

EFSD

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes

Instructions and Guidelines EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award Application

1) General Information.....	1
2) EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award Application	4
Step 1: Applicant Information	4
Step 2: Application Details	4
Step 3: Signatures and Declaration.....	5
Step 4: Scientific Abstract	6
Step 5: Biographical Sketch	6
Step 6: Financial Support.....	6
Step 7: Ethical Approval.....	8
Step 8: Budget.....	8
Step 9: Motivation	10
3) Guidelines Biographical Sketch.....	11
4) Guidelines Letter of Motivation	12
5) Guidelines Research Plan	13
6) Letters of Support.....	14
7) Guidelines Collaborative Agreements	15
8) Statement of Independence	15
9) Overview Documents	16
10) Budget Table A	17
11) Budget Table B: Contractual Costs	18
12) Submission.....	19

Status: December 2023

European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes (EFSD)

Rheindorfer Weg 3

D-40591 Düsseldorf - Germany

Tel: +49-211-758 469 0

<http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org>

foundation@easf.org

1) General Information

EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award Programme Rules and Regulations:

- Applicants must be promising and have a track record of excellence and a clear commitment to their chosen area of diabetes research. They must have received their highest academic degree (PhD, MD) no more than 12 years before the start of the award. For clinicians holding more than one qualifying degree (e.g. MD/PhD) or with a clinical specialist degree/board certification, the time since the first degree may not exceed 12 years before the start of the award (1 October).
- Applicants must be employed by a university, or hospital or another non-profit institution based in Europe or an associated country (a detailed country list is provided on the [EFSD website](#) in the General Regulations section) throughout the tenure of the grant and the study must be performed at their place of work based in Europe or an associated country. Applicants should provide clear evidence of their intention to pursue an academic career in Europe.
- Applicants are encouraged to become paid-up members of EASD. Details on how to become a member can be found on the EASD website: www.easd.org.
- Future Leader Awards will be in the total amount of up to **Danish Kroner (DKK) 5 million** each and will be of **5 year duration** subject to satisfactory progress. The awards will be paid to the recipient's institution in **5 annual instalments of up to DKK 1 million**.
- Awardees will submit an **annual scientific progress and financial report** 2 months before termination of each funding year to EFSD. Continued funding will be dependent upon satisfactory scientific progress and involvement in recommended associated activities (see below). In the event of unsatisfactory performance, EFSD and the Novo Nordisk Foundation may decide to terminate funding.
- Awardees are required to submit a final scientific and financial report at the end of their award to EFSD and Novo Nordisk Foundation. In addition, awardees are asked to submit information on their research outcomes to the Novo Nordisk Foundation annually during the period of the award and for up to five years after the project has finished.
- Awardees will be expected to serve as ambassadors for the Programme throughout the course of their award, performing several dissemination activities. This includes but is not limited to: Oral presentation once for each awardee at the "EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Symposium", an integral part of the scientific programme of the EASD Annual Meeting; Attendance at stand-alone meetings to be organised by the Novo Nordisk Foundation; Teaching faculty of EASD postgraduate education courses; Visits to schools or universities to promote diabetes research as a career opportunity; Public communication of science at local or international events; Participation in special press events organised by EFSD and/or the Novo Nordisk Foundation.
- Awardees are further expected to participate in the EASD Annual Meeting in the year of the award to make a first personal connection with EFSD and Novo Nordisk Foundation representatives. The Awardees shall be announced and recognised at the EASD Annual Meeting during the EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Symposium.

- **Investigators may only hold a single EFSD award at any given time.** This regulation applies to Principal Investigators as well as Co-Investigators. It does not apply to collaborators. The EFSD Rising Star Fellowship Programme and EFSD Albert Renold Travel Fellowship Programme are **exempt from this regulation**.
- Recipients of an EFSD award may apply for new funding to the same or to another EFSD programme provided the existing project has been terminated and a final scientific and financial report received, evaluated and approved.
- Studies forming part of a larger project will be considered for funding, but this will need to be well justified in the application.
- All applications will be subject to scientific review by a specialised and independent *ad hoc* committee.
- EFSD award activation documents must be returned to the EFSD Office. Any funding which has not been activated at the start of the award will be automatically withdrawn.
- A list of all EFSD regulations can be found on the Programmes link of the EFSD website: <http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org/programmes/general-regulations.html>

For **programme specific** focus areas, review criteria, additional regulations, funding amounts and eligibility criteria, refer also to the programme's Request for Application (RFA) which is published on the EFSD website:

<http://www.europeandiabetesfoundation.org/programmes.html>

IMPORTANT

- **You must submit your application one complete PDF email attachment by 12:00 midday (CET) on the deadline date to foundation@easd.org!** Only submitted applications will be checked by the EFSD office and forwarded to the reviewers.
- All correspondence regarding your application and award, in case of a successful application, will be sent **only to the email provided in this application**. This email address may be different from the one used for your MyEASD account.
- After submitting your application, you will receive a confirmation email acknowledging receipt of your application within 3 working days of submission. Should you not receive this confirmation, please check your spam folder, then please contact the EFSD Office.
- Within two weeks of the programme deadline date you will receive a second email once your application has been checked by the EFSD office. Should you have not received confirmation by then, please contact the EFSD Office foundation@easd.org.

Help

For **any other queries**, please contact the EFSD Office

foundation@easd.org

or call +49-211-75 84 69-0 (Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4 pm CET).

2) EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award Application

After the submission deadline you will no longer be able to make any changes to your application.

Step 1: Applicant Information

Principal Investigator

In this section you are asked to enter your contact details (name, institution, institutional address, phone and email address) and your EASD member number. If your contact information is outdated, please remember to also update your information in your EASD membership account.

IMPORTANT! All correspondence regarding your application and grant in case of a successful application will be **sent only to your email provided in this application**. Principal Investigators are encouraged to become paid-up **EASD members**.

More information on EASD membership and how to become a member can also be found on the EASD website: www.easd.org.

Step 2: Application Details

In this section you are asked to submit the following information:

- Title of proposal (max 100 characters including spaces)
- Total budget requested

*Please enter here the **budget** for your programme: up to Danish Kronen (DKK) 5 million*
- Project type (clinical or basic)

Clinical research is defined as a study performed in vivo, in human individuals with focus on clinically relevant and diabetes-related outcomes.
- Project duration (project period in months, project start and end date)

The total project period should be 5 years (60 months)

For project start and end dates, awards will be made each year with a start date of 1 October.
- Up to five keywords (optional)

Step 3: Signatures and Declaration

In this section you are asked to enter the name and contact details of the responsible Financial Officer in your institution to whom, in case of a successful application, funds should be sent and who will keep a full account of disbursements.

Your **responsible financial officer** to whom funds should be sent and who will keep a full account of disbursements if this application is funded will be asked to confirm the following statement:

“All funds will be transferred from Novo Nordisk Foundation accounts. The Novo Nordisk Foundation and EFSD are non-profit entities. No industry collaborators are involved in the review process or decision on the grant awardees and they will have no rights to the results obtained from any funded research project. Therefore, funding through Novo Nordisk Foundation and EFSD should not be subject to VAT. No overheads will be granted.”

You as the **Principal Investigator** will be asked to confirm the following statements:

Declaration: “We the undersigned declare that the information submitted is accurate and complete (to the best of our knowledge,) and that we shall accept the EFSD Regulations as stated on the Programmes section of the EFSD website if this application is funded.

We further confirm that all staff grading and salaries quoted are correct and in accordance with the normal practice of this institution.

Principal Investigator Assurance: The undersigned agrees to accept responsibility for the scientific and technical conduct of the research project.”

Important: All funds will be transferred from Novo Nordisk Foundation accounts. The Novo Nordisk Foundation and EFSD are non-profit entities. No industry collaborators are involved in the review process or decision on the grant awardees, and they will have no rights to the results obtained from any funded research project. Therefore, funding through the Novo Nordisk Foundation and EFSD should not be subject to VAT or overheads.

Note: If signatures cannot be obtained prior to submission of the application, this completed page may be sent up to 5 working days after the Programme deadline date.

Step 4: Scientific Abstract

Please do not exceed **300 words** in type no smaller than 12-point Arial and keep the abstract dedicated to this page.

Step 5: Biographical Sketch

Biosketches are only necessary for the Applicant.

Please refer to *Chapter 3 Guidelines Biographical Sketch*.

Step 6: Financial Support

In this section you are asked to submit information on:

- Other active EFSD applications (if any)

You are welcome to apply for several EFSD programmes at the same time, this information only serves to expedite EFSD processes in case of a successful application.

- Other support sought for this particular project (if any)
- Previous and current EFSD awards (if any)
- Currently active EFSD awards of your colleagues (if any)

If any other scientist in your group is currently supported by EFSD, your application will only be considered if you, as the principal investigator named for this award, can provide clear evidence that you are a fully independent researcher. In this case, this **Statement of Independence** must be signed by both the PI of this application and the current grant holder. More information and exceptions can be found in chapter 8 of this document.

- All your other financial support (if any)

In addition, include the **abstract pages of all sources of support** (pending or current) as a single pdf file to the application.

IMPORTANT! Please be aware that in general, EFSD does not support a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator with more than one EFSD award at any given time, whether or not the projects are in related fields and independent of the EFSD programme providing the respective funding. This rule also applies for recipients of an EFSD/Novo Nordisk Foundation Future Leaders Award. Recipients of an EFSD award may apply for new funding to the same or to another EFSD programme on the condition that the current project supported by EFSD is complete and have submitted a final scientific and financial report before any new funding can commence. In this case, the new award cannot be activated until the existing project has been terminated and a final scientific and financial report received. The EFSD Rising Star Fellowship Programme, and EFSD Albert Renold Travel Fellowship Programme are **exempt from this regulation**.

Be completely open about support from other sources, including support from pharmaceutical industry. If the project is already supported from other sources, please explain this in detail and justify the additional/complementary resources requested.

Please give funding amounts in Danish Kronen and Euros.

Work Distribution

In this section you are asked to provide information on:

- Your collaborators for this project (if any) – their names and institutions
- The distribution of work between your own, and your collaborator's institutions (if applicable)

Which experiments/measurements will be performed where

IMPORTANT! A signed letter of confirmation from each collaborator on the project not working in the PI's institution is required. **Guidelines on Collaborative Agreements** including a mandatory statement are provided in chapter 7 of this document.

Include your collaborative agreements as a single pdf file to your application.

Step 7: Ethical Approval

In this section you are asked if your project involves experiments requiring ethical approval/s.

Please **do not include approvals as part of this application.**

Should this application result in the granting of an award, a copy of the confirmation and/or signature page of all ethical human and/or animal approval/s will need to be attached to the award activation documentation. The approval/s must conform to the national laws of the country where the research is to be carried out. Please note that no payments will be transferred until the appropriate approval/s have been granted and a copy received in the EFSD Office.

Step 8: Budget

In this section you are asked to provide a detailed budget for your project using the budget table A provided as a download.

You are asked to **submit 2 budget tables**: An estimate **5-year budget** of total up to DKK 5 million and a **detailed budget for the first year** of the project of total up to DKK 1 million.

In case of a successful application, you will be asked to submit a detailed budget for the next year of your project of total up to DKK 1 million as part of your yearly progress report. This will allow for adjustments and changes from your original 5-year budget.

All budgets are to be prepared in DKK. Use the current exchange rate between DKK and your local currency. The exchange rate used for calculating the DKK budget must be mentioned Budget Justification section (step 8). Awards will be payable in DKK and will NOT be adjusted for any alteration in the exchange rate between DKK and the local currency in the place of the award.

For salary requests, use current salary scales (gross salary including social charges, fringe benefits with expected annual increases/annuities). The salary requested may not exceed (% effort) x (gross salary for the time period of the project).

The budget may include Administrative Support, which constitutes an amount of up to 5% of the total budget to cover expenses related to the administration of the award, specifically regarding accounting, controlling, auditing and reporting.

No Overheads will be granted.

A copy of budget table A is also provided in chapter 10 of this document.

The total budget requested and budget period that you provided in the Application Details section (step 2).

The total budget submitted must match the fixed budget of the programme you are applying to.

The budget period (time) during which the sum requested will be spent according to the specific needs of the project must be clearly stated and justified where indicated.

If the sum requested is part of a larger overall costing, then this may be explained in the Budget Justification section (step 8).

IMPORTANT! Do not deviate from this format, any budgets not submitted in the correct format will not be reviewed.

Contractual Costs

In this section you are asked to provide a detailed budget for any contractual costs (i.e. work carried out at another institution or company) requested in the detailed main budgets (step 8) using the budget table B provided as a download.

A copy of budget table B is also provided in chapter 11 of this document.

Please list equipment costs also under Equipment in your main budget (step 8).

If your budget does not include any contractual costs, fill in n/a.

IMPORTANT! Do not deviate from this format, any contractual costs not submitted in the correct format will not be reviewed.

Budget Justification

In this important section you are asked to provide a justification for each item listed in the budget including contractual costs.

If you are applying from outside of Denmark, include the exchange rate between DKK and your local currency used for calculating your budget in this section.

Provide clear justification for each budget item. This will allow the reviewers to determine whether the budget is appropriate for the proposed work. It might be helpful to explain local funding policies underlying certain requests.

This budget justification will be reviewed carefully and the Review Committee may on occasion and at its discretion recommend an award in a lesser amount considered more appropriate for the proposed studies.

Step 9: Motivation

IMPORTANT! Your letter of motivation **must not exceed 3 pages written in type no smaller than 12-point Arial with single line spacing**. Documents exceeding these parameters will not be forwarded for review.

An essential part of a Future Leaders Award application is the applicant's letter of motivation. It will allow the Review Committee to understand better your motivation and suitability to become a Future Leader in European diabetes research.

Please explain in your own words your background and your motivation to stay in the field of diabetes and to pursue an academic career in Europe.

Include any information (e.g. training, experience, activities, specific interests, personal qualities) that you find important to reflect your motivation and capability to become a Future Leader in European diabetes research.

Your letter of motivation should further include:

- Your career plans
- A summary of your previous scientific achievements

A brief description of your scientific project (a detailed research plan is to be submitted as a separate document)

3) Guidelines Biographical Sketch

IMPORTANT! Your biographical sketch **must not exceed 4 pages written in type no smaller than 12-point Arial with single line spacing**. Documents exceeding these parameters will not be forwarded for review.

Your biographical sketch should contain the following information:

- Name
- Date and place of birth
- Education (in reverse chronological order)
 - Name / location of college or university
 - Highest degree
 - Year conferred
 - Field of study
- Research and/or professional experience (in reverse chronological order)
- Publications (in reverse chronological order) **with clear indication of your role**
 - Titles of and complete references to all publications (in reverse chronological order)
 - If a complete list of publications exceeds the four-page limit, choose those most recent and/or most pertinent to this application.
- Awards and honours
- Previous competitive funding (national and international)
- Membership of editorial boards and leadership committees
- Teaching and extra-curricular activities

Please list your education and employment in **reverse chronological order**.

4) Guidelines Letter of Motivation

IMPORTANT! Your letter of motivation **must not exceed 3 pages written in type no smaller than 12-point Arial with single line spacing**. Documents exceeding these parameters will not be forwarded for review.

An essential part of a Future Leaders Award application is the applicant's letter of motivation. It will allow the Review Committee to understand better your motivation and suitability to become a Future Leader in European diabetes research.

Please explain in your own words your background and your motivation to stay in the field of diabetes and to pursue an academic career in Europe.

Include any information (e.g. training, experience, activities, specific interests, personal qualities) that you find important to reflect your motivation and capability to become a Future Leader in European diabetes research.

Your letter of motivation should further include:

- Your career plans
- A summary of your previous scientific achievements
- A brief description of your scientific project (a detailed research plan is to be submitted as a separate document, see chapter 5)

5) Guidelines Research Plan

IMPORTANT! The research plan **must not exceed 8 pages written in type no smaller than 12-point Arial with single line spacing** including preliminary data (figures and tables), but excluding references. No additional material (such as manuscript reprints, appendices etc.) will be accepted. Any application exceeding this page limit will not be forwarded for review.

General considerations

- A clear relationship to diabetes must be obvious.
- Ensure that the sections in the proposal are balanced in length: a long introduction leaving too little space for preliminary data and a detailed work plan will decrease the chances of success.
- The review panel will consider the information provided as an example of the applicant's approach to a research objective and as an indication of ability in this area of research.

Research plan structure

a. Introduction

- 1) Objective
- 2) Background and current status of research in the proposed field of study that has led to this proposal.
 - Be careful and honest in describing the background literature (work from others).
 - It is important that the reader gets a feel for novelty. Which gap in knowledge is being filled by the proposal?
 - Hypothesis: A carefully crafted introduction/background will make the formulation of the hypothesis obvious. This should be formulated as precisely and distinctly as possible. Is it novel? Is it important? If the study is hypothesis-free or descriptive, this must be justified.

b. Specific aims for the period of requested support

- Must succinctly describe the approach to test the hypothesis.
- Too many aims may give the impression of fragmentation.

c. Preliminary data

- This is an important part of the application that will provide evidence to reviewers of the rationale and feasibility of the proposed experiments.
- Refer briefly to any of your own previously published work that is directly relevant to the proposed experiments.
- Describe relevant new experiments and provide unpublished preliminary data in the form of figures or tables.

d. Detailed plan of investigation with clearly set out project plan, methods, time plans with milestones and deliverables

- Please state if a power analysis has been performed and provide details of same. If this is not the case, please explain why a power analysis is not applicable to the project.
- Does the work plan correspond to the aims in a direct fashion?
- Potential pitfalls: It is useful to openly discuss challenges or vulnerabilities to a certain approach and to elaborate on potential alternatives to give the feeling that the best way forward has been chosen.
- If the study is a clinical trial, all aspects of design must be carefully considered. It is helpful to ensure that appropriate expertise is represented in the proposal.
- A clear Gantt diagram should be included.

e. Novelty and importance of this work

f. Facilities available

g. References (not included in the page limit)

h. Abstract pages from all other sources of support (pending or current)

6) Letters of Support

Several letters of support must be included in the application:

- 1) A strong letter of support from your institution.

IMPORTANT! This letter should also contain a well-defined long term career plan, including specific mention of terms of employment during the 5-year period of the award and details of direct financial support for the research to be made available.

- 2) Two letters of support from senior scientists outside of your institution.
- 3) For clinical scientists: A clear commitment from your academic institution and/or associated hospital to guarantee you sufficient time to pursue your research project.

IMPORTANT! Letters must be dated and printed on institutional letterhead.

7) Guidelines Collaborative Agreements

If you have collaborators for your project, a signed letter of confirmation from each collaborator is required.

In addition to information which the collaborator feels is relevant to the application, this letter should contain the following sentence:

“I herewith confirm that I have read and agreed with the scientific protocol of this application. The application is feasible and includes novel aspects that will advance scientific knowledge in this field, and that the protocol of this project is in accordance with the requirements outlined in the Announcement for this Programme”.

8) Statement of Independence

No investigator may hold more than one EFSD award at a time, and this may create a problem when a second investigator wishes to apply for EFSD support from within the same research group. Such applications will only be considered if the Principal Investigator named for this grant can provide clear evidence that he or she is a fully independent researcher.

Therefore, if any other scientist in the applicant’s group is currently supported by an EFSD award, a Statement of Independence must be signed by both the PI of the current application and the current grant holder.

The Statement of Independence contains the following statement that must be undersigned:

“I hereby confirm that the PI on the current application will appear either as first or last author on any publications arising from the work that may be funded by EFSD, and that any existing grant holder will NOT feature as first or last author on any such publications.”

Any breach of the above described publication rule may lead to immediate withdrawal of EFSD funding to both applicants.

Exemptions: The EFSD Rising Star Fellowship Programme, EFSD Future Leaders Mentorship Programme for Clinical Diabetologists and EFSD Albert Renold Travel Fellowship Programme are exempt from the only one EFSD award per investigator regulation.

9) Overview Documents

Please include all documents in pdf format.

Remember to use clear headings on your documents.

Please do not use fonts that are not commonly used (e.g. Arial MT) as these might affect the document that will be later accessed by the reviewers.

Title of Proposal	max 100 characters (including spaces)
Abstract	max 300 words
Biographical Sketch	Mandatory for every application Guidelines in chapter 3 Length restriction: max 4 pages, Arial 12
Letter of Motivation	Mandatory for every application Guidelines in chapter 4 Length restriction: max 3 pages, Arial 12
Research Plan	Mandatory for every application Guidelines in chapter 5 Length restriction: max 8 pages, Arial 12 w/o references
Letter of Support from your institution	Mandatory for every application Information in chapter 6
Two Letters of Support from senior scientists outside of your institution	Mandatory for every application Information in chapter 6
For clinical scientists: a letter from your institution/hospital guaranteeing time for research	Mandatory for clinical scientists Information in chapter 6
Collaborative Agreements	If applicable to the application Guidelines in chapter 7 One single pdf
Abstract pages from all other sources of support (pending or current)	If applicable to the application One single pdf
Statement of Independence	If applicable to the application include in the Financial Support section (step 6), information in chapter 8

10) Budget Table A

Submit 2 budget tables A: An estimate 5-year budget of total DKK 5 million and a detailed budget for the first year of the project of total DKK 1 million.

Total Budget (5 Years) / Budget Year 01				
A: Personnel: (name if possible)	Role on project	% Effort on project	Institutional base salary/Year	Salary request *
Subtotal DKK:				
B: Supplies (description):		Subtotal DKK _____		
C: Other costs (please specify):		Subtotal DKK _____		
D: Consultant / contractual costs = subtotal direct costs from Contractual Costs section (Budget B)		Subtotal DKK _____		
E: Equipment (please describe):		Subtotal DKK _____		
SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS			DKK _____	
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS (maximum 5% of Direct Costs)			DKK _____	
TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST /			TOTAL DKK 5,000,000/	
TOTAL BUDGET REQUEST YEAR 01			TOTAL DKK 1,000,000	
(Direct + admin. costs including salaries)				

* Gross salary including social charges, fringe benefits. The salary requested may not exceed (% effort) x (gross salary for the time period of the project).

11) Budget Table B: Contractual Costs

Contractual Costs Total Budget (5 Years)/Budget Year 01				
A: Personnel (name if possible)	Role on project	% Effort on project	Institutional base salary/Year	Salary request*
Subtotal DKK:				
B: Supplies (description):		Subtotal DKK _____		
C: Equipment (please describe)**		Subtotal DKK** _____		
D: Other costs (please specify)		Subtotal DKK _____		
SUBTOTAL DIRECT COSTS***			TOTAL DKK*** _____	

* Gross salary including social charges, fringe benefits. The salary requested may not exceed (% effort) x (gross salary for the time period of the project).

** Also list equipment costs under E: Equipment in main budget (previous section).

*** **Note: Enter subtotal direct costs under D: Consultant / Contractual Costs in the respective main budgets in the previous section.**

12) Submission

Check your application carefully and make sure that it is accurate and complete.

IMPORTANT:

No changes can be made after submission!

You must submit your application by 12:00 midday CET on the Programme deadline date or it will not be forwarded to the reviewers!

Shortly after the submission, you will receive an email acknowledging receipt of your application.

You as the applicant will receive a **second email once your application has been checked by the EFSD office**. If you do not receive this second email within two weeks of the Programme deadline date, and it was not transferred to your spam folder, please contact the EFSD Office foundation@easd.org.