
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline: 3 February 2026



“Science Diplomacy” fellowships at Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS) is pleased to announce up to four theme-based fellowships of a duration of ten months, starting from September 2026 until June 2027.

AIAS-SD Fellowship Theme: Science Diplomacy

Interdisciplinary research collaboration and innovative ideas are prerequisites for tackling joint societal challenges. The complexity of global challenges, such as climate changes, security, pandemics and technological advancements, demands an integrated approach to international collaborations, where science plays an important role. Science diplomacy, operating at intersections of scientific collaboration, foreign policy and changing global world orders, increasingly emphasizes not only expert-driven science, but also broader societal engagement in research. Such approaches help ensure that scientific efforts consider the diverse concerns and values of different populations, making them more inclusive and relevant to societal needs. As a result, science diplomacy is becoming increasingly important for fostering cooperation and bridge understanding between institutions, countries and regions.

With the AIAS **Science Diplomacy** Theme Group fellowship, AIAS aims to continue to advance and consolidate the research-based focus and knowledge of the interdisciplinary relatedness of science diplomacy as an impactful factor across research fields. Examining case studies of science diplomacy efforts, such as global health initiatives, international digital humanities projects, transnational social science research, securitization and international relations or international space exploration offer valuable lessons for addressing future crises. In addition, it is increasingly important to assess how current and emerging technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing can be both a tool for diplomatic engagement and a source of competition.

The announced fellowships build on ongoing science diplomacy research at AIAS and continue the institute's initiative to develop perspectives and practices of science diplomacy grounded in scientific institutions and informed by insights from within the sciences.

The research fellows will be based at AIAS, a physical house with office space and facilities for interaction, in small, medium and large groups. AIAS has fellows from all fields of research and from all over the world which provides a unique interdisciplinary setting. This offers researchers the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary research, to broaden their research profile and to collaborate with an inspiring international and multidisciplinary community at AIAS, and Aarhus University as a whole. Applicants for a fellowship should bring intellectual curiosity and readiness to engage in discussions beyond any disciplinary boundaries and take an active part in the theme group on science diplomacy.

Who can apply

The call is open for researchers of any nationality and from all academic disciplines **with research profiles within the thematic scope of the call**. The target group of the programme is talented researchers at all career stages with a minimum of a PhD degree at the time of application. The call is open for all interested applicants; international, national and Aarhus University based researchers.

AIAS and Aarhus University strive to create a multidisciplinary, inclusive academic environment and to be an inspiring workplace for all by fostering a culture in which each individual has the opportunity to thrive, achieve, and develop. We view equality and diversity as assets, and we welcome all applicants.

Applicants apply individually, but the selected candidates are expected to also work together as a group during the fellowship.

The fellowship includes

- **Salary:** Fellows are offered a salary based on seniority (employment conditions and wages are regulated through the Danish collective union agreements). For successful applicants who are already employed at Aarhus University, the terms of the fellowship is contingent of a negotiation with the relevant head of department.
- **Travel costs:** For international fellows, the fellowship covers relocation travel expenses (amount subject to prior approval by AIAS) and offers relocation assistance.
- **Working environment:** Fellows will have office space at AIAS and can participate in academic training activities, conferences and workshops at AIAS. They will also be affiliated with the relevant research environments at Aarhus University.

How to apply: Application process and deadline

Applications must be submitted online via the application system: [GrantOne](#)

In the 'Guide for Applicants,' you can find the detailed application requirements, the structure of the online application system and the selection process and selection criteria.

After the application deadline, applications will be subject to an eligibility screening. A review and selection panel, consisting of the AIAS management and experts from Aarhus University, will evaluate each eligible proposal and make the final selection.

Timeline of the application process

- Opening of call: 19 November 2025.
- **Deadline for applications: 3 February 2026 at 12.00 (noon) CET.**
- Evaluation and selection period: February-March 2026.
- Applicants will receive answers: March 2026
- Fellowships begin: 1 September 2026.

Formalities

- Regarding the recruitment process, AIAS refers to the Danish Ministerial Order on the appointment of academic staff at universities under the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science.
- Appointment and salary are subject to agreement between the Ministry of Finance and The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations (AC).
- For further information on qualification requirements and job descriptions, please refer to [Memorandum on job structure for academic staff at Danish Universities](#).

Contact

For more information about the process, guidelines or the application system, please see the website:

<https://aias.au.dk/opportunities-at-aias/aias-shape-fellowships> or contact Programme Manager Helle Villekold at helle@aias.au.dk.