
GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS 2017

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

Jens Christian Skou Fellowships For Aarhus University employees

The fellowship programme is initiated by Aarhus University (AU) and provides research opportunities for the most talented researchers from Aarhus University. AIAS is an institute made possible by a generous contribution from the Aarhus University Research Foundation. Read more at www.aias.au.dk.

The target group of the junior programme is talented researchers with at **least two** years of experience after completion of PhD, whereas the senior fellowships aim at talented researchers with 10+ years of postdoctoral research experience. The mission of AIAS is to support excellence in research by attracting the most talented researchers across all research disciplines. Fellows can choose their research topic freely.

Who can apply?

Two types of Jens Christian Skou Fellowships are available for **AU Employees only**; you must be an AU employee at the time of the application deadline as well as at the time of commencement of the fellowship period in order to be an eligible candidate.

- **Jens Christian Skou Junior Fellowships:**
Fellowship duration from 12 to 18 months for researchers with postdoctoral research careers of 2-10 years.
- **Jens Christian Skou Senior Fellowships:** Fellowship duration from 6 to 12 months for researchers at a high international level, equivalent to professors or highly qualified associate professors (with postdoctoral research careers of +10 years).

Duration of fellowship

The duration of the fellowship varies from 6 up to 12 months for senior fellowships and from 12 up to 18 months for junior fellowships. The fellowship duration must be justified in the proposal, and its appropriateness will be assessed, when evaluating the applications.

Employment conditions for fellows

During the fellowship at AIAS, the fellow will still be employed at his/her current institute. However, an appendix will be added to the fellow's employment contract stating new place of work and that the fellow during the fellowship will report to the director of AIAS. Salary compensation to the home institute will be offered in the form of the equivalent of the net pay for a postdoc position (DKK 500,000 per year).

How to apply

The research proposal must be submitted (in English) via an online submission system, using www.efond.dk/aias and must cover the following sections:

Content of the application

1. **An academic project description (max. 12,500 characters incl. blanks, excl. list of references)** describing the specific research area that you wish to pursue at the Institute, including justification of fellowship duration/and or project timeline. The application system will only allow text in the text box. Figures relating to the project description must be uploaded in step 4 as pdf-files. Please use line breaks to organize your project description, since all formatting (bold and italic font) will be reset in the text box.
2. **An account of why you would like to carry out your research work within the framework of AIAS (max. 5,000 characters incl. blanks)** including an account of your visions and ideas concerning how you expect to actively add to the creation of the academic and social environment of AIAS.
3. **CV (max 5 pages, pdf-file format)** must be uploaded in Step 4.
4. **A list of publications (pdf-file format)** must be uploaded in Step 4

Budget

1. If your fellowship will require additional extraordinary expenses, please specify this in a budget in a separate file (An excel templet can be downloaded [here](#)) and upload this file in step 4 as a pdf-file. The list below defines the types of expenses, which will usually be covered by AIAS and the expenses which will not. The budget is subject for negotiation if the fellowship is offered.

The following types of expenses will be covered:

- Research travels, i.e. travelling activity related to the part of the project which is carried out at AIAS, e.g. the participation in research-related seminars, etc.
- Expenses for ordinary running costs (computer, office supplies, research materials etc.).
- Financial aid for specific technical assistance needed for the carrying out of the research project may be given in special cases. Justification for such expenses is required.
- Expenses for the arrangement of scholarly events, e.g. workshops, seminars and symposiums at the Institute.

The following types of expenses will usually *not* be covered:

- The salary for unspecified assistance.
- Salary expenses for PhD students and postdocs.
- Secretarial and PA assistance.

Evaluation criteria

The fellowship applications will be evaluated on the following evaluation criteria:

- 1) The scientific quality of the proposed research project.
 - a. Scientific/intellectual merits of the proposed research: clear, convincing and compelling.
 - b. Description of research idea, and review of state of the art.
 - c. Novelty and originality.

- 2) The relevance of the proposed work and its broader impact, including an explanation of the length of the project, i.e. fellowship duration and the feasibility of the project in relation to the suggested budget.
- 3) The applicant
 - a. Academic qualifications and achievements in relation to the applicant's stage of career.
 - b. Research experience and level of independence.
 - c. Publication track record.
 - d. Motivation concerning research work within the AIAS framework.

Evaluation and selection process

After the application deadline, applications will be subject to an eligibility screening.

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated by a review panel. There will be a review panel for each of the four main academic areas of Arts, Health, Business & Social Sciences, and Science & Technology at Aarhus University.

Based on the evaluation by the review panels, selected applications will be sent in an international double blinded peer review.

The assessments of the peer reviewers will be forwarded to the AIAS Selection Committee (See the members of the Selection Committee [here](#)). Based on the reviewers' assessments and the recommendations by the Selection Committee, the AIAS Board of Directors will make the final decision on which applicants are to be offered a fellowship.

Timeline:

- Deadline for applications: **Friday 10 February 2017 at 12.00 (noon)**.
- Evaluation period: **February-May 2017**.
- Applicants will receive answers: **June 2017**.
- Fellowship periods will commence: **1 October 2017 or 1 February 2018**.

Sources of help and additional information

For additional information regarding the fellowship or AIAS programme in general, please feel welcome to contact:

- Helle Villekold, helv@au.dk or by phone: + 87153558.

For further information about the AIAS, please visit <http://aias.au.dk>