
GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

Jens Christian Skou Fellowships for 2020-2021

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 programme is talented researchers with at **least two** years of experience after completion of PhD, and beyond. 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

Jens Christian Skou Fellowships are available for AU Employees only; you must be in a tenured position or in a tenure track position 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.

Duration of fellowship

The duration of the fellowship can be from 6 up to 12 months. 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 is still 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 the 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 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 (max 5 pages, pdf-file format)** must be uploaded in Step 4

Budget

A fellowship at AIAS does not include a research budget as such. However, during the fellowship, fellows can apply for funding for carrying out scholarly events at AIAS, e.g. workshops, seminars and symposiums. The format and expenses of proposed events will be discussed in the light of possible audiences, assets to the AIAS environment, cofounding possibilities (AU units and external bodies), and of course their academic level and ambition.

Research travels e.g. participation in research-related seminars, conferences etc. relevant for the individual project and career development activities, will also be granted one by one during the fellowship. Please note that there should be balance between in-house and external activities.

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) Research environment and motivation concerning research work within the AIAS framework.
 - a. An account of why the AIAS framework as a multidisciplinary institute would have an added value for the research conducted and how it contributes to career development.
 - b. Visions and ideas on how to actively add the social and academic environment of AIAS.
- 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.
- 4) The relevance of the proposed work and its broader impact, including an explanation of the length of the project, i.e. fellowship duration.

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 from each of the five faculties of Arts, Health, Business & Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Technical Sciences at Aarhus University (see members of the review panels : <http://aias.au.dk/about-aias/review-panels/>).

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

The assessments of the peer reviewers will be forwarded to the AIAS Selection Committee (See the members of the Selection Committee <https://aias.au.dk/opportunities-at-aias/aiasfellowships/jens-christian-skou-fellowships/>). Based on the reviewers' assessments and the recommendations by the Selection Committee, the AIAS Board of Directors (<https://aias.au.dk/about-us/board-of-directors/>) will make the final decision on which applicants are to be offered a fellowship.

Timeline:

- Deadline for applications: **Friday 31 January 2020 at 12.00 (noon).**
- Evaluation period: **February-May 2020.**
- Applicants will receive answers: **June 2020.**
- Fellowship periods will commence: **1 October 2020, or 1 February 2021.**

Sources of help and additional information

For additional information regarding the fellowship or the AIAS programme in general, please contact: Helle Villekold, helle@aias.au.dk or by phone: + 87153558. Or visit: <http://aias.au.dk>