

Guide for applicants – Discovery Funds Danish Translational Hub

1.0 Explanation and background

1.1. This guide

This guide helps you in the process of applying for Discovery Funds from the Danish Transnational Hub (DTH). Read this before you fill out our application form ([LINK](#)).

It is important to us that the process is easy for you to overview and overcome. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Find contacts for SDU RIO and your local Research Support here. ([LINK](#))

1.2 What is the purpose of Translation Research Hub?

We want to inspire you to work together with other researchers, healthcare providers and stakeholders - by helping you in the process with ideas on how to and with who, by hosting events, that we develop together - and by supporting your project financially in the early stage with Discovery Funds.

Understanding the unmet needs in healthcare and share them with patients, healthcare providers and scientists from other disciplines can spark new research ideas or open the door to a solution to a problem that has seemed intractable. That is why the main purpose of *Translation Research Hub* is to strengthen the collaboration between researchers from different disciplines within in the framework of translational research. This involves research from OUH, RSD Psychiatry, all SDUs faculties and Life Science industry partners.

One of our instruments is to facilitate a bottom-up approach and to create meeting points for researchers to meet across disciplines to discuss and develop research questions and ideas together. This is done in the framework called "Translational Research Bazaar". If we accept a draft of your application and after the steps 3 and 4 (look to chapter 4 in this guide), you will receive an invitation to develop an event together with SRU RIO and your local Research Support .

The purpose of the Translational Research Bazaar concept is to facilitate innovation and development of interdisciplinary research to address challenges that goes beyond the scope of a single discipline, within the framework of health and translational research.

After the event your project consortia can apply (final application, step 6) for funds to support the initial discovery stage of the project based on a set of established criteria.

2. Criteria for receiving Discovery Funds

2.1. Translational Research

As an applicant, you should argue the translational research aspects of the particular project idea. In the application, you have to describe:

- The unmet need for health services
- The patient and healthcare provider views and involvement
- How does the pilot project address translational research disciplines and methods securing sustainable implementation and positive effect for patients and healthcare system.

2.2. Interdisciplinary

Since one of the main purposes with the Discovery Funds is to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration in the consortium, at least one of OUH or the Psychiatry in Region Syddanmark and minimum three units from the following faculties of SDU must be engaged: Faculties of Health, Science, Engineering, Humanities and/or Social Science & Business.

2.3. Potential for external funding

As an applicant, you should also demonstrate that the project has the potential to obtain external funds for the maturation, sustainable implementation, and positive effect of the project. Therefore, the application must describe a plan for the future translational research project and external funding, including how the expected external gearing comes into play in the project. SDU RIO Research Support and your decentral Research Support will be available with information and advice. If relevant the final decision of granting discovery funds will be recommended by DTH Research Support staff to the Steering Committee of the Danish Translational Research Hub.

2.4. Co-funding from the faculties and the hospitals

As the work package leader/project manager it is your responsibility to enter into agreements for co-funding before it is possible to apply for the Discovery Funds. The co-funding must be calculated based on the SDU Budget template (LINK) and confirmed by the relevant Department management. Your local Research Support will be available for advice.

2.5 Use the SDU budget template

SDU's budget template should be used for the budget. Please note in the budget at which department the expenses will be defrayed. The template is available at [Forskerportalen](#). (LINK)

A detailed budget per year is expected. Describe salaries and running costs split between requested funding, co-financing and any external funding obtained for the project.

3. Financial framework

You can apply for a maximum 300.000 DKK for a project and your project must be supported by co-funding of minimum the same amount from the involved Departments.

Your discovery project can run for maximum 12 months.

Your project will not be charged overheads from the internal funding from the Discovery Funds. Overheads from external funding in connection with the discovery project and later stages are handled under the same conditions as any other external funding.

The funding can be used for travelling, conferences, meetings, and workshops, research-, technician- or student helper time, software, consumables, consultancy, infrastructure access, etc.

The Discovery Funds is planned to support 4-6 pilot projects yearly in 2023 and 2024.

4. Application and evaluation process

To apply for the Discovery Funds under Danish Translational Hub you have to follow these steps:

Step 1: If you have an idea for a project which is relevant according to the idea of translational research and with obvious interdisciplinary opportunities then start by contacting SDU RIO. Find contacts here.

Step 2: Fill out the application form (LINK) as a first draft (pre application). The call is open and applications will be supported and evaluated on a running basis during 2023 and 2024.

Step 3: You will then be invited to a meeting with SDU RIO and your local Research Support to discuss and evaluate your first draft application for your project.

Step 4: On the basis of the meeting with SDU RIO and your local Research Support you can update your application and qualify your project starting with an interdisciplinary bazar event.

Step 5: SDU RIO and your local Research Support will support your bazar event, where we meet healthcare providers, patients, and other researchers across disciplines to discuss and develop research questions and ideas together.

Step 6: You submit your final application still using the application form (Link).

Step 7: After agreement with the DTH you, as the project coordinator, will be invited to pitch your project for a Discovery Funds Committee (members, dates, and participants to be decided).

It is expected that you as the project coordinator, work package leaders and/or other relevant representative of the discovery project is physically present at the presentation of the project.

Based on the presentation and the dialogue with the Discovery Funds Committee the final project goals, content and funds will be recommended for award.

Step 8: After an DTH Research Support Group qualification and recommendation process the grant sum will be distributed among the eligible applicants.

Step 9: Project realization within 12 months.

Step 10: Evaluation and final report to DTH Research Support Group within 1 months after ending the discovery project. A form for evaluation and final report will be developed.

5. Additional funding from DLSC initiative 2/knowledge bridge program funds

Companies can apply for funding of researcher's salary and overhead, max. kr.250.000 per project (to be used before Sept. 2024)

Companies must co-fund 140% via in-kind hours of kr.600/hour or cash contributions.

6. Qualification and recommendations for applicants before grant process

The project group must present their draft proposal and application for the DTH Research Support Group with focus on the following:

- Research idea and methodology
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and patient involvement focus
- Translational research focus
- Development and implementation strategy
- Governance and communication
- Funding strategy