

**Guidelines:**

# Industrial PhD

Please be aware that this document is a translation of the legally binding Danish version of the guidelines.

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## **1. The programme**

### **1.1 Industrial PhD – in brief**

An Industrial PhD project is a business-oriented research and education project that is implemented in collaboration between a private company, an Industrial PhD student and a university. The project shall comprise significant research of high quality and have direct or indirect business-related significance and effect in the short or long term. At the same time, the programme shall ensure that the Industrial PhD student obtains a PhD degree.

The Industrial PhD student must be employed in a company in Denmark and at the same time be enrolled at a university. The student will divide the working time between the company and the university and spend his or her full working hours in both places on the project and the education. The Industrial PhD student must have a supervisor both at the university and in the company as well as a co-supervisor in the company. The length of the project corresponds to the length of the education programme, which in Denmark is three years.

Industrial PhD is one of Innovation Fund Denmark's Industrial Researcher programmes and generally contributes to ensuring the Fund's objective of creating growth and employment in Denmark and supporting solutions to specific societal challenges. The Industrial Researcher programmes have the following specific objectives:

- To educate and develop research talents to industrial researchers
- To contribute to business-oriented research, development and innovation in Denmark
- To strengthen the collaboration between companies in Denmark and universities or research institutions at home and abroad

The Fund finances part of the Industrial PhD student's salary and travel expenses in the company as well as the university's supervision, equipment and other expenses for the student's education.

### **1.2 Thematisation of Industrial PhD**

On the basis of the research policy agreement 'Distribution of the research reserve' of 28 October 2021, The Innovation Fund Denmark is able to support Industrial Researcher projects that fall within at least one of the following three themes. If your project does not fall within these three themes, there is other funding possibilities that is not tied to a theme, this is described in section "Non-theme specific funds".

#### **Green research, technology development and innovation**

Innovation Fund Denmark invests in research projects that may develop the green technologies and solutions needed to convert Denmark to a sustainable future, where we reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect our environment and nature and create a green business adventure in Denmark. The investments relate to the government's green research strategy and are, among other things, aimed at strengthening innovation in the Danish business community.

**The theme relates to green projects within, e.g.:**

- Energy production and efficiency, including smart, integrated energy systems, digital solutions and intelligent utilisation of new technologies, P-to-X, carbon capture etc.
- Digitisation and data utilisation, driving the green transition. It may, among other things, be about digital monitoring and management of climate, environment and nature relevant conditions, e.g., by using big data, artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, cyber and information security as well as drones and digital infrastructure in the form of satellites etc.
- Climate-friendly agriculture and food production, including, e.g., emission-free food production and sustainable, plant-based foods
- Transport, environment and circular economy
- Nature and biodiversity
- Sustainable housing, construction and cities with a view to developing climate and environmental solutions
- Sustainable behaviour and societal consequences of the climate change, hereunder understanding and behaviour in relation to climate challenges and the green transition, as well as tools that can support the above
- Sustainable fashion and textiles, hereunder new product flows, re-/upcycling of materials and new materials

Key to the projects that may be supported is that they contribute to the green transition and have a relevant long-term sustainable impact, and that the expectations of these contributions can be made clear in the applications.

**Life science, health and welfare technology**

The theme shall support strategic and challenge-driven research, technology development and innovation within life science, health and welfare technology.

The funding shall contribute to creating societal value and economic growth for private and public companies and/or customers in the society, not least in the life science sector.

The research shall therefore, as far as possible, be carried out in close interaction between research institutions and the business community.

The research may contribute to the development of, e.g.,

- New technological or digital tools for the health and welfare sector
- Veterinary research
- New medicines and treatment options, herunder personalised medicine
- Development of the digital health area, herunder the health data area, using artificial intelligence in a health-related perspective
- Digital prevention and treatment options for people with physical and mental disorders
- Knowledge about the use of medical cannabis

### **Strategic and challenge-driven research and innovation within new technologies**

The theme supports strategic research and innovation within digitalisation and new technologies that may contribute to maintaining production and jobs in Denmark.

The funding shall strengthen research and innovation in a number of important digital and technological areas, e.g.,

- Robot and drone technology
- Automated production technology
- Advanced measurement and sensor technology
- Development and use of new materials and process technologies
- Big data and artificial intelligence
- Quantum technology and quantum computing
- Cyber and information security
- Space-based technology and data
- Innovation that creates less arduous jobs
- Technological solutions that support the digitisation of citizens' and consumers' opportunities
- The effort may, e.g., support the development of digital solutions for the benefit of the green transition, health and welfare

The research may also create new knowledge about the significance of digitalisation for people and society. Finally, the funding may be spent on research and innovation that create less arduous jobs or new forms of organisations.

### **Non-theme specific funds**

This funding is aimed at projects that do not fall within the three themes above. These projects may, e.g., be within the humanities or social sciences research. Grants awarded in the form of free funds shall meet exactly the same requirements as apply to the projects applying within the themes. When submitting the application, you need to argue why the project does not fall within one of the three themes above.

#### **1.3 Who may apply?**

An Industrial PhD project includes a company, a university and an Industrial PhD student and shall be considered as a collaboration. The partners shall make a distribution of the student's time in an appropriate way, ensuring a significant affiliation to both the university and the company.

The Innovation Fund Denmark wants to promote diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, all interested parties – regardless of professional area, ethnicity, religion, gender identity or age – are encouraged to apply for funding.

There are the following requirements for the partners:

#### **1.4 Company and company supervisors**

The company shall meet the following criteria:

- Have a branch with an independent CVR number geographically located in Denmark, where the Industrial PhD student is employed and can perform his or her work in the company
- Have the finances and facilities to manage the project throughout the entire project period
- Be financially independent of the university. This means that:
  - the university may own a maximum of 25% of the company; and
  - there may not be any significant<sup>1</sup> cash flow from the university to the company
- Assign a company supervisor and a company co-supervisor to the project
- Be part of the private sector
- Must not be an 'undertaking in difficulty' as defined in Article 2 (1), No. 18 of Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 declaring certain categories of aid compatible with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty
- Have complied with any repayment orders issued by the European Commission in one or more decisions where state aid granted by the Danish authorities has been found illegal and incompatible with the internal market
- Not be subject to compulsory dissolution, bankruptcy, voluntary liquidation or suspension of payments

To be part of the private sector, the company shall meet the following criteria:

- Be neither a state, nor a regional, nor a municipal organisation or be an interest organisation for public organisations
- Have a turnover of which no more than half is publicly funded (incl. EU subsidies and payments from citizens as required by law)

In case of doubt as to whether an organisation is part of the private sector, the organisation may submit articles of association and the most recent annual accounts to [erhvervsforsker@innofond.dk](mailto:erhvervsforsker@innofond.dk) to be assessed.

If the company is not part of the private sector, public organisations may apply in separate application rounds. Read more about this in section 7.

The company shall appoint both a supervisor and a co-supervisor. The supervisor is the company's formal representative in the project and collaborates with the Industrial PhD student and the university supervisor on the implementation of the project and the education. The company supervisor is responsible for the vocational supervision of the student. The co-supervisor shall ensure anchoring and guarantee the implementation of the project, e.g., if the company supervisor changes jobs. It is possible to appoint several co-supervisors and third parties.

The company supervisor and co-supervisor shall meet the following criteria:

- General experience within the project theme (research experience is not required)
- In-depth industry knowledge
- As a minimum a bachelor's degree or considerable experience with the subject area

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<sup>1</sup> There may not be any cash flow between the university and the company that causes financial dependency between them. Ordinary trade in products or services, etc. on commercial terms or redistribution of public project funding in collaboration projects is not considered to be a significant cash flow.

The company supervisor and co-supervisor do not have to be employed by the company, but must work in the private business sector on a daily basis.

### **1.5 University and university supervisor(s)**

The university participating in the project needs to meet the following criteria:

- Be a university or a higher education institution in Denmark or abroad that is officially approved to conduct a PhD programme
- Appoint a university supervisor to the project

The university appoints a supervisor to collaborate with the Industrial PhD student and the company on the implementation of the project and the programme. The university supervisor is the university's formal representative on the project and is responsible for the research-related supervision of the student.

The university supervisor participating in the project shall meet the following criteria:

- Be a recognised researcher within the project's subject area
- On a daily basis be employed in a research-relevant environment within the project's subject area
- Be employed at the university and affiliated with the PhD school

### **1.6 Industrial PhD candidate**

The Industrial PhD candidate shall meet the following criteria:

- Have a project-relevant education, completed with a master's degree
- Have a grade of at least 10 (or equivalent for foreign educations) in the thesis/final project
- Have grades that meet the below requirements

Besides, it is possible to apply with a candidate who, as a maximum, lacks the last six months of his/her education programme. If the application is approved, the candidate needs to complete his/her programme, thereby meeting the grade requirements, within six months of receiving approval of the project.

#### **Grade requirements for Danish educations**

As an Industrial PhD candidate, you need to achieve one of these two levels for grade-point averages:

- Master's and bachelor's degree combined: Weighted average of at least 8.2 on the 7-point scale or 9 on the 13-point scale
- For a two-year master's degree alone: Weighted average of at least 9.5 on the 7-point scale or 9.4 on the 13-point scale

As a starting point, a two-year master's degree or a corresponding foreign master's degree is expected (see below). A Danish one-year master's degree with a prior bachelor's degree will not directly qualify, but if the candidate can document compensatory experience, this may qualify the candidate (see section 'Exemption from grade requirements'). A Danish one-year master's degree without a prior education at bachelor level cannot in itself qualify for an Industrial PhD project.

If a master's degree programme is completed without a thesis grade, a supplementary written assessment of the thesis or final project shall be submitted. The assessment shall be approved by the educational institution's study board.



The candidate is assessed on the basis of full diplomas and a completed grade calculation form. The form can be found on our [website](#).

### **Grade requirements for foreign educations**

An Industrial PhD candidate with a foreign education does not have to live up to a specific grade requirement. Instead, the candidate must be among the top 30% in his/her year group for the master's and bachelor's degree programmes combined. The application shall therefore include documentation for the candidate's placement. The documentation must be signed by the institution where the education was completed. The documentation shall be in Danish, English, Norwegian or Swedish.

### **Exemption from grade requirements**

A candidate with a grade point average, thesis grade or year group placement at a slightly lower level than required may be approved on the following conditions. The candidate may compensate for *either*

- a grade point average which is at most 1.1 grade points too low (applies only to Danish educations), or
- a thesis grade of at least 4 on the 7-point scale, or
- a thesis grade of at least 7 on the 13-point scale, or
- a year group placement that is at most 20% too low (applies only to foreign educations), or
- a one-year Danish master's degree, while otherwise meeting all grade requirements

*Provided that* the candidate has either:

- as lead author published at least one peer-reviewed, project-relevant article in a recognised scientific journal and/or at a recognised scientific conference, or
- at least one year of professional experience with the subject area and also, as a co-author, published at least one peer-reviewed, project-relevant article in a recognised scientific journal and/or at a recognised scientific conference.

Publications and work experience that are expected to be taken into consideration as compensatory factors shall be stated in the candidate's CV. Also, the academic relevance and reputation of the journal/conference shall be briefly explained.

### **Pre-assessment of candidates**

Innovation Fund Denmark does not offer pre-assessment of candidates. However, candidates who have a foreign education and cannot obtain information about their year group placement, may enclose a pre-assessment by the PhD school the candidate wishes to apply to. The pre-assessment must reflect that the PhD school has assessed that the candidate is likely to live up to the grade requirements that apply to candidates with Danish educations. Furthermore, it shall be apparent that the PhD school, if the grant is obtained, will enrol the candidate, and that the candidate thereby fulfils the PhD school's admission requirements. The pre-assessment shall, maximally, be one page long, and it must be signed by a relevant person at the PhD school, giving the full name and title of the signatory.

### **Several companies share an Industrial PhD project**

It is possible for several companies to join forces in an Industrial PhD project. It will be assessed whether the companies jointly have the finances to carry out the project. One of the companies shall be the project responsible applicant which employs the candidate, pays salary and receives the funding.

## 2. What can I apply for investment in?

The Innovation Fund Denmark finances part of the company's expenses for the Industrial PhD student's salary and travel activity and the university's expenses for the project. The Innovation Fund Denmark will pay out funding to both the company and the university, and the funding may only be spent on the company's and the university's own project costs, respectively.

### 2.1 How big an investment can I apply for?

#### Funding for the company

The Innovation Fund Denmark finances up to DKK 17,000 per month of the Industrial PhD student's salary for three years, however, as a maximum 50% of the total salary (actual salary expenses calculated on the basis of the annual gross salary, including pension, insurance and holiday pay).

The company will also have DKK 100,000 available for the Industrial PhD student's

- travels (the Industrial PhD student's participation in project-relevant conferences at home and abroad as well as stays abroad) and
- participation in PhD courses that yield ECTS points, and which are not offered at the host university.

The above includes one return trip to the destination per stay, visa, travel insurance, accommodation and university fees. Meals, daily/local transport, books, etc. are not covered. Up to DKK 5,000 of the DKK 100,000 may be spent on the company supervisor's project-relevant travel expenses. An additional DKK 5,000 may be spent on the university supervisor's project-relevant travel expenses.

If the host university for the Industrial PhD programme is located outside Denmark, an additional up to DKK 122,000 will be given as grants for travel and accommodation at the university. This includes one round trip ticket to the destination, visa, travel insurance and accommodation. Meals, daily/local transport, books, etc. are not covered. The host university is the university that enrolls the student during the entire programme, is responsible for the primary supervision, is responsible for the programme and issues the PhD degree upon completion of the programme.

The company shall pay all other expenses for the project, including equipment, materials and data collection. This also includes personal equipment for the Industrial PhD student, such as laptop and mobile phone.

Please note that a maximum of 50% of a company's total expenses for an Industrial PhD project may be financed by public funds.

Investments in the Industrial Researcher Programme are provided in accordance with the framework of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on certain categories of aid and their compatibility with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty), Chapter 1 (Articles 1-12) and Chapter 3 (Articles 25 and 30).

#### Funding for the university

The Innovation Fund Denmark will grant the university a fixed amount of DKK 360,000 (incl. overhead) to cover:

- Supervision of the Industrial PhD student
- The Industrial PhD student's work facilities at the university, including equipment, materials, apparatus (acquisition and/or use) as well as external services necessary to complete the university part of the project
- The Industrial PhD student's participation in relevant PhD courses at the host university
- Assessment of the PhD thesis
- Dissemination of results, including printing of the thesis

## **2.2 What can the investment finance, and how long may the project last?**

The financing from Innovation Fund Denmark may cover a maximum of 50% of the project costs in the company, up to the above stated limits.

The length of the project corresponds to the length of the education programme, which in Denmark is three years. If the project lasts more than three years, e.g., in connection with a foreign PhD programme, the Fund will finance up to DKK 17,000 per month for the company, but only for the last three years of the project. Likewise, the university will only receive funding for the last three years of the project period.

Innovation Fund Denmark reserves the right to discontinue the project if the PhD degree has not been achieved within five years after the start of the project.

## **3. Application**

### **3.1 How do I apply?**

Your application must be created and submitted via the electronic application system: [www.egrant.dk](http://www.egrant.dk)

The company supervisor must create and submit the application. The university supervisor must also register at [www.egrant.dk](http://www.egrant.dk). After creating the application, the company supervisor shall add the university supervisor who participates in the application. The same applies to the Industrial PhD candidate if applying for a specific candidate. These steps are necessary for the application to be processed.

Prior to the application being created, applicants shall register as a user of the system with either a username and password or with NemID.

You create a new application by locating the relevant call under 'Search options' and press 'Start your application'. Note that the list of search options is sorted alphabetically, and that the names of all calls from The Innovation Fund Denmark will start with 'IF'.

You may write your application in either Danish or English or in a combination of the two languages.

### **3.2 What shall the application include?**

In the application to Innovation Fund Denmark, you shall describe the Industrial PhD project and the persons and organisations participating in the project. A statement of how the project contributes to the themes or falls outside the themes is part of the application.

The application shall contain a description of the following:

- Objectives and success criteria
- Business significance and effect
- State-of-the-art and possibly theoretical background
- Project description
- Expected publications
- Courses, conferences and stays abroad
- Structure and schedule
- Time distribution
- Company
- Research institution
- Possible third parties

The template can be found at <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/industrial-researcher>. In addition to the above, the application shall also include:

- CV of supervisors
- CV of candidate, if any
- Complete diplomas for candidate, if any
- Signatures by the project partners

If the application does not comply with the formal requirements and deadlines stated in the application form in e-grant and in the appendix templates, or if incorrect templates have been used, Innovation Fund Denmark may reject the application without active consideration, i.e., without assessment of the academic content of the application. This also applies if the project partners do not meet the formal requirements as described in sections 1.4 and 1.5.

The application deadlines are determined on an ongoing basis and published at <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/industrial-researcher>. The application and all communication shall be in Danish, English or a combination of the two languages.

A company and a university may apply without a specific Industrial PhD candidate. If the application is approved, the partners need to find and have a qualified candidate approved within six months.

The Fund publishes titles, summaries and participants in approved projects on Innovation Fund Denmark's website. Therefore, you need to make sure that the title and summary do not contain information that you wish to keep secret.

## **4. Assessment**

### **4.1 How does the assessment process take place?**

The first assessment step is an assessment of whether your application meets the administrative requirements described in these guidelines.

The second assessment step is an academic assessment of the application. The basis for the assessment is the material which you as an applicant submitted via e-grant, and which is within the framework of the Industrial Researcher scheme's guidelines. In addition, the assessors will rely on the prior knowledge they possess, i.e. the reason why they can be appointed as assessors, as well as knowledge that can be obtained through publicly available sources (e.g., literature and article databases, patent databases and company databases) and searches on the Internet.

#### **4.2 Who evaluates the application?**

The Innovation Fund Denmark's Industrial Researcher Committee (EFU), consisting recognised researchers as well as research and business experts within various disciplines, will assesses the applications. The Committee makes a recommendation to the Fund that will make the final decision.

The Committee may decide to obtain external assessments in cases where additional professional or academic competencies are needed for the assessment – in such cases, the external assessment will be submitted to the applicant for consultation. The applicant need to be aware that if an external assessment is used, the assessment that the applicant receives in consultation will only constitute part of the overall assessment basis. Thus, the final assessment may yield a different result than what is indicated in the submitted assessment.

#### **4.3 How will the application be evaluated?**

The application will be assessed on the basis of the following assessment criteria:

##### **The quality of the idea**

The project must generally be at PhD level and, realistically, it shall be possible to complete it within the project period. Specifically, the quality of the project will be assessed in relation to:

- Research-relevant news value
- Quality of description of state-of-the-art within the area
- Relevance and level of the theoretical basis
- Quality of hypotheses/research questions
- Relevance and concretisation of selected methods and data basis

##### **Impact**

The project must have a clear business significance and effect for the Danish part of the company and be assessed specifically in relation to:

- The expected contribution of the results to the company's business foundation and/or earnings
- Plan for and probability of implementation and commercial realisation of the results

##### **Quality in execution**

The application must demonstrate that the project is well organised, and that the partners are competent and relevant. The following will be specifically assessed:

- Feasibility and organisation of the project (including structure and time schedule, role distribution, student time distribution, dissemination and publication schedule)
- The establishment of a significant association between the student and both the company and the university

- The quality of the project partners' qualifications

#### **4.4 How do I receive a response to my application?**

An Industrial PhD application may be approved, conditionally approved or rejected. The applicant will receive a response through e-grant.

##### **Conditional approval**

If the application is approved conditionally, you will receive a decision outlining the conditions for final approval of the case in e-grant. If, e.g., you have applied without a candidate, it will be a condition that you find a qualified candidate. You submit documentation for fulfilment of the conditions to the Fund via e-grant. If the Fund assesses that the conditions have been met, you will receive the Fund's official approval. The conditions shall be met no later than six months after the decision.

##### **Rejection**

If the application is rejected, you will receive a reasoned rejection of the case in e-grant. It is possible to reapply at the next application deadline, choosing the same or a different theme (see section 1.2.). When re-applying, you need to explain how the grounds for rejection have been remedied. All material, hereunder new signatures, shall be resubmitted upon re-application, and the application shall be re-created in e-grant. It is possible to get a short, written elaboration on the rejection. You can ask for this by writing to [erhvervsforsker@innofond.dk](mailto:erhvervsforsker@innofond.dk) with up to three specific questions regarding the rejection. Remember to write the case number in the email.

#### **4.5 When will I receive a response to my application?**

As a rule, the Industrial Researcher Committee (EFU) processes the application within two months. The Committee may decide to obtain more information from the applicant for the assessment. In that case, the processing time may be longer.

## **5. From approval to start-up of project**

### **5.1 What happens after my application is approved?**

An approved Industrial PhD project starts from the date on which the university enrolls the candidate as a PhD student. The enrolment date shall be on or after the date of the Fund's approval of the project. An approved project shall start no later than six months after approval. If the condition is not met within six months, e.g., because no candidate has been found, or because the candidate has not completed his/her education programme, the Fund reserves the right to withdraw the grant.

If the project is approved, the Fund will create a grant case on [www.e-grant.dk](http://www.e-grant.dk). You must submit financial accounts, reports and other written documents to the Fund via e-grant, depending on your obligations in the project. Likewise, you ask for approval of project changes and otherwise communicate with the Fund's employees via e-grant.

The company supervisor is responsible for the company's communication with the Fund via e-grant, hereunder that the company submits the required documents via e-grant. The university supervisor is

responsible for the university's communication with the Fund via e-grant, hereunder that the university submits the required documents via e-grant.

## **5.2 Terms of employment and training for the Industrial PhD student**

### **Employment**

In an Industrial PhD project, the Industrial PhD student must be employed full time in the company and thus work under the conditions that apply to private employment. The student's work assignments and time shall be fully used on the Industrial PhD project and programme, and the employment contract shall explicitly release the student from assignments that are not directly related to the project. Also, the student's time shall be distributed between the company and the university in way that is appropriate for the project, ensuring affiliation to both environments. The employment shall, as a minimum, be subject to the general terms and conditions for salaried employees. Other terms of employment may follow from a collective agreement, if any, or from an individual agreement.

Non-compete clauses or the like in the employment contract shall not limit the possibility for the student to obtain employment elsewhere. In addition, the employment contract shall not contain education clauses or the like that require the student to reimburse the company's expenses for the programme upon termination of the programme or in the event of a change of job after a completed Industrial PhD project.

### **Pay**

The Industrial PhD student's total salary (the sum of salary and pension) shall at least correspond to the total salary for PhD fellows employed in the state as determined in the relevant collective agreement. You may find salary rates at <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/industrial-researcher> or on the unions' websites. Questions about specific salary levels may be directed to the unions.

## **6. During the project**

If the project is approved, the Fund will create a grant case on [www.e-grant.dk](http://www.e-grant.dk). You must submit financial accounts, reports and other written documents to the Fund via e-grant, depending on your obligations in the project. Likewise, you ask for approval of project changes and otherwise communicate with the Fund's employees via e-grant.

The company supervisor is responsible for the company's communication with the Fund via e-grant, hereunder that the company submits the required documents via e-grant. The university supervisor is responsible for the university's communication with the Fund via e-grant, hereunder that the university submits the required documents via e-grant.

### **6.1 Kick-off meeting and Industrial PhD course**

The Industrial PhD student must participate in the Fund's Industrial PhD course. The Industrial PhD course constitutes 5 of the 30 ECTS credits that are a mandatory part of PhD courses in a Danish PhD degree programme. Participation in PhD courses is part of the student's working hours.

The student will be invited to the course during the first year of the programme. Read more about the Industrial PhD course at <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/industrial-researcher>. Please note that the Fund passes on personal information about the student to the course provider.

It is mandatory for both the company supervisor, the university supervisor and the candidate to attend a kick-off meeting. You can read more about the meeting on the website.

### **Dissemination obligation**

In a Danish PhD programme, the student must gain experience with knowledge dissemination that is related to the PhD project, cf. Chapter 3, Section 7 of the Danish PhD Order. The dissemination may consist of articles, lectures, teaching and other exchange of knowledge in the company, at the university or elsewhere. The scope, nature and content of the dissemination of knowledge is agreed between the company, the student and the university.

The Industrial PhD student is not employed at the university and therefore has no collective agreement-based teaching obligation. However, if all project partners agree, teaching at the university may be part of the dissemination of knowledge. All dissemination activities should be mutually agreed in the project and included in a collaboration agreement before the project starts.

## **6.2 How will the investment be paid out?**

### **Company**

The company receives 85% of the total company grant when the project starts. The company receives the grant on the NemKonto which is linked to the company's CVR number.

The company receives the last part of the total grant when the Fund – at the end of the project – has received and approved:

- Final accounts
- Auditor's statement
- Final assessment of the project

The company's grant expenditures during the project period shall be stated in the final accounts. The Fund will then settle with the company. Be aware that this may mean that the company shall pay back some of the prepaid grant at the end of the project.

At the same time, the company shall declare in good faith that the total public subsidies to the company do not exceed 50% of the company's total project costs, cf. Appendix 1.

The final assessment evaluates the project in relation to effects, results and process in the company. The Fund shall not receive other academic reporting during the project.

### **University**

The university receives 85% of the university grant when the project starts. The last 15% is paid out when the Fund has received documentation that the student has obtained the PhD degree. If the student does not obtain the PhD degree, the last 15% will lapse.



### **6.3 Do I have to submit a financial statement or report during the project?**

The university supervisor and PhD school shall ensure the ongoing academic follow-up of the project, while the company supervisor shall ensure the anchoring of the project in the company. The Fund's follow-up therefore focuses on the collaboration, results and effects.

Eighteen months after the start of the Industrial PhD project, the student shall fill in a questionnaire about status and collaboration internally in the project. The answers shall give the Fund insight into the projects' collaboration practices in Industrial PhD projects. On this basis, the Fund may conduct follow-up meetings in selected projects to learn more.

At the end of the project, the company shall complete a final report that evaluates the project in terms of effects, results and process. Submission of a final report is one of the prerequisites for the Fund to make the final payment to the company.

The Fund shall not receive other academic reporting during the project. The Industrial PhD student's achievement of the PhD degree will be documentation that the project has lived up to the academic requirements for a PhD programme.

### **6.4 What will happen if I cannot comply with the plan?**

#### **Duty to inform and approval of changes**

The company and the university shall immediately notify the Fund if there are significant changes in the basis for the grant. This includes, among other things, a change of supervisor, leave, major interruptions or delays and significant academic changes. Significant academic changes are changes that are so extensive that the project cannot be immediately recognised when compared to the project that was originally approved.

The project may only continue when and if the Fund approves the changes. If the duty to inform is not complied with, the Fund may decide that the grant ceases, and that any funding paid out shall be repaid. The change request shall be submitted via e-grant.

#### **Leave of absence**

Leave may be requested for the Industrial PhD student. The request shall be submitted via e-grant.

The Fund must approve the request before the leave may start. The Fund does not provide grants during leave periods, incl. maternity and sick leave. The end date of the project will be postponed in accordance with the leave period and, instead, the grant will be provided during the extended period. If the company receives reimbursement from another public sectors due to, e.g., maternity leave or long-term illness of the student, it is necessary to apply for leave from the Industrial PhD project.

#### **If a project is interrupted**

If an Industrial PhD course is interrupted, the project participants shall prepare a joint statement regarding the course and the reason for the interruption. The statement shall be signed by the company, the university and the student and be received by the Fund no later than three months after the interruption.

The company may be ordered to repay grants received if it interrupts or prevents a planned completion of an Industrial PhD programme, which the university and the student still have an interest in and the prerequisites necessary for continuing. Likewise, the Industrial PhD student shall live up to the work obligations agreed in the application.

#### **6.6 What do I need to do at the end of the project?**

The university shall approve the entire PhD programme and award the PhD degree after the PhD thesis has been deemed suitable and defended in a public forum. If the Industrial PhD student is enrolled at a foreign university, this university shall award the PhD degree in accordance with the national regulations of that country.

The university sets up the PhD assessment committee. In an Industrial PhD at a Danish university, at least one member of the PhD assessment committee shall have company-relevant research experience from the subject area, cf. Chapter 11, Section 27 of the PhD Order.

After approval of the PhD thesis, the Fund awards an Industrial PhD diploma to the student. The Fund shall receive documentation for achievement of a PhD degree via e-grant in order to issue the Industrial PhD diploma and pay out the last part of the university's grant.

### **7. Industrial PhD in the public sector**

If an organisation, cf. section 2, is not categorised as a private company, it is – in the context of Industrial Researcher – considered to be a public organisation.

The organisation may apply for an Industrial PhD in the public sector in connection with the call for Industrial Researcher for public companies. Please check the website regularly for notices and deadlines for public Industrial PhD. The grant amounts are the same as for private companies. The thematisation of the Industrial Researcher programmes described in section 1.2 also applies to Industrial PhD projects in the public sector. See further at <https://innovationsfonden.dk/en/programmes/industrial-researcher>.

The purpose of Industrial Researcher in the public sector is:

- To support research, development and innovation in the public sector through targeted and application-oriented research projects
- To develop researchers with insight into research, development and innovation in the public sector
- To build networks and support knowledge sharing between public organisations and research institutions

#### **7.1 Special conditions**

Public organisations that have the authority to issue PhD degrees may not act as a host company in a public Industrial PhD project, but may act as a university at any time. Other public institutions, e.g., university hospitals, may only function as a host company in a public Industrial PhD project within the research-relevant main areas (social sciences, health sciences, etc.), in which they do not already have permanent research activities.

The company supervisors must work in the public sector on a daily basis rather than in the private sector.

## 7.2 Special assessment criteria

No financial effect is required for the applicant company in connection with a public Industrial PhD project. Instead, the project shall be judged on the news and use-value it has for the organisation.

The use-value for the organisation may, e.g., consist of:

- streamlining
- knowledge building that directly increases the organisation's competencies
- systematic dissemination of knowledge
- strengthening the quality of the organisation's work or services.

In addition to the use-value of the organisation, a public Industrial PhD project must be of benefit to society. The project is therefore also assessed on its broader societal benefit.

A broader societal benefit might, e.g., be that the use-value the project has for the institution:

- is disseminated to other similar organisations
- leads to improved living conditions for citizens in the community
- leads to improved conditions for the business community

In addition to the above special assessment criteria, the criteria for the quality of the idea and the quality of execution, cf. section 4.3, also apply to public Industrial PhD applications.

## **8. Information management**

### **Registration of information**

The e-grant application system will automatically register selected information. When you register as a user, e-grant registers your identity, IP address and the time when the application was created or edited.

### **Applicant's responsibility**

It is the applicant's responsibility that the information in the electronic application is correct, that the necessary appendices are attached to the application, that the content of the appendices is correct, and that the application is submitted prior to the expiration of the application deadline.

Innovation Fund Denmark generally does not ask for further information for use in the processing of the application unless this is indicated in the other sections of the guidelines. Likewise, submitted material and other documentation attached to the application in addition to the specified application material will generally not be included in the application assessment.

The applicant is obliged to inform Innovation Fund Denmark immediately if there are significant changes in the submitted information, hereunder if funding has been received for the project or parts of it from third parties.

### **Correction of application information**

It is not possible to correct the content of the application after the application deadline, except for correction of possible personal information.

### **Procuring other information**

If funding for the project has been applied for or will be applied for elsewhere, Innovation Fund Denmark reserves the right to obtain information on whether the amounts have been granted.

## **9. Publication of information**

Innovation Fund Denmark will publish an overview of applications that receive a grant, and the partners in the investment project may in this connection be asked to write a brief, simply worded description of the project which may subsequently be published.

In addition, information about the project manager's title, name, place of employment and email address, the names of the participating partners, the project's title and duration, key figures from the investment and the size of the investment may be published in the Danish National Research Database ([www.forskningsdatabasen.dk](http://www.forskningsdatabasen.dk)), on the Fund's website ([www.innovationsfonden.dk](http://www.innovationsfonden.dk)) and in Innovation Fund Denmark's publications.

Applicants shall also be aware that information may be passed on to the extent that access is requested according to, among other things, the Public Records Act. Access to documents may, e.g., be given in the form of lists of who has applied and for what (applicants' names, application titles and amounts applied for).

Therefore, the applicant shall be mindful that the title of the application does not contain information about activities that are to be kept secret. In relation to the applications, Innovation Fund Denmark will, in dialogue with the applicants (including the companies), ensure that no business-sensitive information or other information is provided that may not be lawfully disclosed.

### **Open access**

Innovation Fund Denmark has adopted the provisions of the '[Open Access-politik for offentlige forskningsråd og fonde](#)'. This means that published scientific articles which are the result of full or partial funding from Innovation Fund Denmark, shall be made freely available to everyone via Open Access, if the scientific journal allows it.

### **RPI and the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**

Innovation Fund Denmark emphasises Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), which aims to create a better connection between research and innovation processes and results and society's values and needs. In Innovation Fund Denmark, we promote RRI both in the Fund's overall strategies and through our projects, and we adhere to the EU Commission's definition and implementation of RRI.

[Read more about RRI and our requirements on Innovation Fund Denmark's](#) website (under rules of procedure, rules concerning competence to act, etc.).

Please note that the projects in which Innovation Fund Denmark invests shall involve relevant stakeholders and institutions in the research and innovation process. One inherent element is that projects that have or may have a great impact on society and/or the individual citizen, ethically or technologically, shall enter into direct dialogue with the general public to ensure the dissemination of information and relevant discussion in society.

Innovation Fund Denmark reserves the right to establish specific requirements for the projects in which the Fund invests. In cases where the project deals with technologies or processes that may have a significant impact on society, the consequences of the technology or processes shall be clearly described in the application. It is therefore expected that these projects include all relevant competencies and methods, and that socially relevant research angles are integrated – e.g., anthropology or similar.

Innovation Fund Denmark also supports the principles set out in [the national code of conduct for integrity in Danish research](#). Innovation Fund Denmark expects that funded projects adhere to the instructions in the RRI and the Code of Conduct.

### **Data management**

Innovation Fund Denmark encourages that handling of project-generated data takes place in accordance with the FAIR principles (FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable), as described in the EU 'Guidelines on FAIR Data Management in Horizon 2020' (version 3.0, 26 July 2016).

In this way, it is possible to, e.g., build on previous research results, verify results by other researchers, avoid duplication of work, accelerate innovation and create transparency and credibility about results.

## 10. About these guidelines

### 10.1 Legal basis

These guidelines have been established in accordance with section 18, subsection 2 (1) in the Danish Act on the Innovation Fund Denmark, cf. Consolidation Act No. 1660 of 12 August 2021, and Ministerial Order No. 1150 of 25 October 2017 on the grant function, etc. under Innovation Fund Denmark.

Investments in the Industrial Researcher programme are provided in accordance with the framework of the General Block Exemption Regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of 17 June 2014 on certain categories of aid and their compatibility with the internal market pursuant to Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty), Chapter 1 (Articles 1-12) and Chapter 3 (Articles 25 and 30).

### 10.2 Technical disclaimer

The Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science is responsible for e-grant and has a duty to inform about errors that make e-grant so inaccessible that it affects the applicant's ability to submit e-applications within the application deadline. Information on inaccessibility will appear on [Uddannelses- og forskningsministeriets hjemmeside/Drift status](#).

In particularly serious cases, Innovation Fund Denmark may extend the application deadline for all relevant applicants. This will likewise appear on [Uddannelses- og forskningsministeriets hjemmeside/Drift status](#) as well as [Innovationsfondens hjemmeside](#).

Innovation Fund Denmark and the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science are not liable for incorrect information as a result of software errors, calculation errors, transmission errors and similar errors, or for any claims for compensation as a result of the incorrect use of e-grant.