



# The UCPH Data+ pool

**UCPH introduces the Data+ pool: an effort to promote the application of data science methods in pursuit of significant research advances and breakthroughs throughout the university's research disciplines.**

The technology and software of today offer new opportunities for the integration of data science into research in a wide spectrum of disciplines, unlocking the potential for innovative and risk-based research.

The Data+ pool marks a continuation of Strategy 2023 – Talent and Cooperation. With total funding of DKK 30 million, the pool awards up to 50% financing of interdisciplinary PhD and postdoctoral scholarships in research projects at UCPH, involving research that integrates data science into other fields of study.

To be eligible for pool funding, the research project must involve scientific staff (individuals or research teams) from at least two scientific disciplines at UCPH. The research project's PIs (main and co-applicant or two main applicants) must endeavour to establish a close integration of data science with a new area of application, thereby extending the boundaries of research in their respective fields.

Experienced and new PIs are eligible to apply for funding. Early career researchers are encouraged to apply.

Applications to the Data+ pool will be considered once annually for two to four years, beginning in 2019.

## **A data science component**

The projects awarded funding must employ new and improved digital technologies and methods deriving from the field of data science, including, but not limited to: machine learning, statistical analysis of unstructured data, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, simulation, automatic sequencing, and image analysis.

To qualify for funding, research projects exploring societal phenomena specific to new digital technology and the utilisation thereof must also incorporate an element of data science methodology.

## **Eligibility requirements for the Data+ pool**

Data+ projects must:

- exhibit excellence, potential for significant research advances, risk-taking, competent research management, and feasibility.
- transcend the traditions of a scientific discipline by incorporating data science research methods into another discipline or vice versa, and involve a multi-disciplinary project/supervisor team. Projects do not have to involve multiple faculties or departments, but the participants (individuals or groups) must work in different disciplines.
- involve elements of data science and expand the participants' competencies in data research methods and application.
- boost the capacity of all involved parties through synergies and increase the probability of long-term impacts.
- include the participation of PIs and PhD supervisors employed by UCPH, further supporting interdisciplinary capacity building and collaboration at the university. A clear explanation must be provided to establish the relevance of external associate partners from research environments outside UCPH.
- be of a duration that at least corresponds to the employment period of the associated PhDs or postdoctoral fellows. Projects may be initiated before and continue after this minimum duration.

## **Data+ project funding**

Projects can apply for up to DKK 2.5 million from the Data+ pool, including overhead or budgeted full costs. The Data+ pool awards up to 50% of the funding for PhD and postdoctoral scholarships in the chosen research projects. Projects may include one or more PhD and/or postdoctoral scholarship(s).

Funding from the pool does not have to be allocated to cover all expenses evenly. In other words, funding does not have to cover 50% of the individual budget items for salary, tuition fees or related expenses, but can be divided between the different items as deemed most appropriate in consideration of co-funding.

You can apply for funding to other expenses if they are well-founded and necessary. Applications must provide thorough explanation to establish the relevance of all posts and activities (in addition to scholarships) to be supported with Data+ funds. The assessment includes the relevance of project budget items. If considered superfluous, budget items will be omitted from the grant. The pool does not cover wage costs for existing employees.

## **Organisational models**

VIPs at UCPH can apply to the Data+ pool.

Eligible projects can employ one of the following two organisational models.

**Model 1:** One PI and one administrative unit, with a co-PI/co-applicant from another research discipline.

The project's primary PI serves as the main applicant and applies for funding for PhD and/or postdoctoral scholarships in the project. The main applicant's administrative unit (e.g. a department) must approve the application and its housing of the project.

The administrative unit, which must be the place of employment for the relevant PhDs/postdocs, arranges for co-funding and is typically the supplier of the principal supervisor for PhD students.

The main applicant's administrative unit arranges and manages the co-funding, but the PI, co-PI, and their respective administrative units can contribute to the co-funding.

The affiliation of the primary PI and supervisor typically determines the affiliation of PhD and postdoctoral fellows.

When applying for funding for a PhD student, the co-PI/co-applicant acts as secondary supervisor.

**Model 2:** Two primary PIs from their respective scientific disciplines and two administrative units.

An eligible project may engage PhD and postdoctoral fellows affiliated with each of the PIs respective administrative units. The application must be submitted through one administrative unit by one PI on behalf of both PIs, but the grant will be allocated between two administrative units and the project will have two primary PIs, each of whom are responsible for accounting for their share of the budget. The budget must specify the posts administered by each unit.

**Conditions applying to both models:**

The heads of the participating administrative units (e.g. head of department) must sign the front page of the application and the budget, thereby approving the project proposal and plan for securing co-funding.

Funds granted from the Data+ pool will be disbursed to the administrative unit(s) managing the project. Only UCPH scientific employees can access the funds from the Data+ pool. Funding will not follow a VIP in connection with a change of employment to another institution.

All types of PhD programs are eligible for funding from the Data+ pool. If a project involves the participation of external partners, a clear explanation of their functions and the division of responsibilities in the project must be provided in the application.

**Recruitment and hiring**

Data+ can include named or unnamed PhD/postdoctoral candidates.

Applicants intending to hire a named candidate as part of the project must provide information in the application about the candidate's qualifications as they relate to the project. It is not permitted to promise the candidate employment in the project outside of regular hiring channels.

Upon the granting of funding to the project, PhD and postdoctoral vacancies must be advertised in accordance with UCPH employment guidelines and with the intention of hiring the most suitable candidate. Postdoctoral scholarships of one year or less are exempted from this requirement.

## Application guidelines

Applications for the Data+ pool must contain the following elements:

- **A front page** including:
  - Project title.
  - Names, titles and affiliations of the PIs.
  - Name of the administrative unit housing the project and employing the applicant and the prospective PhD/postdoc(s) covered by the application.
  - A statement of support and signatures of both applicants' head of department.

The front page of the application must be signed by the relevant administrative managers (e.g. head of department) for PI and co-PI. By signing the application, the head of the main applicant's administrative unit (e.g. a department) confirms approval of the budget and the plan to provide the other half of the funding. The leaders of both PIs confirm by signature that they will engage in the development of synergies between the participating environments.

- **Abstract** (maximum 900 characters).
- **Relevance to the call** (maximum 600 characters), establishing why the main project is a relevant candidate for Data+ pool funding.
- **A project description** (maximum 12,000 characters). See detailed requirements in the section below.
- **Brief statement on ethics and good scientific practice.** This is particularly important in projects that use sensitive personal data.
- **Budget**, dated and signed by the head of the administrative unit. If the grant is to be divided between two administrative units, both heads must sign the budget.
- **CVs**, including **publication list** for PI and co-PI (maximum five pages per person), as well as for any co-applicants (research group) and named PhD/postdoc candidates (maximum two pages per person). These documents must be of a legible font size, with reasonable line spacing and margins.

Applications must be in English and of a legible font size, with reasonable line spacing and margins (e.g. 12 point Times New Roman, 1.5 line spacing, and right, left, top and bottom margins of 2 cm).

All application documents must be merged into a single, searchable PDF file and sent via email as an attachment.

Submit applications to [inno@adm.ku.dk](mailto:inno@adm.ku.dk). The next application deadline is 12:00 noon (UTC + 1) on November 1, 2019. Write "Application for Data+ and the name(s) of the PI" in the subject field.

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

## **Project description guidelines**

The project description (maximum 12,000 characters, including footnotes, tables and figure texts) must address the three assessment criteria: Excellence, Impact and Implementation.

### **Excellence**

This section must include:

- A research plan describing the overall project content, purpose and research quality, as well as a well-defined, common problem statement.
- A brief description of the PhD and/or postdoctoral research projects relating to the funding application. Any subprojects must be well-integrated, while maintaining a clear independent function in the research project.

### **Impact**

This section must include:

- A description of the contributions of the respective research environments and a cooperation plan to realise the vision of expanding and developing the scientific disciplines involved in the project.
- A dissemination strategy, including dissemination to stakeholders, knowledge exchange with public and private organisations, and raising the visibility of the project's research questions and results.
- A description of the planned international activities and their purpose, e.g. research stays abroad, collaboration with foreign research groups, hosting or participating in international conferences, etc.

### **Implementation**

This section must include:

- A project timeline, including key milestones and deliverables.
- The planned division of roles and responsibilities between PI, co-PI, PhD and/or postdoctoral fellows, and any other project participants. All listed participants must have a well-defined role in the project work.
- If the application includes named candidates for scholarships, this section must provide an explanation of what makes the candidate(s) specifically qualified for the project or why the project is particularly dependent on the candidate(s).
- If the application is for unnamed PhD students or postdocs, include a brief description of the planned recruitment process.
- Applications for PhD scholarships must indicate the PhD school in which the candidate is expected to enrol following a professional assessment.
- Applications for postdoc scholarships must describe a plan that ensures a career-promoting postdoctoral program.
- If a PI is not employed at the level of associate professor and has not been the subject of an assessment for promotion to associate professor, an explanation of the planned PhD supervision must be provided, including the identity of the primary supervisor, the division of responsibility between this supervisor and the PI, and the efforts that will be taken to ensure the PhD student's research connection to the project.

- If implementation of the project requires access to particular hardware, software, data storage or data sources, describe the availability and the project participants' agreement on access.
- A plan for the provision of co-funding, if not already secured at the time of application.
- An account of the gender distribution of the project participants.

### Assessment procedure

- The deadline for applications is 12.00 noon (UTC+1) on November 1, 2019.
- Applications will be assessed by an expert committee according to the assessment criteria.
- An internal UCPH committee with representatives of all six faculties will shortlist the best-qualified projects from the field of applicants. An international expert assessment panel will review the shortlisted applications. Ad-hoc members may be invited to join the panel if specific expertise is needed.
- Based on the international panel's assessment, the UCPH committee will prepare a prioritised list for the University of Copenhagen's Research and Innovation Council (KUFIR). KUFIR then recommends to the rector which projects should be awarded a grant. The rector makes the final decision on which projects are granted funds.
- Only projects of the requisite excellence will be considered for funding. Thus, the number of grants may vary from year to year. Due to competition between applications, mere compliance with the application criteria will not necessarily lead to a grant. An estimated 8 to 15 projects are expected to receive grants in connection with the 2019 round of applications.
- Applicants will be notified of the decision on their application within three months of the application deadline. After full funding is obtained, the projects awarded grants must post job vacancy announcements in accordance with UCPH guidelines and with the aim of finding the most suitable candidate(s). For applications with a named candidate, the vacancy must be posted for at least 14 days on the University's website and on Jobnet. There is no requirement to post this job listing in English.
- The project must be initiated no later than nine months after the Data+ grant has been awarded. If the administrative head of the project signs the application on the condition that the remaining 50% can be obtained by other external funding, and the funding is not secured within nine months, the grant will become void and the unused funds will be re-awarded in connection with the next round of Data+ pool applications.
- Applications to the Data+ pool are considered once annually beginning in 2019. The pool will be available for a period of two to four years. Unused funds will carry over to the following year. Rejected applicants can re-apply in connection with subsequent application rounds.

UCPH Research & Innovation administers the Data+ pool.