

Overhead at Department for Public Health

The Department of Public Health has established a standardized model for managing overhead across the entire department. This model applies to all projects applied for from the 1st of April 2025.

This means that, project applications must, as a minimum, include 20% of the direct costs as “department overhead”. For projects where direct overhead and project supplement cannot be applied for, or where such contributions amount to less than 20%, it must be ensured by other means that a total minimum of 20% is secured to cover the department’s indirect expenses, which includes the project fee.

The term "department overhead" encompasses the following categories to address indirect costs:

1. Direct overhead
2. Project supplements
3. Bench fees
4. Administrative costs
5. Inclusion of the applicant's own or other salaries, typically funded by the department, within the application budget
6. Inclusion of the salaries of project economists/research support personnel in the application budget, provided they do not serve as project administrators (with the faculty transferring advance contributions to the institute)
7. Allocation of annum/free research funds/research unit annum funds equivalent to 20% of the application budget
8. Utilization of surplus funds from completed projects.

Any contributions exceeding the 20% requirement will be distributed as follows: 25% to the research unit and 75% to the department. For commissioned/commercial activities, the distribution will be 50% to the research unit and 50% to the department.

Example of calculation:

Grant incl. overhead	6.600.000 kr.
Granted overhead (25%)	1.320.000 kr.
Department overhead (20%)	1.056.000 kr.
Department’s share of the extra (75%)	198.000 kr.
Research unit’s share of the extra (25%)	66.000 kr.

Please note that salaries included in the budget to cover the 20% departmental overhead is not counted as a direct cost for calculating the 20% departmental overhead.

It has been agreed that this model will be evaluated and potentially revised on an annual basis. Should any changes be necessary, SUND Economy recommends that such adjustments take effect at the beginning of the fiscal year.