

Call for expression of interest

Centres of Clinical Excellence Region of Southern Denmark

Deadline: February 19th 2025 12.00 pm.

Application form at: [Region Syddanmarks Forskningspuljer / GrantOne](#)

In 2014, the Regional Council of Southern Denmark established a grant to support the establishment of Centres of Clinical Excellence in the Region of Southern Denmark. The grant aims to support Centres of Clinical Excellence reach the highest international level in research and clinical practice.

Centres must demonstrate the ability and capacity to develop new innovative results with an expected impact on future patient treatment. This could be within a specific narrow clinical regime or in a more broad sense, where the organisation of the centre is crossing borders between clinical functions, professions and institutions.

This is the eight call for expression of interest in Centres of Clinical Excellence since the establishment of the grant. The goal is to establish one or two centres every two years.

Each grant is **7.5 million** DKK (equivalent to € 1 million) and is distributed over a five-year period.

Eligibility

The Clinical Excellence Grant supports research centres that originate from a psychiatric or somatic hospital in the Region of Southern Denmark. There must be collaboration between at least two or more hospitals in the Region of Southern Denmark.

The application will be assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Research – scientific quality**
The proposed centres clinical research program is ambitious, original and has high standards of research at an international level. This implies scientific outcomes with novelty, quality and innovativeness that can be compared with or excels international centres/ groups with known outstanding performances in the presented research area.
- **Clinical practice and methods**

The proposed research centre and related clinical functions are closely connected and has the capacity to produce excellent research results with a high degree of relevance and impact on future patient treatment.

- Patient treatment covers all aspects of prevention, examination, diagnostics and care, continuity in care, treatment and rehabilitation.
- **Centre manager**

The centre manager is well established within international scientific and clinical communities due to his or her research and clinical record, and whether the centre manager in his or her function has shown managerial skills in other extensive projects including transnational projects.
- **Team composition**

The team has documented high skills within research and clinical functions and has the capacity, creativity, diversity and expertise necessary for creating research at an international level.

 - At least three professors must be formally involved in the development of the centre, and at least one of these professors must be from a different hospital in the Region of Southern Denmark than the centre manager.
- **Level of collaboration between clinical functions, professions and institutions**

The centre must collaborate with at least one other hospital within the Region of Southern Denmark. Furthermore it is considered an advantage if the centre collaborates with more hospitals, clinical functions/ -professions and/ or primary sectors, e.g. GP's in the Region of Southern Denmark, nationally and internationally.
- **Structure and organisation of the centre**

Whether the structure and organisation of the centre is transparent, power-full, and dynamic and ensures involvement of all relevant partners. The centre must be able to develop, implement and sustain research and clinical functions at an international level.

 - The organisation must furthermore continually seek to create and sustain visibility of the centres activities.
 - An advisory board must be established and be included as part of the organisation. The role of the board should be to review and ensure the development of the centre in accordance with the project plan.

The Clinical Excellence Grant

With the grant follows an obligation to obtain equivalent funding from external sources as well as funding from the Grant Holders institution. The purpose of the grant is to ensure the development

and research of the proposed Centre of Clinical Excellence and can be used for the following types of expenses:

- **Salary for the applicant or other employees** e.g. research and technical assistance, including postdoctoral researchers, Ph.D. students and technicians.
- **Operating expenses** e.g. lab consumables, sequencing, computing resources, data storage and analysis services.
- **Data management** expenses for collecting and storing data.
- **Equipment** e.g. hardware, software, data access etc.
- **Clinical training or education** in national or international acknowledged clinical environments.
- **Open Access/other publishing cost related to the centre**

For more information about the grant, please read the “Terms and conditions”.

International reviewers

A board of international reviewers and representatives from the Region of Southern Denmark assesses the applications.

Each applicant must provide four confirmed international experts, preferably from the EU, to conduct an independent review of the application for the Expression of interest and potentially a second review of a full application, as well as attend the Evaluation day online on 5 December 2025.

Suggested international experts must be professors and/or head of research at high international level with prior peer-reviewing experience.

International experts will receive an honorarium for their work and potential online attendance at the Evaluation day. After the application deadline, international reviewers will be contacted to reconfirm their acceptance and impartiality.

The honorarium is 1500 EURO per round. Reviewers are expected to allocate approximately 1 ½ hours per round for reading, commenting, and evaluating the application. An assessment form and instructions will be provided.

Process	Send Out Date	Deadline
Expression of Interest Review	13 March 2025	10 April 2025
Full Application Review	03 October 2025	30 October 2025

If an application proceeds to a full review, international reviewers are also expected to participate online for approximately 1 1/2 hours on the Evaluation day, 5 December 2025.

Applying for prequalification

The application in its entirety must be submitted electronically via the application system GrantOne: [Region Syddanmarks Forskningspuljer / GrantOne](#). It is not possible to submit an application or any part of it by e-mail. Any material submitted outside the application system will not be included.

For all applications, the individual fields must be completed in accordance with these guidelines and the instructions supplied in GrantOne.

Please note that all documents and writing must be in English.

Text from Microsoft Word or comparable word processors can be copied and pasted into most text fields of the application. It is, however, important to check that formatting, special characters, and symbols have not been converted or lost in the text fields after copying and pasting.

The available options for formatting text are at the top of the text fields. Some shorter text fields however do not have this option.

The following must be completed in GrantOne:

- **Basic information** about the centre manager and fellow applicants
- **Description of the centre** including a short Danish abstract
- **Area of research** including achieved and expected results and activities for the proposed centre
- **Clinical program and functions** including findings and research for the benefits of patients
- **Formal collaboration** with partners at a regional, national and international level
- **Organisation and management of the centre**
- **Budget total**
- **Basic information** about the international reviewers

The following documents must be attached as PDF files in GrantOne:

- **CV** including H-index and ORCID/ SCOPUS for the centre manager and the fellow applicants. Max. five pages for centre manager and two pages for each fellow applicant.
- **Signed documents from each fellow applicant** with confirmation of his or her involvement in the centre.
- **Signed documents from each international reviewer** stating his or her agreement with the following terms: *I am able and willing to take part in the review process and have no conflict*

of interest in regards to the proposed centre e.g. no recently shared publication(s) with the centre manager, fellow applicants etc.

Prequalification process

The decisions from the prequalification process is expected **ultimo May 2025/ primo June 2025**.

Based on a prequalification process involving international experts, representatives from the University of Southern Denmark as well as members of the Regional Strategic Council for Research, qualified applicants are invited to submit a full application.

When invited to submit a full proposal a thorough description of the application criteria and practical information about the evaluation day will be given.

An overview over the application process is presented below.

What?	When?
Submission of prequalification application (expression of interest) – 1. application	19 February 2025
Submission of full application (if the applicant is found qualified) – 2. application	1 October 2025
Evaluation day with presentation of the proposed centres (hybrid attendance)	5 December 2025

Please note that all applicants and international reviewers must be able to meet these deadlines.

Contact information

For further questions, please contact the secretariat for The Regional Strategic Council for Research in the Region of Southern Denmark at forskning.sund@rsyd.dk

The secretariat are available to assist with clarifications regarding formalities and questions about the guidelines for the grant. Technical questions about the application should be submitted through the application module in GrantOne.

Alternatively, GrantOne can be contacted at support@grant.nu.