The Department of Political Science and Public Management
Pre-grant policy
Last updated August 5, 2024

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 possibilities to continuously provide professional and high-quality research support at the department. There is no reason to believe that external funding will become less important in the future – on the contrary.

The department has a strong track record of securing 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. In the coming years, our goal is to land at least two projects of the following types:

- Top basic research: ERC projects (starting, consolidator, advanced, synergy), DNRF Center of Excellence and Carlsberg Foundation Semper Ardens (Accomplish, Advance).
- Top strategic research: Horizon Europe-projects (coordinator) and large strategic projects funded by private foundations (usually reserved for applications seeking funding of 10 million DKK or more).

Application for such grants requires not only commitment from the PI but also a big investment in terms of time and institutional commitment. In the sections there are 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 offer the following types of support at the department subject to the approval of the management:

Type of support	Eligibility criteria
Time-compensation through teaching bank (please apply for the specific amount needed and a maximum of 100 norm hours) *Note: be aware that norm hours may be reduced depending on which other types of support are applied for*	Applications in the category of top basic research – specifically: - ERC-applications (starting, consolidator, advanced, synergy) - DNRF Center of Excellence applications (2.phase) *Note: the time compensation is only granted when the application is submitted*
Support for qualifying activities (e.g., workshops, short research visits, meetings with potential partners etc.)	Applications in the category of top basic research – all. Applications in the category of top strategic research – all.
Dedicated administrative support during the application process (e.g., in the form of research assistant or student aid). Administrative support may also be applied for as post award for some projects. However, such activities will mainly fall under co-financing and should be applied for separately	Applications in the category of top basic research – all. Applications in the category of top strategic research – all. *Note: in some cases (e.g., Carlsberg Foundation Semper Ardens Accomplish & Advance), this type of support is offered for post-award activities only.*
External consultants (e.g., for qualifying applications and/or CV's)	Typically relevant for EU-funding
Other types of support	-

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

We also encourage applicants to explore other complementary funding opportunities, such as faculty grants or EU startup grants.

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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 applications

Applications for pre-grant support can be filed at any time but must be submitted to the secretary of the management group in due time as the management group reviews applications on a quarterly basis. Applications for support can come from individual researchers and leaders of sections. Only applications that is coordinated within the relevant 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 consultant Kristina Bøhnke before applying to learn about the specific framework for the type of funding you want to apply to – the rules and requirements – and the optimal production plan for the application process.

Formal requirements:
- Applicants must use the specific template (see below) and include all information asked for
- The application plan must include internal peer-review no later than two months before deadline. This 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
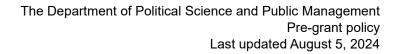
Assessment criteria:
- Match between CV of the PI and ambitions of the application
- Career development of the applicant
- Quality and originality of the idea (especially regarding 'top basic research' applications)
- Strategic relevance for department/sections (especially regarding 'top strategic research' 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), participation in mandatory peer-review etc.

If the PI does not reach the milestones, does not present a full outline of the application including detailed budget for the internal peer-review or fails to submit a suitable application, the pre-grant support can be cancelled (including compensation in the teaching account).

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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