

Quick guide – GSNS Screening Grants and Visiting Grants

General Information

Based on funding from Aarhus University Research Foundation (AUFF) and own resources, the Graduate School of Natural Science (GSNS) provides funding for internationalization of the PhD programmes at Faculty of Natural Science, Aarhus University.

We accept and process applications, as they are received.

Two kinds of funding for internationalisation will be described in this quick guide:

A) Recruitment of foreign research talents for PhD studies at GSNS, Aarhus University, (i.e. a so-called 'screening grant')

B) A stay at GSNS, Aarhus University, for PhD students enrolled at a foreign university (i.e. a so-called 'visiting grant')

Currently only screening grants (Type A) are available.

The terms 'guest researcher' and 'candidate/student' are used interchangeably to describe the screening/visiting grant recipient.

Please note that:

- Only members of the academic staff (supervisors) at the Faculty of Natural Science GSNS, Aarhus University, can apply for these two types of grants.
- We accept and process applications, as they are received.
- It can take 7-8 weeks from an application is approved before the candidate/student can start the grant period (depending on citizenship – due to visa/work and residence permits).
- The grant cannot be given as co-financing of the monthly amount of max. DKK 8,000 in living expenses for the candidate/student. This means that the applicant can either apply for a GSNS grant with an amount of max. DKK 8,000 per month in living expenses for the candidate/student OR the applicant can choose to fully finance the candidate's/student's

living expenses. The applicant (i.e. the supervisor) is welcome to co-finance / pay specific expenses such as travel, conference fees, running costs and the like.

To be eligible, the candidate/student must:

- have at least a Bachelor's degree.
- have no prior affiliation to Aarhus University, i.e.,
 - a screening grant cannot be given as funding for an extension to another stay (planned or already in progress) at Aarhus University.
 - applying for funding for two or more consecutive stays is not possible.
- have a postal address outside of Denmark before starting the grant period.
- after 1 March 2019 be able to meet the English language requirement at GSNS (see below).

To apply for a grant, first establish contact with a potential guest researcher. Afterwards, the supervisor can apply for the grant via [GSNS's application form](#).

Screening Grants

A GSNS screening grant can be granted in connection with the recruitment of foreign research talents for PhD studies at GSNS, Aarhus University. The screening grant can be granted for a period of maximum 90 days. The candidate/student can attend courses, summer schools or workshops, do laboratory work or prepare a PhD application. Qualitative assessment of the person in question will be made with a view to a potential PhD study at GSNS, Aarhus University.

GSNS only grants a screening grant to applicants in connection with an actual screening of the candidate/student. Thus, an application from a supervisor who already knows in advance that he/she wants the candidate/student as a potential PhD student at GSNS will be rejected. It also means that a potential candidate/student who has already been admitted or received a conditional admission offer for a PhD study at GSNS will be rejected as a potential screening grant recipient.

For further information on applying for a GSNS screening grant, please see [here](#).

Application to a PhD programme following a GSNS screening grant

If the screening period runs successfully, and the supervisor supports the candidate's/student's wish to apply to the PhD programme at GSNS, **it is expected that the candidate/student submits an application for admission to GSNS no later than by the end of the 3 months' screening period.**

A gradual transition directly from the 3 months' screening period to the start of the PhD study at GSNS cannot be expected. This is due to the fact that the period from the PhD study application deadline to the actual PhD study starting date is typically between 3-5 months depending on the candidate's/student's citizenship (if a work and residence permit is needed, the starting date will often be 4-5 months after the PhD study application deadline).

For further information on applying for admission to the PhD programme at GSNS, please see [here](#).

Visiting Grants

The aim of the visiting grant is to strengthen the internationalisation of the PhD study programmes at GSNS, Aarhus University, by providing foreign PhD students with the opportunity of taking a part of their PhD study at GSNS, Aarhus University. For a period of maximum 90 days, the PhD student can take part in research collaboration, PhD courses, summer schools, workshops and laboratory work and/or work on her/his PhD thesis.

It will be of vital importance to the assessment of the application how the PhD student can contribute to the already existing PhD environment within the given research field, e.g. in the form of specific method transfer. It is therefore important that the project description includes both clear arguments on how the stay can contribute to the PhD environment at Aarhus University, and a description of the stay's intended activities and objectives.

Priority will be given to applications for screening grants (Type A), whereas support for visiting PhD students from foreign universities (Type B) will be given in exceptional cases only.

For further information on applying for a GSNS visiting grant, please see [here](#).

Taxation

GSNS guest researchers who are here for a maximum of 90 days are often exempt from paying Danish tax. However, this will depend on citizenship among other things.

Please notice, that in case the grant period exceeds the initial 90 days, or if the guest researcher

returns to Denmark for employment later, then the Danish Tax Authorities will probably estimate that the guest will have to pay tax of the total grant amount retroactively.

For further information on taxation, please see the International Academic Staff website [here](#).

GSNS will apply for tax exemption on behalf of the guest researcher when relevant.

Permission to reside and work in Denmark

Most GSNS guest researchers from non EU/EEA countries are required to obtain a visa or a work and residence permit in connection with these types of stays in Denmark (even if they'll be staying in Denmark for less than 90 days).

Due to the processing time for the required visa or work and residence permit, most GSNS guest researchers with a non EU/EEA citizenship cannot expect to start earlier than 2½-3 months after an application for a GSNS grant has been submitted.

The International Academic Staff Service at Aarhus University will help the guest researcher apply for visa or work and residence permit when relevant.

For further information on visa and work and residence permits, please see Aarhus University's International Academic Staff website [here](#) and The Danish Immigration Service's website www.newtodenmark.dk [here](#).

Timeframe

- Please note that if the guest researcher is from a non EU/EEA country, it may take a relatively long time between the application for a GSNS screening or visiting grant has been submitted and the actual starting day of the screening or visiting stay. This is due to the visa work and residence permit processing time
- We accept and process applications as they are received
- Approval of application: Approx. 2 weeks after application has been submitted to GSNS
- If relevant, submit application for visa or work and residence permit no later than 2 months before screening or visiting stay starting date
- Submit application for accommodation as soon as possible
- 1 ½-3 months after application has been submitted: Screening or visiting stay starting date depending on citizenship (please see above regarding visa or work and residence permit)

- 1-3 months after the screening stay starting date: Screening grant recipient submits application for admission to the PhD programme at GSNS

The English language requirement at GSNS

The English language requirement at GSNS is comparable to an “English B level” in the Danish upper secondary school (“gymnasium”).

Documentation of language skills

English language qualifications comparable to an “English B level” are documented by one of the tests stated below.

The following applicants are exempted from documenting their English qualifications/taking a test:

- Applicants with citizenship from the following countries Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the United States, or one of the Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway or Sweden).
- Applicants with a Bachelor’s or Master’s programme completed in Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, or the United States. In this case, please upload your Bachelor’s or Master’s diploma under the section “Language skills documentation”.
- Applicants with a Bachelor’s or Master’s programme completed at a Danish university for which the requirement was English B level at the time of admission. In this case, please upload your Bachelor’s or Master’s diploma under the section “Language skills documentation”.

Approved language skills tests

The following language skills tests are approved for screening/visiting grant applications at GSNS:

- [TOEFL test](#), minimum score: 560 (paper-based test) or 83 (internet-based test). The paper-based test must have a “total score”. From the August 2019 call, GSNS will no longer accept the paper-based test. Aarhus University does not accept the TOEFL ITP test. Aarhus University’s TOEFL code is 8935. Ask the test centre to send your test results to Aarhus University in order to enable verification of your test results.
- [IELTS](#) (academic) test, minimum average score: 6.5 points
- Cambridge English Language Assessment:
 - Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency ([CPE](#))
 - Cambridge English: Certificate of Advanced English with grade A,B or C ([CAE](#))
 - Cambridge English: First Certificate with grade A ([FCE](#))

When to take the test and how to upload the documentation:

The test result must not be more than two years old at the time of application.

The English language test should be taken before applying for the grant and the result must be attached to the application.

It is possible to apply for the grant before the student/candidate has taken the test. In that case, documentation stating that the student/candidate has signed up for a test (please include expected submission date) must be attached to the application. If the test result is not part of the original application, the test result must be sent to GSSTgrants@au.dk no later than one month after the application.