

Guidelines for applicants

# Grants for access to the Gefion AI Supercomputer



## Facts about the call

**Total amount available for granting:**

DKK 50 million

**Call opens:**

25 April 2025

**Call closes:**

21 May 2025, 14.00 (CEST)

**Applicant notification:**

Late June 2025

Vouchers for GPU hours will be issued on the notification date and must be used within 6 months.

**Review committee:**

Internal NNF committee: Committee on access to the Gefion AI supercomputer

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All Grant Recipients must comply with the terms and conditions stated in the voucher letter.

The Foundation will treat all applicant and application information confidentially. Read more about how the Foundation processes personal data under 'privacy & security' in the online application system, NORMA. See how to access NORMA in section 2 of these guidelines.

You can find more information about the Foundation's application and granting process at the [NORMA Help Centre](#). Detailed information about the different parts of the application is available in NORMA.



# 1 Grants for access to the Gefion AI Supercomputer

## 1.1 Purpose

The primary scope of the “Grants for access to the Gefion AI Supercomputer” programme is to accelerate research projects by utilising the computational power of Gefion. Through this programme, the Novo Nordisk Foundation (the Foundation) awards vouchers to academic users, enabling them to utilise the Gefion AI Supercomputer for a specified number of GPU hours. Applicants should ensure their projects are in a mature state, ready to utilise the supercomputer’s resources effectively within 2025.

The Danish Centre for AI Innovation (DCAI) runs and operates Gefion, a large-scale NVIDIA DGX SuperPOD. It comprises 191 NVIDIA DGX H100 systems for a total of 1,528 NVIDIA H100 Tensor Core GPUs (more information at <https://dcai.dk/>).

## 1.2 Areas of support

The programme supports research projects involving computationally demanding tasks, such as simulations, data analysis, and training of AI models. These projects can encompass various applications, including but not limited to, large language models, simulations of physical or chemical systems, and other complex computational challenges. The supported fields include medical sciences, life sciences, sustainability, or natural and technical sciences, in alignment with the Foundation’s [2030 Strategy](#).

## 1.3 Eligibility

To be eligible for a grant, the following requirements must be met:

- The applicant must be employed at or affiliated with a university, hospital, or other non-profit research institution in Denmark. This institution will serve as administering institution for the grant.
- The applicant must have obtained a PhD degree; researchers at any career stage after obtaining their PhD are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must clearly demonstrate their ability to work with advanced supercomputing in their CV. No specific scientific background is required, but

applicants typically have training in computer science, mathematics, physics, computational chemistry, or computational biology. If the applicants' background does not directly indicate supercomputing expertise, they must explain how they will ensure that the necessary skills are available for the project.

- Applicants are eligible to apply for GPU hours for projects funded by active grants from the Foundation, however it is not a requirement. If the applicant is not the grant holder of the active grant, a support letter from the existing grant holder should be uploaded.
- Applicants may submit only one application for this call.

## 1.4 Funding (vouchers)

Grants will be awarded as vouchers for GPU hours on Gefion. From the date a voucher has been issued, it must be used within 6 months.

**In this call, the Foundation will only award vouchers for GPU hours. The Foundation will, as usual, not award funding for:**

- Commercial activities
- Overhead/indirect costs (such as rent, electricity, water and maintenance)
- Double funding of projects:
  - If the applicant has received funding for the proposed project from other sources, in part or in full, this must be accounted for in the budget, as no budgetary overlaps are allowed
  - If an identical or overlapping project proposal has been submitted to other funding institutions than the Foundation, it must be noted in the application
  - If the applicant receives funding for the project, or parts of the project, from other sources following submission of the application to the Foundation, the Foundation must be informed immediately

## 1.5 Language

The application and all additional materials must be submitted in English.

## 1.6 Application process

When all applications have been assessed, applicants will be notified about whether they have been awarded a grant. The notification e-mail will be sent from [norma-noreply@novo.dk](mailto:norma-noreply@novo.dk) to the e-mail address used when creating a profile in NORMA.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Foundation does not provide feedback in case an application is declined.

## 1.7 Assessment criteria

The Foundation's Internal Committee on "Access to the Gefion AI supercomputer" will assess the applications based primarily on the following criteria:

- **Necessity of using Gefion:** The project's need for at-scale computing.
- **Project maturity:** The readiness of the project for execution on a supercomputer and the demonstrated ability of the applicant to execute the needed workflows.
- **Technical advantage:** How effectively Gefion will solve the project's problem.
- **Scientific impact:** the potential scientific impact of using Gefion for the proposed project, including the advancement of knowledge and innovation.
- **Alignment with the Foundation's strategy:** The alignment of the proposed research with the Foundation's [Strategy 2030](#).
- **Support for open science:** It is encouraged to support open and reproducible science through sharing code and data, including adherence to the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) data principles.



## 2 The application and grant management system NORMA

### 2.1 Creating and submitting an application

The Foundation uses the application and grant management system NORMA:

<https://norma.novonordiskfonden.dk>

If you do not have a user profile in NORMA, you can create one by clicking **Register** on the login page. The main applicant should only have one user profile. Please use your work e-mail address for registration.

The registered user who submits an application will be legally responsible for the truthfulness of the content of the application.

You can find guidance on how to create and submit an application at: [NORMA Help Centre](#).

If you experience technical problems and cannot find a solution in the NORMA Help Centre, please contact NORMA Support: [norma-support@novo.dk](mailto:norma-support@novo.dk).



## 3 Application content

This section provides guidelines on the content required in the sections of the online application form for this call. Detailed information about the different parts of the application is available in NORMA.

### 3.1 Applicant

The **Applicant** tab relates to information about the main applicant. After filling in all mandatory fields, the applicant should complete the task to save the details.

Please note the following requirements:

- **CV:** Maximum 4,000 characters (including spaces, line breaks and special characters). Add a section specifically emphasising the experience in developing code to be executed on a supercomputer. Include a short bibliographic overview summarising total number of peer-reviewed publications, number of first authorships and corresponding authorships, number of citations and h-index.
- **Publication list:** Maximum 5,000 characters (including spaces, line breaks and special characters). Include the 10 most relevant publications. You are strongly encouraged to include a link to an updated profile (with full publication list) in ORCID, Google Scholar, Web of Science, Scopus, or similar.
- **Previous and current grants from the Foundation:** If you have submitted other applications within the last year, summarise how these applications are related to the current application.

### 3.2 Institution

Provide information about the institution where the grant will be administered. This institution is where the main applicant will be employed during the grant period, and the institution that will ultimately be responsible for administering and allocating the grant.



**It can take up to five working days to register a new administrating institution in NORMA.**

The application cannot be submitted before the institution has been registered.

### 3.3 Proposal

Describe the project using the fields in the **Proposal** tab.

#### PROJECT TITLE

Provide a short title for the project (maximum 150 characters, including spaces).

#### BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief stand-alone summary of the project justifying the need for GPU hours on Gefion (maximum 2000 characters, including spaces). Address the following points in the specified order:

- Motivation for the need and benefit of GPU hours on Gefion
- Technical impact of using Gefion for the project
- Explain the readiness of the project for execution on Gefion in 2025
- Estimate of required resources: GPUs, data storage (for both input and output), specific NVIDIA software libraries or other dependencies, etc.
- Plan for code sharing and adherence to FAIR data principles

#### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project description can be a maximum of 5000 characters (including spaces, line breaks and special characters). In addition to the points mentioned in the Brief Project Description above, please address the following points in the specified order:

If you apply for GPU hours for **a project that has not been funded** by the Foundation:

- Purpose
- Background and current state-of-the art
- Aims, methodology and implementation
- Novelty and significance
- Potential future applications and impact of the project within the Foundation's [Strategy 2030](#)

If you apply for GPU hours for **a project that has already been funded** by the Foundation:

- State the grant number
- Short summary of the project
- Short update on progress to date

**ILLUSTRATION UPLOADS**

A maximum of four illustrations can be uploaded here.

The following file formats for illustrations are accepted in the system: JPG, JPEG, PNG and BMP. The maximum accepted size for each illustration is 50 MB and 1050\*1550 pixels.

**LITERATURE REFERENCES**

Provide the reference information for the literature cited in the project description (maximum 8,000 characters, including spaces, line breaks and special characters).

If not applicable, fill in N/A.

**LAY PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Provide a brief summary in lay language. If the application is awarded a grant, the text may be used for publication (maximum 1000 characters, including spaces, line breaks and special characters).

**REQUESTED GPU HOURS**

Please enter the number of GPU hours you are applying for.

**Please note:** In this call you can only apply for vouchers for GPU hours. No other costs can be funded within this call (i.e. no other budget items like salaries, operation, dissemination, training, education, or administration).

### 3.4 Appendices

**All uploads must be in PDF format.** NORMA automatically places these uploads at the end of the application. Appendices other than those specified here are not permitted and will not be included in the evaluation.

Only the following uploads will be considered in the assessment:

- **Hosting letter** (*mandatory*): signed by the head of department.
- **Support letter** (*if relevant*): A support letter signed by the existing grant holder if the GPU hours will be used for a project that has already been funded by the Foundation, and the applicant is not the grant holder of the active grant.