

# Guidelines for PhD Students Applying for Funding

Issued by the Department of Law – Effective 01-01-2026

	<b>Initial Funding</b>	<b>Ongoing Funding</b>
<i>Internal Funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding amount of 100.000 kr.</li><li>• Cover Core Expenses only</li><li>• Expenses approved by the Group Leader</li><li>• Managed by the Department of Law</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not applicable</li></ul>
<i>External Funding</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding amount not predetermined</li><li>• Cover Core Expenses and Supplementary Expenses</li><li>• Expenses approved by the Grant Holder</li><li>• Managed by the Department of Law</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Funding amount not predetermined</li><li>• Cover Core Expenses and Supplementary Expenses</li><li>• Expenses notified to the Primary Supervisor and the Group Leader</li><li>• Managed by the PhD student</li></ul>

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## 1. Purpose

This document sets out rules and procedures for PhD students at the Department of Law regarding all funding related to their PhD studies, including Initial Funding for their position and ongoing funding for research-related activities.

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## 2. Scope

These guidelines apply to all PhD students throughout the entire duration of their PhD programme, including any formally approved extensions such as parental leave or sick leave.

The guidelines cover both the Initial Funding that secures the PhD position—whether provided internally by the department or externally through project grants—and any additional Ongoing Funding obtained during the PhD studies.

Expenses related to IT equipment, supervision, assessment, standard proofreading of the PhD thesis, and the PhD defense are covered directly by the department and are not covered by these guidelines.

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### 3. Definitions

For the purposes of this document:

- **Internal Funding:** Financial support provided directly to a PhD student by the Department of Law.
  - **External Funding:** Financial support awarded to a PhD student by a funding body outside the Department of Law, such as governmental research councils, international foundations, private organizations, scholarship programs, or external project grants.
  - **Initial Funding:** Financial support provided from the start of the PhD program either in the form of Internal Funding or External Funding.
  - **Ongoing Funding:** Additional financial support secured by PhD students during their studies, such as travel grants, in the form of External Funding.
  - **Core Expenses:** Costs that are necessary and appropriate for the PhD project. Such expenses must be justifiable, proportionate, and directly related to academic or research activities, such as travel, field work, conferences, PhD courses, books, memberships, and other academic activities.
  - **Supplementary Expenses:** Expenses that may not be directly related to core academic activities but are considered reasonable and supportive of the PhD program, such as family travel expenses when accompanying the PhD student on research visits or stays abroad, accommodation costs for dependents.
  - **Grant Holder:** The individual or entity legally responsible for managing and overseeing an external funding grant awarded to the PhD project. The Grant Holder may be the same person as the Primary Supervisor but is not necessarily so.
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## 4. Initial Funding for the PhD Position

### 4.1 Internal Funding

Each internally funded PhD student is granted 100,000 DKK (approximately €13,500) to spend over the course of their PhD program. The Department of Law is responsible for the administration of these funds. All planned expenses must be submitted by the PhD student in a written request to the Group Leader for approval, with the Primary Supervisor copied (CC) to provide their input on the proposed expenditure. This amount may be used only for Core Expenses. Any unused funds will be forfeited and reverted to the department after the PhD program ends.

### 4.2 External Funding

The Department of Law is responsible for the administration of these funds. This amount may be used for Core Expenses and Supplementary Expenses subject to the terms and conditions set by the funding body. All planned expenses must be submitted by the PhD student in a written request to the Grant Holder for approval, with the Primary Supervisor copied (CC) to provide their input on the proposed expenditure. Any unused funds within the external project grant are managed according to the funding

body's rules and institutional policies. If the external project grant does not include sufficient funds to cover research-related expenses comparable to the internal grant, the Law Department may provide Supplementary Funding up to this amount to ensure equal support for all PhD students. Any such Supplementary Funding is subject to approval by the Head of Department.

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## 5. Ongoing, External Funding During the PhD

PhD students are encouraged to secure additional funding during their studies. Applications for such funding can be made directly to external bodies. All applications must be discussed with and approved by the Primary Supervisor before submission. The administration of these funds is the responsibility of the PhD Student and is handled through their own account.

Ongoing funds may be used for Core Expenses as well as Supplementary Expenses. These expenses are subject to the terms and conditions set by the funding body. All planned expenses must be notified in writing to both the Primary Supervisor and the Group Leader.

The PhD Student holds the responsibility to ensure that funds are used correctly and in accordance with the funding body's requirements; this obligation lies between the PhD Student and the funding body, and not with the Department of Law. PhD Students are responsible for complying with all reporting and documentation requirements, maintaining clear communication with the funding body regarding funding and expenditure, and returning any unused funds at the end of the grant period, if applicable.

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## 6. Exceptions and Extraordinary Circumstances

In exceptional cases where adherence to these guidelines may not be feasible or appropriate, deviations may be permitted. For instance, exceptions may be warranted in cases involving exceptionally high tuition fees or substantial grants that must be applied for by the university. Any such exceptions require a formal request and must be approved in writing by the Head of Department.

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## Annex 1. Ongoing funding opportunities

### **AU's Axel H. Travel Grant**

<https://bss.au.dk/axel-h>

Support for law graduates and PhD students from all universities in Denmark for scientific study stays abroad aimed at research and further education.

### **The Hede Nielsen Family Fund**

<https://www.hedenielsensfond.dk/sadan-ansoges-fonden>

Support is provided, among other things, for scientific purposes. Applications can be submitted continuously (at least 60 days before the start of the project), but not in July.

### **Frimodt-Heineke Foundation**

<https://www.frimodtheinekefonden.dk/>

Applications can be made, among other things, for scientific purposes. Two annual application deadlines: 1 March and 1 September. (Example: Niels Lachmann 10,000 DKK, 2024)

### **Fulbright Denmark**

<https://fulbrightcenter.dk/grants-for-danes/fulbright-grants-for-danish-students/>

For PhD students wishing to study 1 or 2 semesters in the USA. Applications open in the fall for the upcoming academic year.

### **Gangsted Foundation**

<https://grantmanager.grantcompass.com/gangstedfonden/apply-for/c783509f-8d84-4959-b87c-8bdb9d4837b2>

Applications can be made, among other things, for legal research. Applications can be submitted all year round.

### **Knud Højgaard Foundation**

<https://www.khf.dk/ansoegninger/>

Support for study trips for PhD students for trips of at least 3 months. Applications can be submitted continuously, at least 1 month before the trip.

### **KU Travel Fund**

<https://jura.ku.dk/uddannelser/rejsefonden/>

Support is provided for trips for law graduates and law students. (Examples: Louise Damkjær Christensen 2021, Niels Lachmann 10,000 DKK, 2024)

### **Max Sørensen Memorial Fund**

<https://max-soerensens-mindefond.dk/>

Applicants with a connection to public law, preferably international law, and secondarily international regulation and EU law, can apply. (Example: 15,000 DKK to Niels Lachmann, 2024)

### **Nordic Tax Research Council**

<https://nsfr.se/research-grants/>

Applications can be made for tax-related projects, primarily in the Nordic countries. Application deadlines for “tax research”: 1 April and 1 October. Travel grants for young researchers up to 10,000 SEK. Applications must be submitted with a sufficient margin. (Example: 16,507 DKK to Lars Overmark, 2018)

### **Torben & Alice Frimodt Foundation**

<https://torbenogalicefrimodtsfond.dk/>

Applicants in higher education, including PhD students, can apply. Three annual deadlines: 1 March, 1 August, 1 November. (Example: 15,000 DKK to Niels Lachmann, 2024)

### **William Demant Foundation**

<https://www.williamdemantfonden.dk/how-to-apply>

Open to applicants from all fields of study. Applications must be submitted at least one month before departure (note that deadlines may be longer around summer and Christmas holidays). (Example: Christian Frier 10,000 DKK, 2016; Louise Damkjær Christensen 9,500 DKK, 2021)