

# Independent Research Fund Denmark

## Thematic calls 2024



# Agenda

- Welcome and today's agenda
- DFF Thematic calls 2024
- How to structure your application
- Thematic requirements and appendixes
- Egrant
- Most frequent reasons for rejection at SUND
- Questions

The presentation will be made available at SUND Research Support:

<https://sdunet.dk/en/enheder/fakulteter/sundhedsvidenskab/forskning/syddanskforskerstoette/events-og-ressourcer/andre-materialer>

Aftale om fordeling af forskningsreserven  
mv. i 2024

mellem regeringen (Socialdemokratiet,  
Venstre og Moderaterne), Socialistisk  
Folkeparti, Danmarksdemokraterne, Li-  
beral Alliance, Det Konservative Folke-  
parti, Enhedslisten, Radikale Venstre,  
Dansk Folkeparti, Alternativet og Nye  
Borgerlige

2. november 2023

You can find the document [here](#) (only in  
Danish)

# DFF Thematic calls 2024

Independent green research

Arctic Research – climate changes and sustainable arctic communities

Strengthened clinical and independent research

Better framework for research in psychiatry

Research on elderly and ageing

Research on loneliness

Strengthened research on vulnerable children and youth and poor well-being

Learning and well-being in primary schools

Stronger research environments for vocational education and work-related pedagogy and practice-based learning



# Evaluation Committee

The applications for the thematic calls will be assessed by an expert committee composed of national and international researchers within the thematic field.

The committees will be announced on <https://dff.dk/en/about-us/organisation/thematic-research-expert-committees>

Look into the committee that evaluates your application and adjust your scientific writing/level accordingly.

# Thematic committees 2024

## Climate

DFF | Thematic research – Independent green research (2024)

DFF | Thematic research – Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable arctic communities (2024)

## Health

DFF | Thematic research – Strengthened clinical and independent research (2024)

DFF | Thematic research – Better framework for research in psychiatry (2024)

## Health and Well-being

DFF | Thematic research – Vulnerable children and youth, poor well-being, loneliness and elderly (2024)

## Well-being and learning

DFF | Thematic research – Primary schools and vocational education (2024)

# DFF – Research on elderly and ageing

Purpose:

To support multidisciplinary and practice-oriented research on nursing and care for the elderly citizen.

This is to illuminate elderly citizens' social, psychological and physical robustness, including and among other things within the context of nursing and care in the local healthcare system

It could e.g. be in areas such as rehabilitation, care and prevention with a focus on municipal healthcare services.



# DFF – Independent Green Research Programme 2024

**Deadline May 30<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon**

Find the call [here](#)



# DFF – Independent Green Research Programme 2024

## Purpose:

Supporting green, independent and curiosity-driven research. Promote the researchers' own original ideas, which may contribute to the green transition.

Support the career development of the growth layer in Danish research environments, e.g. early career researchers.



# DFF – Arctic Research – Climate Change and Sustainable Arctic Communities Programme 2024

**Deadline June 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon**

Find the call [here](#)

# **DFF – Arctic Research – Climate Change and Sustainable Arctic Communities Programme 2024**

Purpose:

To strengthen arctic research, which may contribute to a sustainable development in the Arctic through a greater understanding of the climate changes and its impact on biodiversity, ecosystems, cultural heritage as well as living conditions in the Arctic.

The overall theme encompasses, among other things, knowledge on challenges and solutions in regard to:

- physicochemical conditions,
- climate feedback mechanisms,
- ecosystems
- living conditions of humans and animals

Including social and cultural changes in Arctic communities as a result of climate change.



# DFF – Strengthened Clinical and Independent Research Programme 2024

**Deadline May 28<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon**

Find the call [here](#)

# DFF – Strengthened Clinical and Independent Research Programme 2024

Purpose:

To strengthen point of care clinical and independent research, including independent and researcher-initiated trials, studies, etc., and in areas where there is limited commercial interest and/or opportunities for external funding (e.g. from research foundations), including health technology.

The effort can, among other contribute to e.g.

- generating new knowledge about the effects of existing standard forms of treatment and care
- illuminating whether the use of existing and time-saving forms of care and treatment can be extended to other patient and citizen groups
- research on women's diseases, inequality in health between men and women, chronic disease and reduction of inequality in health and disease

Support research on citizen-centred primary healthcare services and be allocated to research on the impact of environmental xenobiotics on fertility and the relationship between environment and low birth rates.



# DFF – Better Framework for Research in Psychiatry Programme 2024

**Deadline June 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon**

Find the call [here](#)

# DFF – Better framework for psychiatry

Purpose:

Supporting a better framework for research in psychiatry.

The funds can, among other support e.g.

prevention, causal relationships, early efforts, treatment, quality, connection and involvement of users and next of kin, poor mental well-being, loneliness, methods for reducing coercion, drug-free alternatives such as art, culture and nature, digital forms of treatment, and virtual reality.

With this call, it is also possible to initiate clinical research within psychiatry.

2024

CALL FOR PROPOSALS - THEMATIC RESEARCH

## HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

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/ Research on elderly and ageing  
/ Research on loneliness  
/ Strengthened research on vulnerable children and youth and poor well-being



  
DANMARKS FRIE  
FORSKNINGSFOND  
INDEPENDENT RESEARCH  
FUND DENMARK

# DFF – Health and Well-being Programme 2024

- Research on elderly and ageing
- Research on loneliness
- Strengthened research on vulnerable children and youth and poor well-being

**Deadline June 13<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon**

Find the call [here](#)



# DFF – Research in Loneliness/Solitude

## Purpose

To support research on loneliness.

The contribute to generating knowledge on:

the causes of loneliness

the handling and prevention thereof

across various life phases and generations.

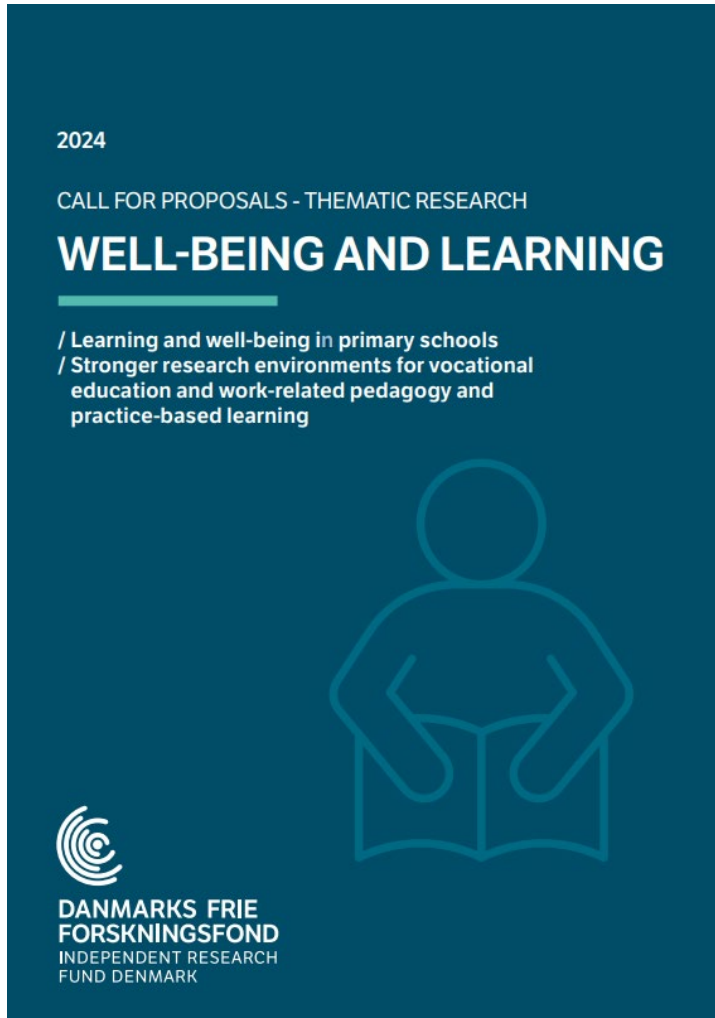
# **DFF – Strengthened Research on vulnerable Children and Youth including failure to thrive**

## Purpose

To strengthen research on vulnerability and poor well-being among children and youth.

## The funds should

- support capacity building and strengthened coordination of the practice-oriented research on vulnerable children and youth
- contribute with more knowledge about causal relationships, the interplay with pedagogic-psychological counselling (PPR), etc.



# DFF – Well-being and Learning Programme 2024

- Learning and well-being in primary schools
- Stronger research environments for vocational education and work-related pedagogy and practice-based learning

**Deadline June 11<sup>th</sup> 12:00 noon**

Find the call [here](#)

# **DFF – Learning and well-being in primary schools**

## Purpose

To strengthen practice-oriented research and to provide new knowledge on learning and well-being in primary schools.

At the same time, the initiative should contribute to supporting a strengthened foundation of knowledge for the teacher education by fostering a closer connection between the research, the content of the teacher's education, and primary school practice,

# **DFF – Stronger research environments for vocational education and work-related pedagogy and practice-based learning**

## Purpose

To strengthen and developing the quality and the attractiveness of vocational education, and gradually building stronger, practice-oriented research on vocational education.

To support research on work-related pedagogy and practice-based learning in, among other things, the preparatory basic education and training (FGU). The funds are allocated for the purpose of strengthening teachers' knowledge of practice-based learning approaches and increase the use of pedagogies that can impact general education to students by engaging them in workshop- and production-oriented processes.

# Overview

Call	Total amount in mio. DKK	Research project 1 & 2	Applicant requirements	Amount you can apply for excl. OH in mio. DKK	Project period in years	Project description requirements	Possible project start date
Independent Green Research	134	1	RP1 ~ 3 years or more after PhD	2.2	3 (4)	5 A4 pages & no more than 15,000 characters incl. spaces	February 1 <sup>st</sup> to December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025
Artic research	45.3	1	RP1 ~ 3 years or more after PhD	2.2	3 (4)	5 A4 pages and no more than 15,000 characters incl. spaces	February 1 <sup>st</sup> to December 1 <sup>st</sup> 2025
Health Clinical	201.9	2*	RP2 at least 8 years after PhD	2.2 – 4.3	4.5	7 A4 pages and no more than 21,000 characters incl. spaces	
Health Psychiatry	98.5						
H & W Elderly	29.5						
H & W Loneliness	19.7						
H & W Children	34.5						
W & L Schools	24.6						
W & L Vocational	19.7/9.9						

\*For the themes “Health and Well-being” (H & W) and “Well-being and Learning” (W & L) the instrument DFF-Research Project 2 is only funded in special instances where it has been persuasively argued that the objective cannot be reached through a DFF-Research Project 1.

# DFF webinar on Thematic research 2024

- Tuesday April 23 2024, 2:30 - 3:30 (pm) – including interview with the chairs of the committees “Primary schools and vocational education” (Ane Qvortrup) and “Arctic research – Climate change and sustainable arctic communities” (Thomas Ingeman-Nielsen)
- Wednesday April 24 2024, 10:00 - 11:00 (am) - including interview with the chairs of the committees “Better framework for research in psychiatry” (Ingrid Melle) and “Strengthened clinical and independent research” (Henrik Toft Sørensen)
- Thursday April 25 2024, 1:00 - 2:00 (pm) – including including interview with the chairs of the committees “Vulnerable children and youth, poor well-being, loneliness and elderly” (Mattias Strandh) and “Independent green research” (Jan Oskar Jeppesen).

**[Access the webinar via Zoom: https://ufm-dk.zoom.us/j/61845023378](https://ufm-dk.zoom.us/j/61845023378)**

The webinars will be held in English. You can read more [here](#).

# Structure

***Follow the project description outline described in the calls. Address all the required points mentioned therein:***

- objective, research question, hypotheses
- scientific and societal relevance, anticipated effect in relation to future research and researcher education
- theoretical foundation, central concepts, *state of the art*
- If relevant, choice of method, how theory and concepts will be used
- if relevant, account of project's empirical material
- research plan, assessment of the feasibility of the project, a work plan and time schedule
- practical framework (e.g. experimental facilities, staff resources, access to databases, etc.)
- publishing and dissemination of research results
- clear account of the ways in which the project addresses the applied-for theme as described in the call
- NB! International research activities (e.g. research stays abroad, collaboration with foreign research groups, hosting or participating in international conferences, invitation of foreign visiting researchers, etc.)



# Assessment Criteria

DFF will look for several specific criteria and if you do not comply with these criteria, you give DFF a reason to reject your application!

## Assessment criteria for project description (scientific quality)

- Does the project description render it probable that the project contains potential for scientific progress, innovation and originality (theoretical, methodical and empirical)?
- Does the project display innovative research as opposed to expanding on already ongoing research?
- Does the project description render it probable that the project contributes to internationalisation of Danish research?
- Does the project description contain:
  - a clear and well-defined research question and objective?
  - a description of state of the art and/or the scientific challenges within the project's research area, and the project's potential related contribution hereto?
  - consistent and suitable hypotheses?
  - an account of the theoretical and/or methodological foundation, including an argumentation for the relevance of proposed activities in relation to this foundation?
- If relevant to the project:
  - Is there an argument for the correlation between the project's hypothesis, theory and method?
  - Is there a sufficient description of the project's empirical material or data foundation, including any pilot projects and/or any preliminary data?
  - Is there sufficient synergy between the individual parts of the project?

## Color codes:

SCIENTIFIC NOVELTY  
INTERNATIONALIZATION  
SCIENTIFIC QUALITY

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  - Is there a sufficient description of the project's empirical material or data foundation, including any pilot projects and/or any preliminary data?
  - Is there sufficient synergy between the individual parts of the project?

## Assessment criteria for the applicant's qualifications

- Has the applicant documented
  - scientific qualifications to an extent that documents the competencies needed for the completion of the project?
  - scientific qualifications at a level corresponding to the target group of the applied-for funding instrument?
  - scientific production at a level corresponding to your career path and seniority?
  - qualifications as a research leader at a level corresponding to your career path and seniority?
- Have the other central project participants documented scientific qualifications at a level corresponding to their career path and seniority, and do they possess the qualifications that are necessary for the project's completion?
- Are relevant local and international researchers contributing, and if relevant, is there sufficient degree of contribution from public institutions or business partners?
- Is there a strategy for the organisation and management of the project, including an account of the division of labor between the researchers involved and a plausibility of the applicant being able to handle the project applied (scientifically/academically and timewise) for at the same time as the applicant's other research and management tasks?
- Are potential PhD students or postdoctoral candidates well integrated into the project, and do they fulfil a clear function in it?

## Color codes:

SCHOLARLY EXCELLENCE  
COLLABORATION &  
ORGANIZATION

# Assessment criteria for the applicant's qualifications

- Has the applicant documented
  - scientific qualifications to an extent that documents the competencies needed for the completion of the project?
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- Are potential PhD students or postdoctoral candidates well integrated into the project, and do they fulfil a clear function in it?

## **Assessment criteria for feasibility**

- Have sufficient resources been allocated to the project, including the research framework, personnel, and access to necessary facilities and equipment?
- Is there a realistic work plan and time-frame for the project that, among other things, takes the recruitment of any unnamed participants and the dissemination of project results into account?
- Does the project description account for the project's milestones and success criteria, and are these realistic?
- Is there proportionality between the project's costs and the expected scientific output?
- Is there proportionality between the proposed activities and the proposed budget? Does this include a good correlation between what the requested funding will finance, how the funding will be used, as well as which tasks and people will be financed?
- Are potential ethical aspects satisfactorily highlighted where relevant?

## **Publishing and dissemination of results**

- Are the collective considerations for publishing/disseminating/patenting of the project's results described in a satisfactory manner?
- If relevant to the project: Have the likelihood and plans for patents in the proposed project been accounted for?

## Other assessment criteria

- Do the activities benefit Danish research?
- Does the project/activity include education of researchers in a relevant manner?
- Does the project/activity contribute to improving researcher mobility nationally/internationally and – if relevant – between research institutions/companies?

## Specific assessment criteria for the different themes:

- Are the described objectives of the funding instrument sufficiently met?
- Does the application sufficiently account for the ways in which the project addresses the applied-for theme?

### Independent green research:

- Does the application sufficiently account for how the project supports the career development of the growth layer in Danish research environments, e.g. younger researchers?
- If relevant to the project: If the project is motivated by a desire to solve a specific problem or does it have a clear application-oriented perspective: Is this sufficiently clearly described, and has there been sufficiently argued for the described solution or application?

### Strengthened clinical and independent research:

- Does the application sufficiently account for the ways in which the research area is of limited commercial interest and/or has limited opportunities for external funding, e.g., from research foundations?

### Research on elderly and ageing:

- Does the application sufficiently account for how the project supports and/or strengthens practiceoriented research within the applied-for research theme?

### Strengthened research on vulnerable children and youth and poor well-being:

- Does the application sufficiently account for how the project supports capacity building and strengthened coordination of the practice-oriented research in the area?

### Well-being and learning:

- Does the application sufficiently account for how the project supports and/or strengthens practice-oriented research within the applied-for research theme?





# Appendixes

- All appendixes must be in PDF format
- DFF requires a number of different appendixes for your application – some of those are mandatory no matter what, others are only mandatory under certain circumstances
- DFF provides an overview of appendixes in chapter 5 of the call for proposals

# Mandatory no matter what

- Project description (B10)
- List of references/bibliography (B11)
- Budget on DFF's own budget template
- Applicant's CV (B20)
- Applicant's list of publications (B21)
- Budget and hosting confirmation (B90)

# Mandatory under certain circumstances

- Applicant's PhD diploma (B22)
- CV and list of publications for the main supervisor (max 2 pages in total) (B31)
- CV and list of publications (max 2 pages in total per person) for all named participants and collaborators (does not apply to funded PhD students or postdocs) (B40)
- Transcripts/exam certificate, CV (max 1 page), and any list of publications for named PhD students (B41)
- CV (max 1 page), list of publications, and PhD diploma for named PostDocs (B42)
- A declaration from the host institution if significant parts or all, of the project are taking place at a different institution than the administrating institution (B51)

# Mandatory under certain circumstances - *continued*

- Collaboration/Support letters (max. 1 page each) if the project involves collaboration with organisations, companies or other users, or foreign partners (B52)
- Documentation for purchase of a single piece of equipment/apparatus for more than 500.000 DKK (B60)
- Confirmation of salary level (only if salary is different from the collective agreements) (B61)
- Documentation for sub-contractor costs (B62)
- De minimis declaration if parts of funding are passed on to private companies (B63)



# E-grant

E-grant technical support

[support.e-grant@ufm.dk](mailto:support.e-grant@ufm.dk)

Phone: 33 92 91 90 Mon-Friday 9.00-12.00 noon

# E-Grant

- You submit via DFF's online submission portal E-Grant [www.e-grant.dk](http://www.e-grant.dk)
- Login with either MitID or as a registered user with a username and password
- Chose the right funding and click "Apply Now" to create an application
- Enter the title of the application and click "Create application" (this can be changed later)
- TIP: Add your funding advisor to your application – click on your application under "Applications" on the home screen and then click on "add participant", fill out first and last name as well as e-mail, and choose "Agent" as role, pick an invitation code and share the invitation code in the comments section – finally click on "OK"

## **E-Grant - *continued***

- Be aware of the automatic validation of the length of the submitted project description and of the PI's CV
- Project description/CV exceeding the specified limitations (number of pages or characters) will be singled out for a manual check
- DFF will always use the number of characters stemming from the e-grant system in the decision of whether the project description fulfils the requirements or not. Applications exceeding the specified limitations will receive an *administrative rejection*
- DFF recommend using the e-grant system to verify that the number of characters in your project description/CV is within the permitted number. Continuously generate a PDF-file of your project description and upload the PDF-file to the application. If the PDF-file exceeds the permitted length, you will receive a pop-up warning and have to upload a new PDF file

# What are the most common problems in SUND applications?



The methodological description is not adequate



Lack of scientific progress, innovation and originality



Insufficient state of the art



The qualification of the applicant



# Methodology - the project description does not adequately explain the methodology.



... This refers in particular to the degree of concretisation of the planned methods of analysis.



... In particular, the methods to be used in the sub-studies are described only sparsely.



...In addition, the description of experiments is superficial - there are no numbers or plans indicated, control group is missing, and no statistical methods are indicated.



... This refers in particular to the degree of concretisation of how the comparison of data before/after implementation of the new approach is to take place and what material is to be included in this.

# Novelty and scientific progress

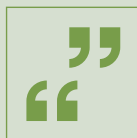


The project does not contain sufficient potential for originality. In particular, the project is mostly a statement on various occurrences and does not immediately contain much potential for originality.

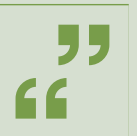


The project does not contain sufficient potential for scientific progress. This refers in particular to the emphasis on method development.

# State of the art and research profile



The project description does not sufficiently contain a clear description of the project's potential contribution to state of the art within the research area of the project so the Council can assess the innovative quality of the project.



Your scientific qualifications as an applicant are not of a sufficiently high level. This is especially since you lack mobility and independence from your PhD supervisor



Your scientific output within the project area is not at a sufficiently high level. In particular, the number of last authorships within the project's field of study



# Questions

Contact information

DFF ([dff-opslag@ufm.dk](mailto:dff-opslag@ufm.dk))

Phone 72 31 82 00 Mon-Friday 9.00–12.00 noon

Simone Rørdam-Preil ([sirp@health.sdu.dk](mailto:sirp@health.sdu.dk))

Phone 93 53 30 98

**SDU** 