

**CAS-process for applications to
Danmarks Frie Forskningsfonds Forskningsprojekt 1, Spring 2026**

Once again this year, there is an opportunity to apply for Research Project 1 funding from the Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFR). While the call, which was published last year, has been withdrawn (see below), the [DFR website states](#) that the following applies:

- Deadline: 29th april 2026 at 12:00
- Budget: up to 2.550.000 DKK

Vi har tillige følgende interne deadlines i forbindelse med call'et:

- **Deadline for submission:** In order to take advantage of the offer for readings (see below), a draft of the project description must be sent to either Thomas Erslev (thomas@cas.au.dk) or Mikkel Lodahl (milo@cas.au.dk) no later than Thursday, 9 April at 16:00.
- **Named PhD students:** If named PhD students are to be enrolled in the project, they must be pre-approved by the relevant PhD programme. This approval must be obtained before the application is submitted. The process should be initiated no later than 23 March.

The principal applicant must obtain a commitment from the relevant PhD programme director that the candidate in question will be able to enrol as a PhD student if the grant is awarded.

The following attachments must be sent to the relevant PhD programme director, who will conduct a preliminary assessment of the candidate:

- The candidate's CV
- Transcripts and degree certificates
- A 2–5 page project outline—written by the candidate—detailing the part of the research project the PhD student is to undertake
- Documentation of English language proficiency
- If the candidate is approved, the principal applicant will subsequently receive a letter of commitment from PhD school director Søren Sindbæk.
- **Budget Approval Deadline:** To obtain approval of the budget, a truthful budget draft must be sent to either Thomas Erslev (thomas@cas.au.dk) or Mikkel Lodahl (milo@cas.au.dk) no later than Friday, 17 April at 12:00.

Offer of Reviews:

The research team offers generalist review readings of all project descriptions for applicants

who request this and submit their drafts by the specified deadline. While the research team does not generally facilitate peer reviews by other researchers, it can assist in identifying potential reviewers at the School of Communication and Culture (IKS) or elsewhere at Aarhus University (AU) if necessary. Again, this offer is contingent upon contact being made before the deadline.

Please note that the legal framework governing the work of the Independent Research Fund Denmark (DFF) is currently being revised. As a result, the previously published call has been withdrawn and is awaiting the entry into force of new legislation through a decree from the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. It is expected that the new decree will come into effect on 15 March and that the upcoming general election will not affect this process, as the government continues its work. The most significant change will be measures to reduce the number of applications; the draft decree proposes that applicants will only be permitted to submit one application to DFF per year and that those with two or more active grants from DFF will be ineligible to submit further applications. The proposed changes are outlined here: <https://dff.dk/en/about-the-fund/news-and-press/all-news/news-uk/2026/januar/amendment-to-the-executive-order-on-independent-research-fund-denmark/>

Further notice should be taken of the revised assessment criteria and CV requirements, as announced here:

<https://dff.dk/en/about-the-fund/news-and-press/all-news/news-uk/2026/januar/new-requirements-for-applicants-cvs-and-publication-lists-and-revised-assessment-criteria-from-2026/>