

Call 2024: Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy in the North Atlantic

We invite applications for the programme **FASDiNA - Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy in the North Atlantic**.

The Danish government has allocated funds to the research programme Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy in the North Atlantic in the period 2023-2026. The programme is run by Research Council Faroe Islands.

The total budget for this first call is 6.9 million DKK. The plan is to fund two Research Projects and three or four Policy Papers.

The final submission date for Policy Papers is 15th March 2024 at 12:00 Faroese time (GMT +1)

The final submission date for Research Projects is 2nd May 2024 at 12:00 Faroese time (GMT +1)

Aims of the programme

The overarching aim of the programme is to generate new knowledge on Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy in the North Atlantic. Additionally, the programme aims to promote cooperation between the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark in this field.

Furthermore, the programme seeks to support capacity building in the area of Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Policy research in the Faroe Islands and Greenland through PhD and postdoc projects.

In order to increase the scientific knowledge foundation in the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark, a number of Policy Papers will be financed which will form the basis for discussion and debate and further research throughout the duration of the research programme.

Thematic framework

The declining Arctic sea ice due to climate change has opened up for new transport routes which has led to an increased international interest in the North Atlantic and Arctic region and opened up for new foreign policy and security related questions in the region.

The Faroe Islands and Greenland are facing growing pressure from superpowers seeking to influence the countries through commercial and political actions. These external influences may impact both internal and external dynamics, which shape the relationships between the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark.

The overall changes in the global geopolitical situation are directly affecting the Arctic region shown also by the termination of collaboration with Russia in the Arctic Council. This has created an urgent need to gain data and build competency on how to manoeuvre in the new reality of security in the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark. Given differences in geographical location, historical experiences, international alliances, power dynamics, and conflicting interests in some fields, research is crucial for clarification and contextualization.

We seek proposals within the fields of Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy, mainly but not exclusively considering aspects such as societal changes, trade, civil and military preparedness, digital and physical infrastructure, supply security, natural resources, low-tension policy, and conflicting interests.

Expected impact

Successful proposals are expected to contribute to enhancing the scientific standing of Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy in the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark, through capacity building; strengthening networks; data collection and data management; knowledge and infrastructure sharing; and the production of scientific excellence.

Research Projects

The maximum amount of funding available per project is 3 million DKK. The aim is to fund two projects.

Funding may be used for:

- Academic salaries
- Technical/administrative salaries
- Operating expenses (including data collection and data management, travel costs, Open Access fees)
- Equipment and infrastructure (max. 15% of applied budget)
- Overhead/administration expenses (25% of salaries)

Funding will be granted for research project based in the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and/or Denmark. Partner institutions from outside these countries may participate with their own funding.

The project period may be maximum four years.

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 in annual meetings/workshops within the framework of this programme upon invitation. Travel costs to these meetings will be covered by Research Council Faroe Islands.

Eligibility criteria

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

- The host institution (project owner) must be a research-performing organisation based in one of the three countries.
- The project leader must be a researcher employed at the host institution.
- The consortium must include partners from at least two of the three countries.
- 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).

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

In addition, we strongly recommend that early career researchers (PhD and postdoc) are based in the Faroe Islands or Greenland and that research stays in at least one of the other two countries are included.

Submission of applications

The project leader must submit the application with enclosures on behalf of the research consortium no later than 12.00 Faroese time (GMT +1) on 2nd May 2024. The application must be submitted via [the application portal](#).

The full application must contain all information required as requested below.

- **Information requested on the portal**
 - General information
 - Project summary (Max 800 characters)
 - Project consortium - Participants and description of research teams and gender balance in the project consortium (Max 2400 characters)
 - Budget summary
 - Communication and knowledge exchange strategy including public outreach (Max 1600 characters)
 - Data management plan (Max 1600 characters)
 - Description of the relevant legal and ethical frameworks and procedures needed to perform the research (Max 1600 characters)

- **Enclosures – in pdf-format**
 - Project description with implementation plan and risk assessment (Max 10 standard pages – [template](#)).
 - References – (Max 40 references)
 - An overall budget detailing the expected costs for the project, specified into the following posts: Salaries, expenses, and overhead.
A specification on how the costs will be distributed among the different funding sources, including funding sought from this call. The project partners' own contribution (cash and in-kind) to the project must be documented.
 - CV, including a list of maximum ten publications (maximum 3 standard pages for the project leader and 1 standard page for each key researcher).
 - Signed Letter of commitment from leader of host institution – ([template](#))
 - Letters of Commitment from all project partners.

Standard page definition for uploaded documents: 2400 characters including spaces. This equals Calibri, 12-point, 1½ line spacing. Please use the template for the project description.

Processing of proposals

Research Council Faroe Islands' guidelines on impartiality will apply when handling 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 following assessment criteria:
 - Scientific excellence
 - Potential scientific impact
 - Quality in the implementation and management plan
- **Strategic assessment:** The programme committee will assess the strategic relevance of the proposals to the call according to the following criteria:
 - Alignment with the overall aims and the thematic framework of this call
 - The impact of the proposed research collaboration for the region
- **Final decisions:** The programme committee will assess the scientific excellence and the strategic relevance of the proposals to the call to make the final decisions.

We expect the funding decision to be announced in September 2024. All applicants will receive written feedback.

Management and monitoring of the 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

Policy Papers

Funding will be granted for Policy Papers on Foreign Affairs, Security, and Defence Policy issues in the North Atlantic with special focus on the Faroe Islands and/or Greenland. These Policy Papers will form the basis for discussion and debate and further research throughout the duration of the research programme.

Definitions

A Policy Paper is a short and concise document on a specific topic.

A Policy Paper should not exceed 10 pages for the core document (excluding references), with a maximum of 3 additional pages of supporting annexes/appendices, if required.

An alternative format could be a short anthology, a compilation of shorter notes by different authors on a specific topic. Maximum 25 pages.

Policy Papers or short anthologies funded from this call are expected to explore, map or compile data for future research topics within the scope of this call.

The output is expected to be written in Danish or English and published as an Open Access electronic Paper. We recommend that it is also presented in a shorter version in national media, at online events, and shared widely on Social Media.

The maximum funding per Policy Paper is 250,000 DKK. The aim is to fund 3-4 Policy Papers.

Funding may be used for:

- Academic salaries
- Operating expenses (Travel costs, Open Access fees)
- Overhead/administration expenses (25% of salaries)

The project period may be maximum six months.

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

Eligibility criteria

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

- The host institution (project owner) must be a research-performing organisation based in one of the three countries.
- The project leader must be a researcher employed at the host institution.

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

The project leader must submit the application with enclosures no later than 12.00 Faroese time (GMT +1) on 15th March 2024. The application must be submitted via [the application portal](#).

The application must contain all information required as requested below.

- **Information requested on the portal**
 - General information
 - Project summary (Max 800 characters)
 - Budget summary
 - Communication and knowledge exchange strategy including public outreach (Max 1200 characters)
- **Enclosures – in pdf-format**
 - Project description (Max 3 standard pages).
 - An overall budget, specified into the following posts: Salaries, expenses, and overhead.
 - CV, including a list of maximum ten publications (Max 3 standard pages per participant).
 - Signed Letter of Commitment from Head of Host Institution.

Standard page definition for uploaded documents: 2400 characters including spaces. This equals Calibri, 12-point, 1½ line spacing. Please use the template for the project description.

Processing of proposals

Research Council Faroe Islands' guidelines on impartiality will apply when handling 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.
- **Assessment and decision:** The programme committee will assess the relevance of the proposals to the call according to the following criteria:
 - Alignment with the overall objectives and the thematic framework of this call
 - The potential of the proposed Policy Paper for future research collaboration in the regionThe programme committee will make the decisions based on the assessment.

We expect the funding decision to be announced in May 2024. All applicants will receive written feedback.

Management and monitoring of the projects

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

A final report consisting of a scientific progress report and a financial report must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

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Tórshavn, Faroe Islands 17th January 2024

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