Villum Synergy Programme 2019
Aarhus University
21-08-2019

Thomas Bjørnholm, Director of Science
Agenda

**Intro:** Thomas Bjørnholm, Director of Science, VILLUM FONDEN

**The Call:** Purpose, Conditions and Timeline

**Q/A and Open discussion:** Suggestions for changes/improvements

**Closing remarks**
VILLUM FONDEN
Technical and Natural Sciences

Villum Young Investigator (YIP)
5 years, DKK 7-10 million

Villum Investigator (VIP)
6 years, DKK 20-40 million

Villum Experiment (VEX)
1-2 years, DKK 1-2 million

Villum Synergy Programme
DKK 50 million:
1-2 years, DKK 2-3 million: Initiation projects
3-5 years, DKK 10-20 million: Full projects

Villum International Postdoc Programme
3-4 years, up to DKK 2,5 million

Villum Kann Rasmussen Annual Award
DKK 5 million

Villum Kann Rasmussen Professorship

Children, Youth and Science
DKK 50-100 million
The VKR Group

Today, the revenues generated by the VKR Group and its some 16,000 employees, enable VILLUM FONDEN and VELUX FONDEN to make grants to a wide range of non-profit purposes.

Daylight, fresh air and a better environment

The group-wide mission is to bring daylight, fresh air and a better environment into people’s everyday lives.

VELUX roof windows anno 2018; first roof window produced in 1942; logo from 1941
Villum Synergy Programme 2019

VILLUM FONDEN wishes to strengthen collaborations in Denmark with this new initiative focusing on the interdisciplinary field of data-driven science.

Initiation grants: DKK 2-3 million for up to two years

Full projects: DKK 10-20 million for 3-5 years
Projects should involve two PIs that are both affiliated with a Danish research institution.

One should be a methodological expert from computer science, statistics or applied mathematics and the other a domain expert from a field of application that may be broadly chosen (not medicine and clinical research*).

Co-PIs providing additional required expertise may also be included in the project.

PIs must hold tenure.

International collaborations may be included in the project. Project funds should mainly cover activities at Danish universities.

An applicant can only be PI on one application.
Assessment and selection

Proposals are evaluated on the sole criterion of scientific excellence. The assessment and selection process are divided into two steps.

**Step 1:** The foundation's research committee on technical and natural sciences supplemented with additional members from computer science and humanities/social sciences evaluates the applications based on the Terms of Reference. The committee recommends to the board which applications should continue to step 2 and which applications should be rejected.

**Step 2:** Proposals for full projects are subjected to external peer review and the applicants are invited for an interview. After the interview the committee will recommend a number of full projects and initiation projects to be granted by the board.
Terms of Reference
Assessment criteria for the committee and for external reviewers

• To what extent does the proposed research present new and original ideas?

• Does the research have the potential for reaching significant scientific breakthroughs and making an impact?

• Is the proposal clearly a product of genuine collaborative work?

• Is it evident that the applicants have formed a workable grouping of disciplines and people?

• Is the track record of the applicants within their respective disciplines characterised by ground-breaking research and have their achievements typically gone beyond state of the art?

• Concluding remarks: Please add some concluding remarks summing up on the overall assessment. Please point out the three top qualities and the three weakest points of the application.

• Rank (1 poor, 2 fair, 3 good, 4 very good and 5 excellent) the applicant and the research compared to the applicants and research proposals you have assessed the last five years.
• 10 October 2019 at 14:00: Deadline for applications
• 22 December 2019: Rejection or information about the further process
• 25-26 February 2020: Interview of full project applicants
• Late March 2020: Rejection or approval of grant
Q/A and Open Discussion