Call for nominations: Elite Research Prize 2020

As part of the Elite Research Initiative, we hereby announce that five Elite Research Prizes will be awarded to researchers within any of the academic disciplines. The prizes, each with a total value of DKK 1.2 million, will be awarded to outstanding young (under 45) researchers with a prominent international reputation, whose work constitutes an exceptional contribution to Danish research.

The prize will be awarded by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. All applications will be assessed by the board of the Independent Research Fund Denmark, who will evaluate the proposed candidates on the merits of their research, and recommend to the Minister of Higher Education and Science what five candidates should receive the prize.

1. Purpose of the award
The Government aims to make Denmark one of the leading and most competitive knowledge societies. One means to this end is a more emphatic promotion of elite researchers and the development of talent in general. For this reason, the Ministry of Higher Education and Science has launched the Elite Research initiative to support and encourage the most gifted and talented researchers, by drawing attention to their results and putting them forward as role models for other young people who have embarked on research careers.

The prize consists of a personal award to the recipient of DKK 200,000 kroner, plus a further one million DKK to fund research within the specialist field of the recipient. The one million DKK is a framework grant, to be drawn on within three years. It is to be administered by the institution where the recipient is employed, and includes overheads. The grants connected with the prizes will be disbursed at the beginning of 2020.

2. Conditions for nomination

Who can be nominated?
The Elite Research prizes are awarded to young researchers with a prominent international reputation, whose work constitutes an exceptional contribution to Danish research. Prizes may be awarded to researchers within all academic disciplines. Recipients must be under the age of forty-five (45) at the time when the prizes are awarded. In connection with maternity leave before or after completing a PhD, the candidate's age may be reduced by double the actual number of weeks the person has been on leave. The period of maternity leave must be included in the person's CV.

Who can nominate?
Candidates may be nominated by universities, research institutes and private companies that conduct research. The nominated candidates must be employed by the nominating institution. Candidates may not nominate themselves.
Denmark's eight universities may be divided into five groups according to the number of researchers they employ. On this basis, Copenhagen University and Aarhus University will be entitled to nominate up to eight candidates; the Technical University of Denmark up to six candidates; the University of Southern Denmark and Aalborg University up to four candidates; Copenhagen Business School and Roskilde University up to two candidates each; and the IT University one candidate. Other public research institutions, as well as small and medium-sized private companies, may each nominate one candidate, while large private companies may nominate up to two candidates.

Institutions are encouraged to nominate both women and men.

3. Requirements concerning nominations

Nominations are to be submitted using the e-grant application system at http://ufm.dk/eff/e-grant.

Academic justification
A justification for the nomination must be provided in Danish. This justification is to be written in the three text boxes on the e-grant application form. The three sections of text that make up the justification shall contain the following information:

1) **A description of the field of research.** A short description of the main focus of the research (500 characters including spaces).

2) **A description of the researcher's particular contribution to the field.**
   An account of the impact of the research on society: for example, patents, impact on practice, etc. In addition, a list of relevant indicators of the academic impact on the research field in question: publications, conference papers, quotings, etc. Finally, an assessment of how the work positions the researcher among the elite of the field (2,000 characters including spaces).

3) **A description of the researcher's contribution to the establishment and development of research groups.** An account of the researcher's particular contribution to the establishment and development of research groups, including how many postdocs and PhD students (both current and past) have been involved in the researcher's projects. There must also be an account of how the researcher may function as a role model for younger researchers (500 characters including spaces).

The name and contact details of the formal author of the academic justification shall be appended.

*The following must be attached in PDF format:*

A) CV in Danish or English.
B) List of publications in Danish or English.

Please note that the CV and list of publications together must not exceed five A4 pages for each candidate.
4. Nomination procedure
Should the deadlines or requirements stated in this call for nominations not be ad-hered to, the nomination will be rejected without being considered. Should the submitted documentation be incomplete, the nomination will be considered on the basis of the documentation received.

Consideration of nominations received will be concluded at the end of 2019. Prizes will be awarded at the Elite Research prize award ceremony 2020, scheduled for week 9, 2020.

5. Handling of personal information
Documents containing personal information are to be archived according to the provisions of the Access to Public Administration Files Act and are to be delivered to the archives authorities according to the provisions of the Danish Archives Act (about every five years). After delivering documents to the archives authorities, the Agency will keep a copy for about five years, depending on the designated period for the transfer of archives, after which the information held by the Agency will be deleted.

6. Final date for the submission of nominations
The final date for the submission of nominations is 21 May, 2019, at twelve noon. For further information, please contact the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education by email at eliteforsk@ufm.dk, or call Project Manager Lise Lybeck Sørensen on +45 7231 8326.