

Political Science Pre-Grant Program for large strategic applications:

External funding is of great importance for our department. First, it makes it possible to realize new and innovative excellent research ideas. Second, it can boost research groups and increase overall quality of research. Third, it is an important part of the department funding. There is no reason to believe that external funding will become less important in the future – on the contrary.

The Faculty of Business and Social Sciences has developed a research support unit offering pre-award advice and post award support for all kinds of projects. Furthermore, the department and/or university has in some cases promised co-funding of projects and in a very few cases paid consultancy and travel expenses in in the application process.

The department has been relatively successful in obtaining external funding. But we have still higher ambitions. We should take our funding efforts to the next level let a few selected scholars go for the absolute most prestigious and strategically important grants. Within the next four years our goal is to apply for a limited number (i.e. have 1-2 projects in the pipeline continuously) and land two projects of the following types:

- Top basic research: ERC projects (starting, consolidator, advanced, CoFund) and Danish CoE-program
- Top strategic research: Horizon 2020-projects, Innovation Fund Denmark – Grand Solutions Grants, and large strategic projects funded by private foundations

Application for such grants requires not only commitment from the PI but also a big investment in terms of time and institutional commitment. Over the last couple of years, the sections have started internal discussions on planning and coordination of applications. This is a first step. The next step is to support the kind of long-term planning, time-consumption, and quality improvement that such applications require.

Thus, we introduce a Pre-Grant program at the department level, that offers the following types of support:

- Time-compensation through teaching bank
- Support for qualifying activities such as workshops, short research visits, meetings with potential partners etc.
- Dedicated administrative support for example in the form of research assistant or student aid.
- External consultants for example for qualifying applications and/or CV's (typically relevant for EU-funding)
- Other types of support

Different types of application will need different types and levels of support. We do not envisage a 'one-size-fits-all model', and we expect each applicant to consider what types of support that is needed.

We want to emphasize, that even though some of these programs would call for a senior PI, we also encourage more junior colleagues to consider ERC starting grants or possibly a major strategic grant. It is also important to underline, that even though this initiative targets a specific set of grants, small and medium-sized grants are still of high importance for the department. The department has a solid track record with this type of grants, and we should continue our efforts in this regard.

Process for pre-grant applications:

Applications for Pre-grant support can be filed at any time but must be submitted to the secretary of the management group minimum twelve months prior to the deadline of the grant application. Applications for support can come from individual researchers and leaders of sections. Only applications that is coordinated within the relevant section and the Head of Section can be considered for support. The final decision is taken by the Head of Department based on a common assessment in the Management Group.

Please contact research officer Rasmus Ejning before applying to learn about the specific 'road maps' (best practices) and criteria for the type of funding you want to apply for.

Formal requirements:

- Applicants must use the specific template (and include all information asked for)
- The application plan must include internal review (quality check) no later than two months before deadline. This review will be organized by the department and the panel will include senior colleagues as well as representatives of the management group.
- Applications must include CV of the applicant

Applications will be evaluated and prioritized using the following criteria:

- Match between CV of the PI and ambitions of the application
- Career development of the applicant
- Quality and originality of the idea (especially regarding 'top basic research' applications)
- Strategic relevance for department and sections (especially regarding 'top strategic research' applications)
- Gearing between pre-grant support and potential funding
- Quality of the plan for developing the application

The management group can decide to include a senior colleague or externals in the assessment of an application. The specific terms for support will be discussed between the PI and the management group following the selection process.

After the support is granted:

It is important to stress, that a PI must be highly dedicated to the planned activities. This includes reporting of progress (milestones and deliverables), and participation in the mandatory internal review no later two months before deadline.

If the PI does not reach the milestones or does not present a full outline of the application including detailed budget for the internal review (two months prior to deadline) the pre-grant support can be cancelled (including compensation in the teaching account).

Template for applications:

PI:

Section:

Title of project:

Short description (max 400 words):

Program(s)/foundation(s) applied to:

Deadline for application:

Overall sum for application (rough figures):

Does it include overhead:

Does it imply other IS staff and/or partner institutions (if specify IS share):

What type(s) of pre-grant support is applied for (max 200 words)?

Detailed plan for development of application including milestones