

Call for applications: Marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean

The Danish government has allocated funds to the programme *Marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean* in the period 2020-2023. The programme is run by Research Council Faroe Islands. It will be allocated in two or three rounds.

Approximately DKK 4 million are available in this first round. Final submission date 21.09.2020 12:00 GMT.

Maximum funding for each project is DKK 2 million. The plans are to fund two to three research projects.

Aim of the programme

The overarching aim of the programme is to generate new knowledge on the marine environment in the North Atlantic Ocean, especially the impact of climate change.

The programme also aims to promote cooperation between the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark on marine research.

Thematic framework

The programme is intended to provide new knowledge on challenges like the oceanic heat transport towards the North East Atlantic Ocean and the Arctic (the North Atlantic current), the separation between upper and deeper water masses (stratification), geographic distribution and growth and recruitment potential for commercially important fish stocks, and ocean acidification.

Added value of the programme

Collaboration will create outcomes and impact of greater value for the countries involved than could be achieved through national activities alone. Examples of such added value may be building critical mass; networking; sharing data, infrastructures and resources; enhancing scientific excellence.

Financial framework

The total budget for this call is approximately DKK 4 million. The maximum amount of funding available per project is DKK 2 million.

The duration of the project must be maximum four years.

Funding may be used for:

- Scientific/academic salaries (VIP)
- Technical/administrative salaries (TAP)
- Operating expenses (including data collection and analysis, travel costs, Open Access charges, and equipment expenses)
- Overhead/administration expenses (25% of salaries)

Salaries must be calculated according to the relevant national rules, and the respective organisations' own budgeting models.

The project leaders and key researchers are expected to participate to a reasonable extent in annual meetings with workshops within the framework of this call. Funding for this must be included in the application budget.

Funding will be granted for Danish, Faroese and Greenlandic research collaborations. A fair share of financing by the research consortium (cash or in-kind) is encouraged and must be documented in the detailed budget.

Partner institutions from outside these countries may participate with their own funding.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding, the following conditions must be met:

- Proposals must be submitted by email to gransking@gransking.fo by the call deadline.
- All proposals must be written in English and follow the structure set out in the application form.
- In each funded project, the consortium must include nationally eligible partners from at least two of the three countries.
- The host institution (project owner) for the project must be a research-performing organisation based in one of the three countries.
- The project leader must be a qualified researcher at the host institution.
- Researchers are encouraged not to apply as project leader for more than one application under this call. However, researchers can participate in more than one application and research institutions may be affiliated with more than one application.
- The proposal must include a signed Letter of Commitment from each partner institution. Letters of Commitment must be signed by a person authorised to take on financial commitments on behalf of the institution for the entire duration of the project.
- Projects should be based on the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and applications must include information on RRI-related aspects (public engagement, open access, gender, ethics and science education).

Applications that do not fulfil the above eligibility criteria will not be processed.

Submission of proposals

The project leader must submit the application form and the annexes on behalf of the research consortium no later than 12.00 GMT on 21st September 2020.

The proposal must contain all supporting documents as requested below:

- Application form with appendices
- Project plan (maximum standard 10 pages, including references).
- Management plan (maximum two standard pages).
- Communication and knowledge exchange strategy (maximum one standard page).
- Data management plan (maximum one standard page).
- An overall budget detailing the expected costs for the project. A specification on how the costs will be distributed among the different funding sources, including funding sought from Research Council Faroe Islands. The project partners' own contribution (cash and in-kind) to the project must be documented.
- CV, including a short list of maximum ten publications (maximum three standard pages for the project leader and one standard page for each key researcher).
- Description of research teams and gender balance in the project consortium (maximum one standard page).
- Letters of Commitment from all project partners.
- A description of the relevant legal and ethical frameworks and procedures needed to perform the research (maximum one standard page).

Standard pages: 2400 characters including spaces. This equals Times New Roman, 11 point, 1½ line spacing.

Assessment criteria

A panel of international experts will assess the proposals according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality of the research proposal
- Quality in implementation of the project
- Communication and knowledge exchange

The programme committee will assess the strategic relevance of the proposals to the call according to the following criteria:

- Alignment of the proposals with overall objectives and themes of the programme
- The added value of the proposed research collaboration for the region

Processing of proposals

Research Council Faroe Islands' guidelines on impartiality will be applied to handle possible conflicts of interest.

- **Eligibility:** An eligibility check of submitted proposals will be carried out by the administration according to the eligibility criteria described above.
- **Peer review:** Eligible proposals will be evaluated by international experts. The experts will use the assessment criteria as specified in this call.
- **Programme committee:** A programme committee will be appointed to implement the call and will assess various strategic considerations (as outlined above) in addition to the expert assessments to provide a final recommendation on funding.
- **Funding decision:** The Board of Research Council Faroe Islands will take the final funding decision. The funding decision will be announced in December 2020. All applicants will receive written feedback.

Management and monitoring of the research projects

Research Council Faroe Islands will sign a contract with the host institution for the project.

The research projects will be monitored through annual reporting consisting of a scientific progress report and a financial report. A final report must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

Responsible adviser:

Annika Sølvará
Email: Annika@gransking.fo

Phone: +298 567803

Tórshavn, Faroe Islands 9th July 2020

This call for proposals may be subject to revision until six weeks before the application submission deadline. If the call is revised, we will provide notification here.