

Guidelines for applicants

**PROJECT GRANTS  
FOR NATURAL  
SCIENCE EDUCATION  
AND INFORMAL  
LEARNING  
ENVIRONMENTS - 2024**



## Facts about the call

Total amount available for granting:

**Up to  
DKK 50 million**

Amount available per grant:

**Up to DKK 6 million**

Call opens:  
**20 June 2024**

Call closes:  
**5 September 2024 at 2 PM (CEST)**

Applicant notification:  
**December 2024**

Earliest start date:  
**1 January 2025**

Latest start date:  
**31 December 2025**

### **Review committee:**

Committee on Science Education and Outreach

### **Contact:**

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Grant Manager

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Updated 2 August 2024



All Grant Recipients must comply with the 'General Terms and Conditions' for grants from the Novo Nordisk Foundation (the Foundation).

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 Project grants for natural science education and informal learning environments - 2024

## 1.1 Purpose

The Novo Nordisk Foundation (the Foundation) wants to support general science education and cultivate interest, knowledge and competencies in natural science, technology and sustainability among children, young people and the general population in Denmark.

## 1.2 Areas of support

Applicants may apply for projects within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, research on the didactics of natural science and experiences with natural science and technology in leisure time. This includes funding for projects focusing on sustainability, climate, energy production, green transition and health including the following subjects: Crafts and Design (Håndværk og Design) and Food science (Madkundskab).

Education projects may target childcare centers, primary and lower secondary schools and upper secondary schools as well as Bachelor of Education (teacher education) and Bachelor of Social Education (pedagogue education). It is furthermore possible to include students from the Bachelor of Education and the Bachelor of Social Education in projects if the projects are aimed at collaborative practice in childcare centres and/or primary and lower secondary schools.

For example, applicants may apply for grants for:

- Developing and implementing methods, materials and resources for science pedagogy as well as teaching in natural and scientific subjects, including mathematics
- Science competitions, special offers for talented students and activities targeting specific groups of children and students
- Development projects for improving the competencies of teachers and early-childhood educators.
- Projects focusing on artificial intelligence, computational thinking and democratical digital education

Research on the didactics of natural science carried out through projects or fellowships must be based at a university or university college in Denmark.

Leisure projects may target children, young people, families and/or the general public. For example, applications may cover natural science activity centers, museums, leisure activities or summer schools.

The project activities must be addressed to target groups within the Danish Realm.

### 1.3 Eligibility

During the grant period, the applicant must be a leader at or responsible for a project at the administering institution for the project applied for. The administering institution for the project must be a public institution and/or nonprofit organization, including educational institutions, municipalities, research institutions, museums or associations in the Danish Realm.

Private companies may apply for grants for noncommercial projects with nonprofit aims. In this case, the company will be the administering institution for the project.

The Foundation has three calls for applications in 2024 within natural science education and outreach:

- [Project grants for natural science education and informal learning environments](#)
- [Project grants for novel science communication and public dialogue](#)
- [Project grants for strengthening vocational and profession-oriented education within technology, sustainability and health](#)

It is only possible to be the main applicant on one application in these calls. Co-applicants are not subject to similar rules. Applications submitted for the calls *Project grants for novel science communication and public dialogue* or *Project grants for strengthening vocational and profession-oriented education within technology, sustainability and health* will not be considered in this call.

To be eligible for a grant for a research project or research fellowship, the applicant must have a PhD degree or similar qualifications and have a commitment for hosting from an administering institution. Applicants for a research fellowship may not simultaneously be responsible for a major research project. For research projects or research fellowships, the hosting commitment letter must be uploaded as part of the application. The administering institution should confirm that the applicant will be employed during the grant period.

A main applicant or project group with an active grant, which was awarded in the open competition calls within education and outreach in the period 2018-2023, is only able to apply for a new grant in the last year of the active grant. However, a new grant may not be paid out until the existing grant is completed. Depending on the organisation's capacity, the Foundation may be able to dispense with this requirement under special circumstances if contacted (see contact details on page 2).

## 1.4 Funding

A total of up to DKK 50 million is available for grants between DKK 100,000 and DKK 6,000,000 for projects lasting up to 6 years.

Funding can be requested for a full project, or for funding of a clearly defined part of a larger project, that is also funded by other partners. In case of the latter, the full project as well as its budget must also be described in the application.

### **Applicants may apply for funding for the following types of expenses directly related to the project:**

- Salary for employees or affiliated personnel at all staffing levels, including project management
- Salaries for substitutes or paying the salaries of replacements for teachers so that they can develop projects. Please note that salaries for substitutes in connection with continued education (efteruddannelse) cannot be applied for in this call. Reference is instead made to [Efteruddannelsespuljen](#)
- Researchers in permanent positions at universities and university colleges may apply for funds for salaries for research employees to be hired in connection with the project but may not apply for funds for their own salaries
- Researchers in permanent positions may apply for funds to pay for substitutes for the time they use in a development project if the project extends beyond the description of their duties in their position (such as communicating natural science research or developing educational material for target groups outside the university or university college)
- Researchers not in permanent positions may apply for a research fellowship to cover their own salary for up to 2 years. Applicants for a research fellowship may not simultaneously be responsible for a major research project.
- Operating expenses: Direct expenses for developing, implementing, and operating the project, including materials and equipment
- Travel expenses in relation to the project, e.g., conference and workshop participation and presentation of results derived from the project
- Communication and outreach in the form of conferences, books, articles, and other dissemination directly related to the project
- Evaluation and follow-up research in connection with the project
- External auditing costs if the administering institution is not subject to public audit. Institutions that are not subject to audit by public authorities must carry out external audits, and the expenses for this must be included in the budget;
- Administrative expenses (up to 5% of the applicant's overall budget and included in the budget) to cover administrative expenses directly related to the project. Please note, all administering institutions can apply for administrative support, including Danish universities. In this call, it is not possible to apply for project supplement.

**Full-time equivalents (FTEs)**

For each salary entry, please specify the FTE in years within the designated FTE field. This will indicate the proportion of a full-time position that the project funding will support for each year of the grant period. One full-time employee for one year equals 1.0 FTE.

**Administrative support**

Administrative support may account for a maximum of 5% of the total budget and must be included therein. The administrative support:

- can cover expenses such as for accounting, payment of salaries, purchasing, hiring, as well as auditing and financial reporting on the project
- cannot cover administrative expenses that are not directly related to the project
- can via the host institution be shared between the institutions of the main- and co-applicant(s), as detailed in the application budget
- is not automatically included in the grant and must be stated/applied for in the application budget but should not be specified in detail

**The Foundation will 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 Danish or English. The language chosen will not influence the assessment of the application.

## 1.6 Application process

The application must be completed and submitted using NNF's online application and grant management system, NORMA.



Application system opens	<b>20 June 2024</b>
Application deadline	<b>5 September 2024 2 PM (CEST)</b>
Evaluation of applications	<b>September-December 2024</b>
Applicant notification	<b>December 2024</b>
Earliest possible start date	<b>1 January 2025</b>

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 Novo Nordisk Foundation's Committee on [Natural Science Education and Outreach](#) will assess the applications based on the following criteria:

- The project's consistency with the purpose of the call for application
- The capacity and qualifications of the applicant and the applicant's institution
- The quality of the project for the discipline
- The relevance and importance of the proposed project, and how it builds on any existing knowledge and initiatives
- The project plan, method and feasibility of the project to be implemented, including plan for evaluation and knowledge sharing
- Expected benefit for the target group and in relation to knowledge building
- The capacity and qualifications of any co-applicants and collaboration partners
- If relevant, the embeddedness, originality, scalability and opportunities for dissemination of the project throughout Denmark
- If relevant, the research environment and research excellence

Please note that the budget also plays a significant role in the Committee's evaluation of the application.

If you have an active grant from the Foundation, this may be taken into consideration in the evaluation of your application for a new grant. In general, it is recommended that the main applicant has delivered results on the active grant(s) before submission of a new application to the Foundation. If you apply while having an active grant from the Foundation, you must describe how the project you propose in this application is different from and/or coherent with the project(s) already funded and briefly describe the progress of the already funded project(s). This information should be included in the **Project Description**.



## 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 pertains to information about all those involved in an application, meaning the main applicant or contact person applying on behalf of an organisation/institution as well as any co-applicants.

### 3.2 Co-applicant(s)

For this call co-applicants are allowed for the application. Co-applicants are expected to actively participate in organising and implementing the project and should, consequently, be allocated a share of the grant. The project description should clearly describe the role of all co-applicants, and the budget should clearly indicate the co-applicants' allocation of the total budget. Co-applicants must be invited through NORMA and subsequently enter their details in the system. Please follow the instructions in NORMA on how to invite co-applicants to your application.

Please note that co-applicants can read, edit and upload information into the application portal, **but only the main applicant is able to submit the final application.**



#### **Inviting co-applicants can be time-consuming.**

Please invite any co-applicant(s) as soon as possible and well in advance of the submission deadline.

### 3.3 Institution

Please 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, including budgeting, financial reporting and staff supported by 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.

### 3.4 Proposal

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

#### **PROJECT TITLE**

Please provide a short title for the project (maximum 150 characters, including spaces). If the project receives a grant, the title will be used to name the project in the grant agreement and for publication.

#### **BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Please provide a brief stand-alone summary of the project describing its purpose, target group and activities. (Maximum 2,000 characters, including spaces, line breaks and special characters).

#### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Describe the project in detail here. Applicants can structure their project description under headings that best describe their project. The project description can include information under the following headings:

- **Purpose**  
Describe the purpose of the project and its relevance to the purpose of the call.  
*For consideration: What is the purpose? Which need or challenge will the project address? Why is it important to address this need? Who is the target group? Does the project have a local or national aim?*
- **Background**  
Describe the existing knowledge on which the project is based and to which the new project will contribute.  
*For consideration: Is the project idea new or is it a development of existing initiatives? How does this project differ from existing initiatives? Are similar initiatives found e.g. in the Astra project database? Are there possibilities for synergy and knowledge sharing?*

- **Methods and design**

Describe what you intend to do and how – including a description of the individual activities and how these will be incorporated into an overall plan related to the purpose of the project. Examples of selected project activities are welcomed in the application.

*For consideration: Which activities exist in the project? How are the activities connected to the purpose? Is there a clear timeline, division of tasks and description of the management of the project? How are the practitioners (e.g. teachers, childhood educators or curators) involved in the shaping and adjustment of the project's activities?*

- **Evaluation**

Describe the expected outcome of the project in the long and the short run, and how this will be evaluated. The outcome could, for example, be listed as criteria for success.

*For consideration: What is the outcome of the project in the long and the short run? What is the expected output for the project's target group? What is the expected outcome related to developing knowledge and experience and to introduce new practices? How are is learning/knowledge/experience collected, used and shared during the project? How will the outcome and/or effect of the project be evaluated (fulfilling the criteria for success)?*

- **Knowledge-sharing and its foundation**

Describe how to ensure that the knowledge and experience accumulated are shared with others and applied.

*For consideration: What will happen to the project when the project period ends? Will the project lead to a permanent change of practice? How is knowledge and experience from the project consolidated? How are positive and negative experiences from the project shared with others? What possibilities are there to disseminate ideas and results from the project?*

The project description may not exceed 20,000 characters, including spaces, line breaks and special characters. Abbreviations should be defined at the first use.

### **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\*1650 pixels.

### **LITERATURE REFERENCES**

Please 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, please fill in N/A.

### **CATEGORY AND SUB-CATEGORY**

Select the relevant category for the project's main content (one only) from the list below:

- Teaching methods and resources
- Learning activities for students/children
- Professional development for teachers and educators
- Educational research
- Informal learning activities

- Communication and public debate
- Other

Select the relevant category for the project' target group (one only) from the list below:

- Preschool children / Day care
- Children / Primary and lower secondary education
- Youth / Upper secondary education
- Vocational education and training
- Academy profession and university college education
- University education
- Continuing and further education
- General population
- Other

### 3.5 Budget

Enter the project grant period, and the budget template will become available.

Only budget information submitted via the **Budget** tab will be considered in the review process. Any additional budget information attached under **Appendices** (or any other tabs) will not be considered.

You can find additional information on how you fill out the budget in [NORMA Help Centre](#).

### 3.6 Appendices

It is possible to upload supplementary information to the application. The information may include confirmation of hosting by an institution or external declarations of support. Please limit the page length and amount of supplementary information. Supplemental project descriptions, budgets or other non-relevant attachments must not be uploaded. These will not be considered in the evaluation.

**All uploads must be in PDF format.** NORMA automatically places these uploads at the end of the application.