DFF Sapere Aude – starting grant

Presentation and Q&A by grant holder:
Genbo Xu (Elvis), Faculty of Science
Joel Cox, Faculty of Engineering

Presentation & discussion:
Sapere Aude grant application – do's and don'ts
Rune Nørgaard Jørgensen, Research Support

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Det Tekniske Fakultet, Center for Nano Optics / Danish Institute for Advanced Study, Syddansk Universitet

FAGOMRÅDE
Fysik

KONTAKTINFO
Email: cox@mci.sdu.dk

Foto: Tariq Mikkel Khan, Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond

FORSKNINGSLEDER

Joel Cox

Adjunkt

Projekttitel
Towards single-photon nonlinear optics in atomically-thin materials

Det Naturvidenskabelige Fakultet, Biologisk Institut

FAGOMRÅDE
Environmental Toxicology

KONTAKTINFO
Email: elvis@biology.sdu.dk

Foto: Tariq Mikkel Khan, Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond

FORSKNINGSLEDER

Elvis Genbo Xu

Ph.D. Adjunkt

Projekttitel
Revealing "hidden" plastics using Trinal Oviparous Omics Model (TriOOL)

2020

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Research leaders 2019

Danish Institute for Advanced Study (DIAS) and Department of Physics, Chemistry and Pharmacy

RESEARCH FIELD
Enzyme Catalysis

CONTACT INFO
Email: wu@sdu.dk
Phone: +45 6550 8694

RESEARCH LEADER

Changzhu Wu

Assistant Professor, born 1981

Project title
Creating artificial enzymes for future industry

Research leaders 2019

Bandim Health Project, OPEN, University of Southern Denmark and Guinea-Bissau

RESEARCH FIELD
Public health

CONTACT INFO
Email: afisker@health.sdu.dk

RESEARCH LEADER

Ane Bærent Fisker

PhD, Associate professor, born 1979

Project title
Real-life data are necessary to improve the vaccination programme.

Research leaders 2019

Department of Chemical Engineering, Biotechnology and Environmental Technology

RESEARCH FIELD
Industrial Ecology; Environmental Engineering

CONTACT INFO
Email: glq.kbm.sdu.dk
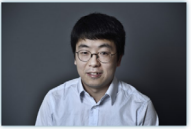
RESEARCH LEADER

Gang Liu

Professor WSR, born 1982

Project title
Critical Resource Bottlenecks and Constraint Aware Pathways towards 100% Renewable Energy in Denmark (ReCAP)

Research leaders 2019

Faculty of Science, Department of Physics, Chemistry and Pharmacy, CP3-Origins

RESEARCH FIELD
Theoretical Physics

CONTACT INFO
Email: eichhorn@cp3.sdu.dk

RESEARCH LEADER

Astrid Eichhorn

Associate Professor, born 1983

Project title
Fundamental building blocks of nature

2019

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Research leaders 2018

Henrik Dimke

Department of Cardiovascular and Renal Research
Institute of Molecular Medicine

CONTACT INFO
Phone: +45 65508310
Email: hdimke@health.sdu.dk

RESEARCH LEADER
Henrik Dimke
Associate Professor, PhD, born 1980

Project title
Understanding the physiological effects of magnesium - a forgotten mineral with healing properties

Photo: Tariq Mikkel Khan, Independent Research Fund Denmark

Research leaders 2018

Ditte Caroline Andersen

Dep. for Clinical Biochemistry and Pharmacology, Institute of Molecular Medicine, Dep. for Cardiovascular and Renal Research.

RESEARCH FIELD
Regenerative Medicine

CONTACT INFO
Phone: +45 6011 3975/Ring op: +45 6011 3975
Email: dandersen@health.sdu.dk

RESEARCH LEADER
Ditte Caroline Andersen
Senior Researcher/Associate Professor, Cand Scient.(Biomedicine), PhD., born 1976

Project title
Heart Regeneration through induction of cardiomyocyte division (REPHEART)

Photo: Tariq Mikkel Khan, Independent Research Fund Denmark

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See more
https://dff.dk/forskningsprojekter

2018
HALL OF FAME

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About today

→Learn from earlier successes

→Eliminate doubts regarding the call

→Establish contacts that can help you in the application process

→Okay, if this makes you rethink if you are ready to apply

→Not the setting for clarification on narrow discipline specific issues

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Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder,
ansøgt og bevilget beløb 2019 (mio. kr.)

4.000		
3.500		
3.000		
2.500		
2.000	2.039	
1.500		
1.000		
500		208
0	Ansøgt beløb	Bevilget beløb

Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder,
ansøgninger og bevillinger 2019 (antal)

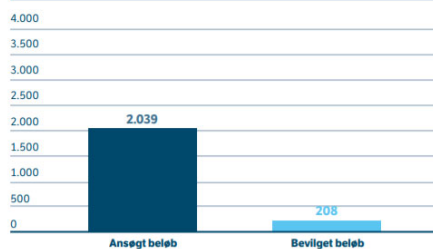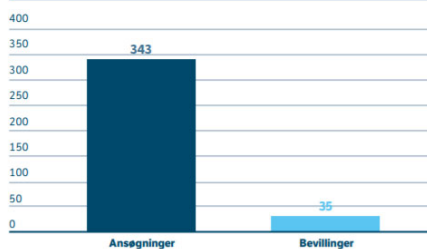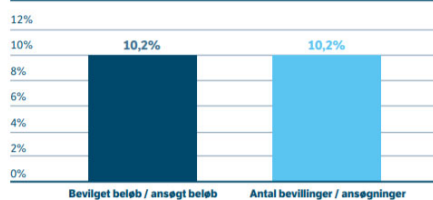|		
400		
350	343	
300		
250		
200		
150		
100		
50		35
0	Ansøgninger	Bevillinger

Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder,
succesrater 2019 (procent)

12%		
10%	10,2%	10,2%
8%		
6%		
4%		
2%		
0%	Bevilget beløb / ansøgt beløb	Antal bevillinger / ansøgninger

Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder,
succesrater fordelt på køn 2019 (procent)

12,0%				
10,0%	10,0%	10,3%	10,0%	10,3%
8,0%				
6,0%				
4,0%				
2,0%				
0,0%	Bevilget beløb / ansøgt beløb		Antal bevillinger / ansøgninger	

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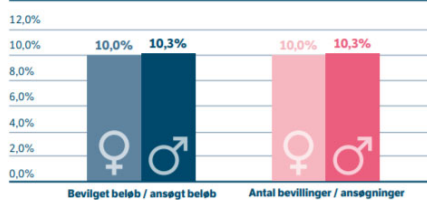
Research Support

Statistics – DFF annual rapport 2018

	Antal ansøgninger	Antal bevillinger	Succesrate antal	Ansøgt beløb, mio. kr.	Bevilget beløb, mio. kr.	Succesrate beløb	Bevilling gns, mio. kr.
Natur og Univers							
Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder	95	11	11,6%	549,2	64,7	11,8%	5,9
Samfund og Erhverv							
Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder	34	3	8,8%	195,0	17,5	9,0%	5,8
Teknologi og Produktion							
Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder	89	8	9,0%	518,3	46,8	9,0%	5,9
Kultur og Kommunikation							
Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder	38	3	7,9%	218,3	17,6	8,0%	5,9
Sundhed og Sygdom							
Sapere Aude: DFF-Forskningsleder	64	8	12,5%	341,1	39,3	11,5%	4,9

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Formal requirements

PhD-age: < 8 years*
Duration: Up to 4 years
Maximum
amount: DKK 4,300,000, excl. overhead
Language: All in English
Length: 7 A4 pages (max 21,000 characters)
Deadline: 24 March 2021 12:00 (noon)
Project start: 1 January, 2022 - 1 December, 2022

*Any leaves of absence, will be
taken into account.
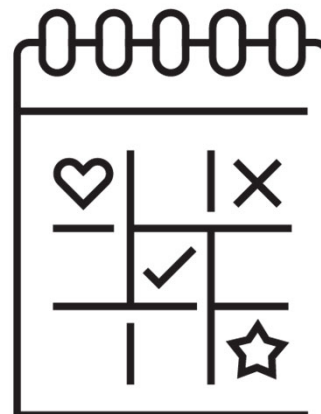
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Do's and don'ts

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Agenda

R
Requirements and assessment criteria

E
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A
The application
→ Project description
→ Budget
→ CV
→ Impact

S
Support and process - SDU

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Det Humanistiske Fakultet
januar 2021

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant is aimed at providing **excellent younger researchers**, i.e. researchers who have carried out top class research in their field, with the opportunity to **develop and strengthen their research ideas**. The instrument also aims at promoting the mobility internationally as well as nationally among research environments, and thereby to **strengthen networks and careers**.

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grants are targeted at **top researchers** who intend to gather a group of researchers and/or research students, to carry out a **research project at a high, international level.**

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant also strengthens the possibility for excellent younger researchers to return to a Danish research institution after a research stay abroad.

CAREER GANT

DFF expects that a Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant **prepares the grant recipient to apply for an ERC** Starting Grant, Consolidator Grant or Advanced Grant, or a similar international programme.

It is expected that approx. 32 grants will be awarded in 2021.

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→Who?

The best and most talenteted young researchers in DK

→What?

A platform to create a profile, network and expertise to become leading in the world within once research field.

→Why?

To ensure talents from Danish universities to be in the forefront of research

Independent Research Fund Denmark

Interpretation of the purpose of Sapere Aude

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Deadline

Deadline

DFF | Medical Sciences	DFF | Social Sciences	DFF | Technology and Production Sciences	DFF | Humanities	DFF | Natural Sciences
24 March 2021, at 12:00 noon				

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Call guide

www.dff.dk
→ **https://dff.dk/en/grants/dff_e2020_f2021_uk.pdf**

Read all ☺
– but pay extra attention to section:

2.3.2	Sapere Aude: DFF–Starting Grant	12-13
4	General application requirements	23-37
5	The fund's assessment and assessment criteria	38-42

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Call for proposals
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
AUTUMN 2020 & SPRING 2021

DANMARKS FRIE FORSKNINGSFOND
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH
FUND DENMARK

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Processing procedures of Danish Council for Independent Research

Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant:

Application is received → Initial assessment within research council → External review → Hearing procedure → 2nd assessment within research council → Cross council assessment / interview → Applicant informed of decision

~ week 45 in 2021

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See page 21ff in the call

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The Council's assessment criteria

Main areas	Examples
Fulfilment of the instrument's objective:	• excellent younger researchers; strengthen networks and careers; project at a high, international level; prepares to apply for ERC or a similar international programme etc.
Scientific quality:	• Does the project description document that the project contains potential for scientific progress, innovation and originality (theoretical, methodical and empirical)? • Does it display innovative research as opposed to expanding on already ongoing research? • …
Applicants' qualifications	• the scientific qualifications necessary for carrying out the project? • a level of scientific production within the field that is necessary for carrying out the project? • sufficient research management qualifications for carrying out the project? • ….
Feasibility	• Have sufficient resources been allocated to the project • Is there a realistic work schedule and timetable • …
Publication and dissemination of results	• Does the application provide an adequate account of the overall considerations with regard to the publication/dissemination/patenting of research results? • …
Other	• Will the activities benefit Danish research? ….

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Slide 19

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See page 25 in the call

Application steps
Introduction
Introduction
Application guidelines
Applicant
Applicant
Civil Registration Number (CPR)
Application
Place of employment, etc.
Title and scientific content
Upload Budget
Budget information

Personal information

Ethical issues and gathering data

Gender composition

Submission to several councils

Other applications, etc.

Previous grants

Excluding reviewers

Supplementary information

Attach appendices

Review application

Review application

Confirm

Submit application

Special fie...
in the app...

		State for each research council, the reason for applying to that particular council (max 250 characters)
Applicant	Give an account of you... science (max 1000 cha...	
		Is this application a resubmission? If yes: Title, year of application, case number, describe any changes made (1000 characters)
Application	Brief scientific summa... characters)	
	Popularised descriptio... Danish (max 1500 cha...	Have you applied for funding activities covered by this application from other sources?
	Scientific keywords (m... (OECD) (max 5)	Have you as a PI within the last 5 years received any funding from DFF or other sources for the activities related to the present application? If yes: specify grants over 1 mil. (max 10). Describe the results of the grant and the grant's relation to the proposed project (max 1000 characters)
Ethical issues	Ethical issues: Does yo... human participation or... If yes: Provide a brief e... involved and how they... (max 600 characters)	Have you as a PI within the last 5 years received any funding from DFF or other sources for the activities not related to the present application? If yes: specify grants over 1 mil. (max 10). Describe the results of the grant and the grant's relation to the proposed project (max 1000 characters)
	If other: Description of...	Describe the professional and management aspects of the project, if you have received funding from other sources
	Does your project invo... quantitative data withi... sciences, medical scie... brief description of the... 300 characters)	Explain why the named researcher should not review your application (max 500 characters)
Gender composition	Description of the gen... (max 1000 characters)	Additional information regarding the application (max 1000 characters)

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Slide 20

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Share your application

| Home | Application possibilities | Applications | Grants | Messages |

test - forskerstøtten

Deadline expires: 57 days

➤ Resume application   ✕ Cancel application

INSTRUMENTS:

- Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant

Independent Research Fund Denmark | Humanities offers funding to researchers who work within the fo... disciplines: art history, architecture and design media, film studies science, musicology, ICT in the huma... comparative literature, dramaturgy, philology, linguistics, communication research, anthropology, ethnol... archaeology, history, philosophy, history of ideas and science, theology, comparative religion, educatio... pedagogy, psychology and other related research disciplines within the humanities, such as library rese... museology, as well as humanistic research within sports science, public health, urban and physical plan...

Distribution:	DFF	Humanities 2020 (F2020) - Sapere Aude	**Status:**
Instrument:	Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant	

Add participant   ✕

First name*   Navn
You need to specify a first name.

Last name*   Efternavn
You need to specify a last name.

Email*   E-mail
You need to specify a valid e-mail address.

An invitation to participate in the application will be sent to the given email address when you press OK.

Language*   English   ▼

Role*   Aid   ▼

Aids can read and edit the application.

Invitation code*

Note: It is your responsibility to provide the access code to the person you invite. Without the access code it is not possible to accept or decline your invitation! The access code is case-sensitive.

Comments

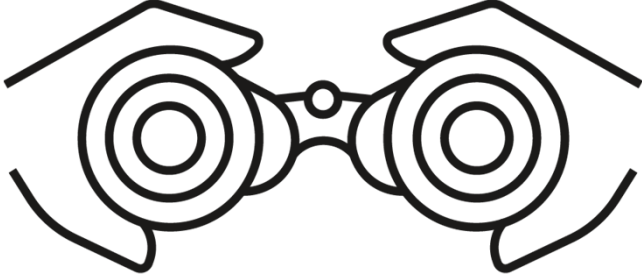*The comment will be included in the invitation e-mail.*

Cancel   Ok

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Your application

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Overview of appendices to the application

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B10: Project description.

→ Must be written in the DFF project description template (see Section 4.3.3)
7 pages (including figures, tables, etc.)- see page 30

Budget

→ Must be completed in the DFF mandatory budget template (see Section 4.3.7) and uploaded to e-grant as an individual file. Undertaking of actual financial support from other sources for the project's completion must be included in the budget.

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Overview of appendices to the application

B20: Applicant's CV
→see Section 4.3.4

B21: List of publications for the applicant
→ see Section 4.3.6

B22: PhD diploma
→for the applicant or secondary documentation showing qualifications corresponding to PhD level achieved in a different manner

B40: CV and list of publications for other key research participants
→see Section 4.3.4 and 4.3.6

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Overview of appendices to the application

B41: PhD scholarships
→In the case of PhD scholarships for named individuals, the following appendices must be attached: transcripts/exam certificate, CV, and any list of publications.

B42: postdoctoral grants
→for named individuals, the following appendices must be attached: CV, list of publications, and PhD diploma. Or secondary documentation showing: a) thesis has been accepted for defence, b) positive assistant professorship evaluation ("adjunktbedømmelse…..
*Be aware of council-specific requirements for DFF | Humanities

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Overview of appendices to the application

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B51: another host institution

→In cases where significant parts, or all, of the project are taking place at another host institution than the administrating institution, a declaration from the host institution must be attached, stating that the project can be carried out at the location in question, including a short comment on the content of the cooperation and the most important activities.

B52: Cooperation/support letters.

→If the project involves collaboration with foreign partners, cooperation with organisations, companies or other users of the results, collaborative statements/letters of support must be enclosed from the project's key partners in the form of confirmation of cooperation and its form/content (max one page from each).

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Overview of appendices to the application

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B60: purchase of apparatus

→Documentation for purchase of apparatus for more than DKK 500,000 excluding overhead, preferably in the form of a quote.

B61:Documentation for the salary

→Documentation for the salary level of the applicant and any named participants.

B62:Sub-contractor costs.

→Documentation for the sub-contractor costs.

B63: De minimis declarations

→see Section 4.3.7.9

B90: Budget confirmation.

→Employer institution's confirmation of budget and hosting in the DFF budget signatory template (see Section 4.3.8).

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Mandatory	Optional (but almost mandatory)	Optional
→ B10: Project description.	→ B40: CV and list of publications for other key research participants	→ B51: another host institution
→ Budget		→ B60: purchase of apparatus
→ B20: Applicant's CV	→ B41: PhD scholarships	→ B61:Documentation for the salary
→ B21: List of publications for the applicant	→ B42: postdoctoral grants	→ B62:Sub-contractor costs
→ B22: PhD diploma	→ B52: Cooperation/support letters.	→ B63: De minimis declarations
→ B90: Budget confirmation.		

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	Do	Deadline	Feedback	Deadline
B10: Project description	*Name*	*date*	*name*	*date*
Budget				
B20: Applicant's CV				
B21: List of publications for the applicant				
B22: PhD diploma				
B90: Budget confirmation.				
B40: CV and list of publications (other research participants)				
B41: PhD scholarships				
B42: postdoctoral grants				
B51: another host institution				
B52: Cooperation/support letters.				
B60: purchase of apparatus				
B61: Documentation for the salary				
B62: Sub-contractor costs				
B63: De minimis declarations				

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Key questions

→ **Why bother?**
  (what problem are you trying to solve?)
→ **Is it a Sapere Aude problem?**
  (Could it i.e. be solved as a DFF-project 1 & 2? Does it require a longer period dedicated to research?)
→ **Is the solution already available?**
  (product, service, transfer? – how is your project unique?)
→ **Why now?**
  (what would happen if we did not do this now?)
→ **Why you?**
  (Are you the best to do this work?)

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Source: Inspiration from "How to write a competitive proposal for Framework 7", By Sean McCarthy (www.hyperion.ie)

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Abstract

→Who do you want to read your application?
→Choose terminology and keywords with great care!

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Summary

A brief summary for use if the Council needs to contact external reviewers, cf. the call chapter 5.1.

Du har 1000 tegn tilbage.

Scientific keywords

List up to five keywords that best describe the research content of the project

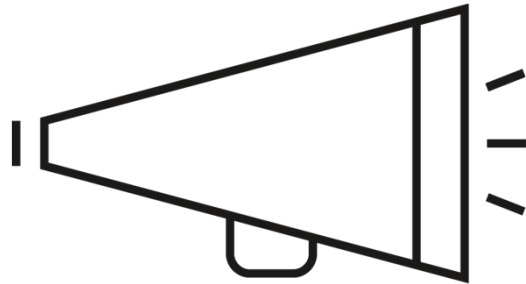Keyword 1 *   Keyword 2   Keyword 3

Keyword 4   Keyword 5

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Popularised description of the scientific content

→Almost always the last thing
researchers write…
[a winner strategy!?]
→… council members are also only
humans.

→Fact: This is one of the first
things they read about you
project!

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Project description

	Pages
1. **The purpose**	1
(including problem statement and any hypotheses)	
2. **The theoretical foundation**	1
(its central concepts and the current knowledge/ state of the art within the area)	
3. **Project design: The choice of method and/or Empirical material**	2½
4. **A research plan**	1
(including a work plan and time schedule)	
5. **The practical framework for the implementation**	¾
(your rolle & qualifications, organization)	
6. **Impact/outreach/output**	¾

Project dependent

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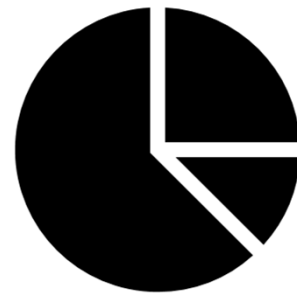
Other issues

→ Considerations in relation to the <u>gender composition</u> of the team or collaboration (e-form)

→ When writing your project description, you must also bear in mind that all the members of the Council that you apply to will participate in the final assessment and prioritisation of the individual applications. Thus, <u>the project description should be understandable to all members of the Council – and later all councils.</u>

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Standard budget

	Applied		Co-fin	
	Kr.	Md	Kr.	Md
PI	?	?	?	?
Senior VIP	?	?	How much? Co-fund?	
Postdoc	?	?		
PhD	?	?	?	?
TAP	?	?	Why Postdoc/PhD?	
Travel	?	?		
Equipment	?	?	?	?
Admin	?	?	Ambitious enough?	
Other	?	?		
Overhead (44%)	?	?	OH vs. admin/other?	
Total	?	?		

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THE SAPERE AUDE

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Meet the call text

→ The objective of the Sapere Aude: DFF–Starting Grant is to give excellent researchers, i.e. researchers who have achieved outstanding research results in their field, an opportunity to develop and strengthen their research ideas. The instrument also aims at promoting the mobility internationally as well as nationally between research environments, and thereby to strengthen the researchers' networks and careers. Starting Grants are targeted at top researchers who intend to gather a group of researchers and/or research students, in order to carry out a research project at a high international level. The Sapere Aude DFF–Starting Grant also strengthens the possibility for excellent younger researchers to return to a Danish research institution after a research stay abroad.

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Your CV must address:

→ **Personal data**: name, address, etc.
→ **Education** (for academic degrees, list the date and year of obtaining the degree)
→ **Current and most recent positions** held. In case of temporary employment, state the termination date of the employment contract
→ Any **periods of leave** (e.g. maternity/parental, family care leave, military service, humanitarian aid work, etc.). For periods of leave, indicate the cause and state precisely the starting date and end date of the leave period
→ Other **scientific qualifications**
→ Academic **awards** and honors
→ **Management experience**, including experience with project management and heading research projects
→ Scientific **focus areas**
→ **International relations**
→ **Supervision** of students (PhD students and postdocs)

YOUR CV MUST NOT EXCEED 2 PAGES

See call - page 31ff

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Use the space
CV and Application supplement each other

	CV	application
→ Excellent, younger researcher, achieved outstanding research	CV	
→ Develop and strengthen your research ideas		application
→ Mobility internationally, nationally	CV	
→ Gather a group of researchers	CV	application
→ Conduct world class research		application
→ Promote, strengthen and benefit Danish research		application
→ Involvement in international research activities	CV	
→ Experience from different research environments are a requirement	CV	
→ Independent research activities of an exceptionally high standard	CV	
→ Outstanding list of publications and qualifications as head of research	CV	
→ Talent for original research		application

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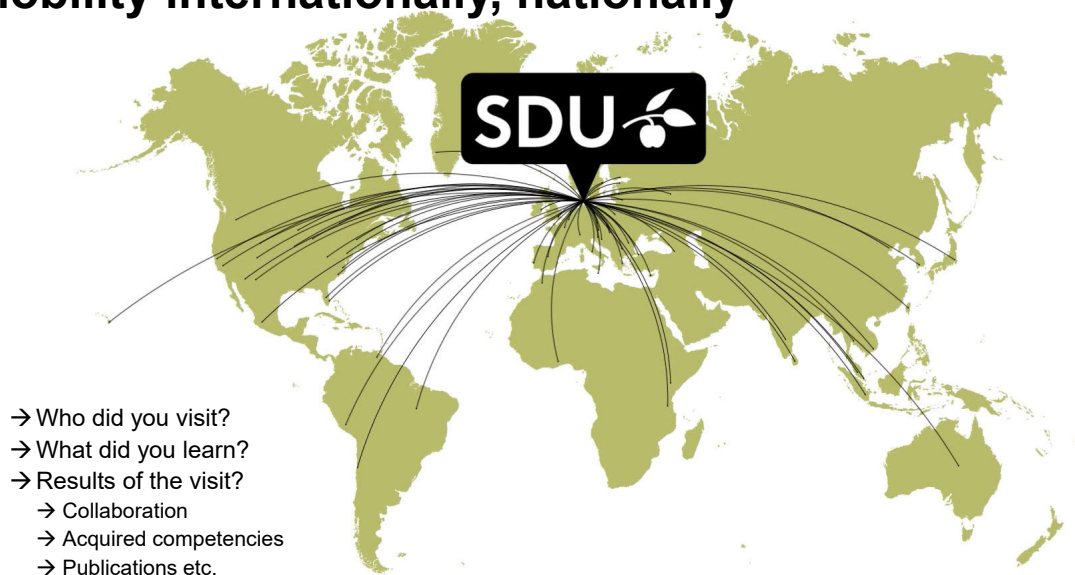|	
Education and degree awarded	Major Prizes or Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the academic field
Training, qualifications and skills	Membership In Selective and Prestigious Associations
Published materials Written by you including your H-index	Proof of ground-breaking research
Published material Written by Others About Your Work in the Academic Field (citations)	Scientific and social impact of research
Evidence of Proof of Original & Significant Contributions	Position of trust in societal and other societal merits
Speaker/ Presenter at National or International Conferences	Position of Trust
Guest lecturer, speaker or collaborator at universities/laboratories here and abroad	Major Collaborations
Grants	Remember names and places!
Mobility – where you when – why you went there….	

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jan, 2021

Mobility internationally, nationally

→ Who did you visit?
→ What did you learn?
→ Results of the visit?
    → Collaboration
    → Acquired competencies
    → Publications etc.

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From *chronological* to *skills-based* CV

Who did you work with?

What was the project about?

→ Work – present
→ 09/2010 – present University of South... ...aculty of Science
→ Employment history
→ 13/2008 – 08/2010 – Harvard School of Public He...
→ 10/2004 – 12/2008 – University of Lund, Swede...
→ Education
→ 2008   PhD. In Microbiology, Aarhus U...
→ 2005   M.Sc. In Microbiology, University... ...Denmark
→ 2002   B.Sc. In Microbiology, University of ...gen, Denmark
→ Grants and Funding
→ 2008   Marie Curie Intra European Fellowship   Postdoc gran
→ 2005   Carlsberg Foundation   Equipment
→ 2003   Oticon Foundation   Travel Grant
→ Teaching experience
→ 2013   Guest lecturer   Department of Microbiology, University of Lund
→ 2010–2012 Supervision   M.Sc. Hans Hansen, Copenhagen University

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DET HUMANISTISKE FAKULTET   **SDU**   januar 2021

Research Support

IMPACT IN THE APPLICATION

SDU   januar 2021

Research Support

DANMARKS FRIE FORSKNINGSFOND

AKTUELLE OPSLAG   LOG PÅ E-GRANT   TILMELD DIG NYHEDER   KONTAKT

OM OS   ANSØGER   FORSKNINGSPROJEKTER

Career grant

PRESSEMEDDELELSE

Danmarks Frie Forskningsfond sendte flere forskere videre til European Research Council i 2017

Research Council
the European Commission

Correlation between ERC grant holders and DFF holders

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Total
Share of ERC Grant holders with a previous DFF Grant	73 %	68 %	67 %	59 %	65 %	66 % avg.
Number of ERC Grants to be conducted at a Danish institution	11	28	21	17	23	100
ERC Grant holders who have previously received a grant from DFF* **	8	19	14	10	15	66

Source: The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation based on data

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Research Support

→ Not only the research problem
→ Not only the quality of your team

→ Success is also your professional development
→ Success is also not to reach a final solution, but to set the stage for an even more ambitus project

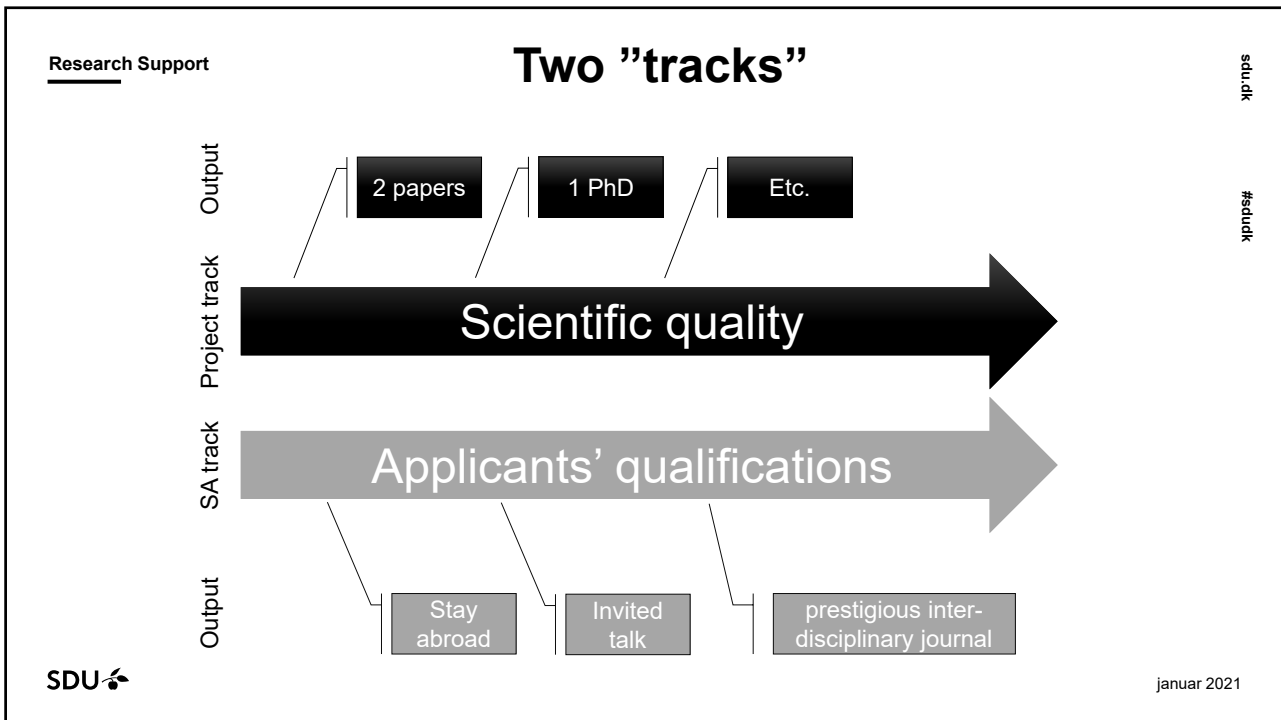→ *You, as an individual researcher, have to be in front and show that you are ambitious*
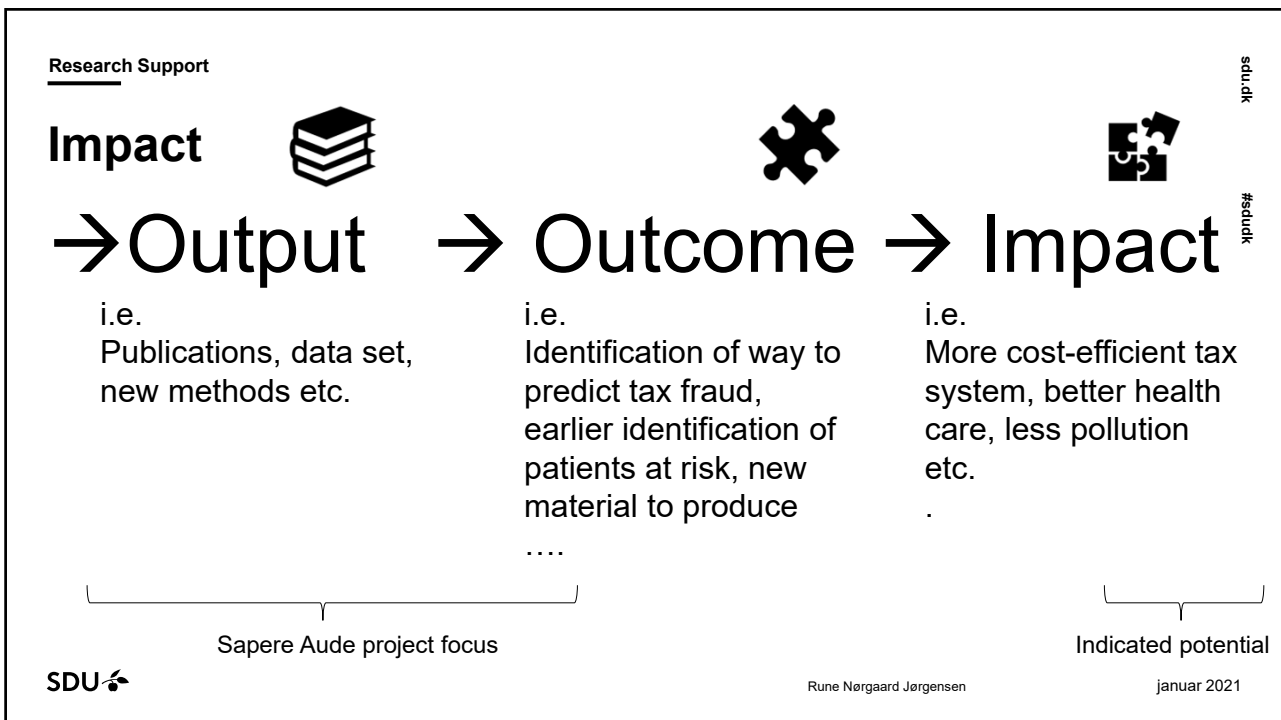
Career Grant?

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What now?
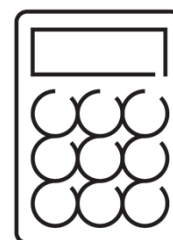
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Guidelines for applications, preparation and approval of budgets

Best practice (early stage)

→☝ Talk to your local research support office!

→☝ Get you head of department on board asap!

SDU approval procedures (final stage):
→Approval I - the Head of the Department
　→The Head of the Department must approve the finished application, including the budget.
→Approval II - Researcher Service
　→The application, including the budget, must be approved and signed by the finance department of Researcher Service.

☝ **Plan ahead!**

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Random suggestions

→**Don't spend it all**
   →save part of the budget for the final preparation of the proposal
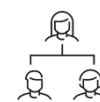→**Take control**
   →i.e. asking for external partners CV – send a template that fits the requirements from the council
→**Use you colleagues**
   →have other researchers to read you drafts – also people outside you field
→**Use the resources available**
   →Talk to your administration – often we can share some of the workload

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What now?

→Decide if you "dare to know", if you are ready to apply!?
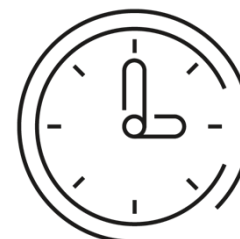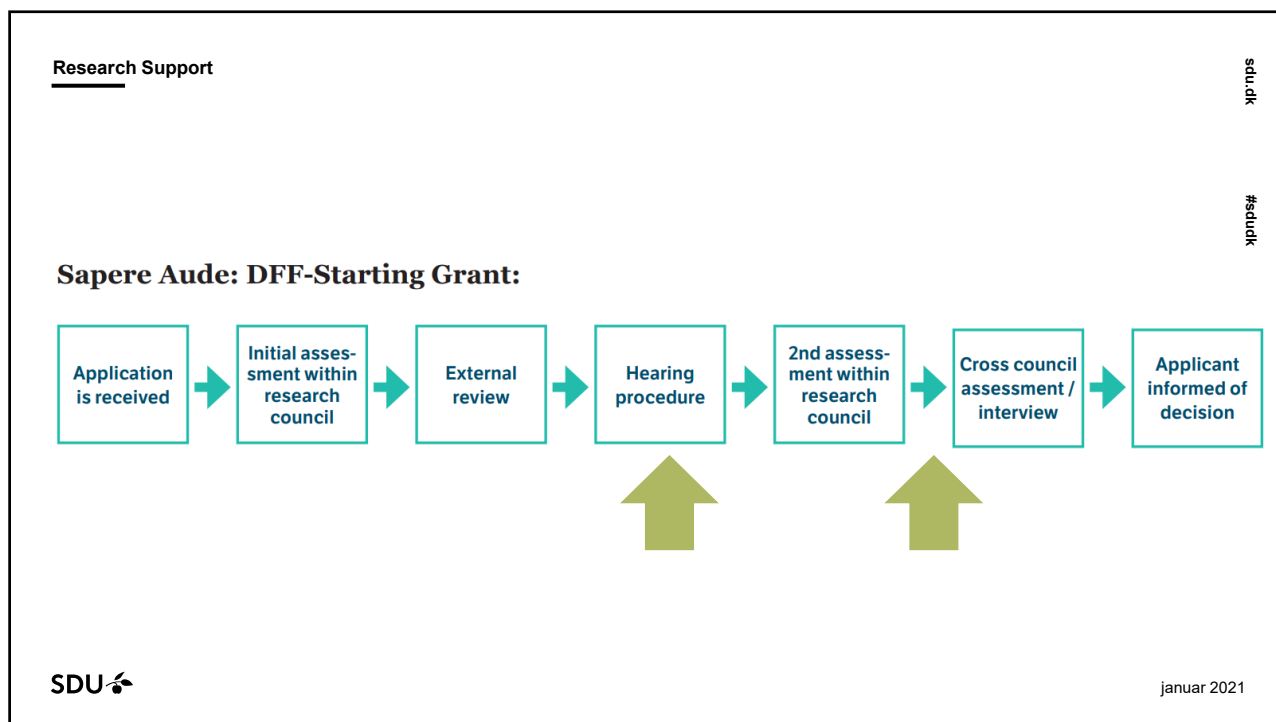→Budget approval (5-14 days before deadline)
→Negotiate final budget: with partners and department (early March the latest)
→Negotiate terms with your Head of Department (asap)
→Talk to you local research support and make a game plan (asap)
→Submit application 24 March

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Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant:

Q&A / Local research support

Lone Ladegaard Laursen	TEK Innovation	TEK	lol@tek.sdu.dk
Harald Hasler-Sheetal	External relations	NAT	hasler@sdu.dk
Jan Andersen	SAMF forskerstøtte	SAMF	Jande@sam.sdu.dk
Helen Korsgaard	Syddansk forskerstøtte	SUND	hkorsgaard@health.sdu.dk
Rune Nørgaard Jørgensen	HUM forskerstøtte	HUM	rune@sdu.dk

Master class for:

DFF Sapere Aude Application - tips

Elvis Genbo Xu, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Biology

Jan 18, 2021

Me and My project:
Revealing "hidden" plastics using Trinal Oviparous
Omics Model (TriOOL)

PhD: University of Hong Kong, 2015.12

Postdoc: University of California, Riverside

    2015-18

Postdoc: McGill University, 2018-19

Assistant Prof. (tenure-track): 2020.1-

MAIN AREAS OF SCIENCE
Natural sciences:

CLASSIFICATION CODE
Environmental sciences
Toxicology
Biological sciences
Nano-materials

Tips on:

1. Before writing
2. Writing
3. External assessment
4. Before interview
5. Interview

Time:
Submission: April 1
Second-round: June 10
External assessment: Sept 6
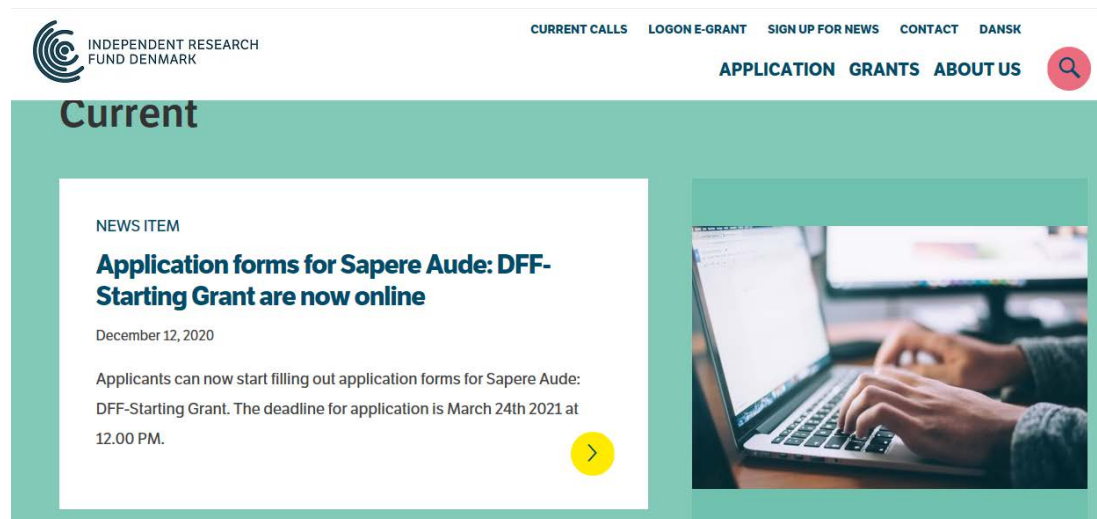Interview invitation: Oct 1
Interview: Nov 5
Final announcement: Nov 20

1. Before writing

- Go to DFF website https://dff.dk/en

- Read carefully the call and guide > 3 times

- Feasibility, deadline (March 24, 2021), objectives

- Table of contents for application

"Providing excellent younger researchers, i.e. researchers who have carried out top class research in their field, with the opportunity to develop and strengthen their research ideas."….. "to carry out a research project at a high, international level."

Table of contents

Application

B10: Project description (DFF Project Description)

B15 Participants

B16 Expenses

B20: Applicant-CV

B21: Applicant-list of publications

B22: PhD diploma (or other documentation)

B40: CVs and publicationlists (other participants)

B52: Statement of collaboration

B90: DFF Budget Confirmation

Autumn 2019 and Spring 2020
Call for Proposals
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

A2019 & S2020

2. Writing proposal

- Developing key ideas: what is your single central question (big/wider interests)?

- Start with a BRIEF SCIENTIFIC SUMMARY

- Related work packages built on your own/collaborators' expertise

- Structures:

  Research objectives with 1 Figure (1.5 page)

  Qualifications of Applicant (1/2 page) (modified for this proposal)

  Background and State of the Art (1 page)

  Methodologies and Outcomes (2 pages with 1 figure)

  My Team and Management (1 page with 1 timeline table)

  Dissemination and project impacts (1 page)

Think about these:

- Who will read this? (not all examiners are in your field)

- Why your project is important and timely?

- What is new about it? (theoretically, methodologically and empirically)

- Are my methods clear and feasible?

- What are the expected outcomes?

- Why are you the leader for this?

- Who will you collaborate with and why them?

- Who will benefit from this (you? Students?) and how?

- What are the risks and how to prepare for it?

Start early and ask for feedbacks; revise and revise

3. Response to external assessment

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY (including feasibility)
QUALIFICATIONS OF THE APPLICANT(S)

Grade	Description	Definition
7 (TOP 5%)	Exceptional	The proposal is internationally outstanding and stands out with exceptional novelty, quality and innovativeness. It fully meets all scientific standards and excels many or all of these.
6	Excellent	The proposal is internationally excellent and it meets all scientific standards and excels some of these.
5	Very good	A very good proposal demonstrating good quality. It generally meets scientific standards, but some points can be improved.
4	Good	The proposal is of good quality in terms of overall scientific standards, but has not been fully elaborated and needs some improvements.
3	Fair	The proposal meets some of the scientific standards, but needs significant improvements.
2	Weak	The proposal needs significant changes and improvements.
1	Poor	The proposal has serious flaws and does not meet the scientific standards.

"You can only comment on any errors or misunderstandings in the assessment and point out any impartiality issues among the external assessors"

"That the council makes the final decision on the basis of the council's own assessment of your application, the available external assessments and your possible party consultation response."

4. Before interview

- Know your interview committee (5 for me)
- Spend time on your slide prep. (<3 slides; 5-7 minutes to present your project and 10-12 minutes Q&As)
- Ask feedbacks
- Prepare possible questions (scientific content, career, management etc.)
- Practice many times myself, ask for feedbacks, attend mock interview
- Revise and practice many times again.

5. Interview

- Print out your slides in case technique issues happen

- Proper dressing (you will be photographed on site)

- Arrive early, find the room

- Talk to other candidates

- Show confidence and smile ☺ (you are in the interview because the panel likes your proposal and CV)

BEST OF LUCK!

elvis@biology.sdu.dk

Sapere Aude: Tips and Reflections

Joel D. Cox

*Center for Nano Optics and Danish Institute for Advanced Study,
University of Southern Denmark*

My background

- PhD Physics, Western University, Canada (2013)

- Postdoc, ICFO—The Institute of Photonic Sciences, Spain (2013—2017)

- Research fellow, ICFO & Max Planck Institute for Quantum Optics (2017—2019)

- D-IAS Assistant Professor, SDU Nano Optics (2019—present)

My project

Title: Towards single-photon nonlinear optics in atomically-thin materials

- Two work packages/subprojects, each containing two milestones

- 1 Postdoc

- 1 Phd

- Computer cluster/workstation for ab-initio many body calculations

- Funding for conferences and research stays

The application

I target an ambitious and long-standing challenge in my field:

- Coherent overarching goal, broken down into two feasible work packages

- Synergetic but <u>self-contained</u> work packages (to alleviate risk)

- Going beyond and in new directions from my previous research

- Capitalizing on my research strengths/expertise

- Recruit a reasonable number of personnel

The application—structure

My structure:

- Introduction/summary (0.75 pages)

- State-of-the-art and project description (1.25 pages)

- Methodology and work plan (3 pages, 1 page per work package)

- Resources, management, and internationalization (1 page)

- Impact and dissemination

- Recruitment process   1 page

- Long-term vision

The application—target audience

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The application will be read by:

- The DFF council (check online who that is)

- Two international referees

  - Evaluating the **scientific standard of the project** and **qualifications of the applicant**

- The selection committee, who are <u>not specialists</u>

  - Use compelling analogies

  - Avoid using too much jargon

  - Explain clearly why the research is timely and important!

The application—other considerations

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Tell a story about yourself and the project

- Why are you the ideal candidate to carry out the research?

- Emphasize how the grant will position you as a <u>research leader</u>

- Convey excitement for the research

The research team

- Mention how you will go about recruiting (potential risk)

- How will members benefit from being a part of your project?

Internationalization

- Exchange of knowledge and personnel within your international network

Timeliness

- Why is now the perfect time for this research?

The application—tips

- Get feedback ASAP from both specialists and <u>non-specialists</u>

- Finish writing well before the deadline, take a break from the proposal for a few days and then look at the application with fresh eyes

- Imagine you are the referee/committee member: what are the weaknesses of your proposal, and how can you address them?

- Check out other granted proposals (e.g., ERC StG) for inspiration

The interview

Make sure your presentation can be understood by all committee members

- Check out the research profiles of the committee

Prepare a presentation that fits in the allotted time

- Know your presentation by heart but don't over-rehearse

- Remind the committee of your achievements

Prepare visually appealing slides without too much information

- Ask SDU graphics department for advice

Give concise and to-the-point answers (don't ramble)

- Try to anticipate who will lead the technical questions and what they might ask

- Get feedback from specialists and <u>non-specialists</u>