Call for nominations: Elite Research Prize 2022

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 prize, amounting to 1.2 million DKK, will be awarded to outstanding young researchers with both a prominent international reputation and whose work constitutes an exceptional contribution to Danish research.

The prize will be awarded by the Ministry of Higher Education and Science. All nominations will be assessed by the board of the Independent Research Fund Denmark. The board will evaluate the merits of the proposed candidates’ research and will recommend to the Minister of Higher Education and Science which 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. 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. The Ministry will do this 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 200,000 DKK, plus an additional one million DKK to fund research within the recipient's specialist field. 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 overhead. The grants connected with the prizes will be disbursed at the beginning of 2021.

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 have completed their PhD or equivalent qualification within fifteen years prior to the awarding of the price. That is, on or after January 1, 2007. In connection with leave related to pregnancy, maternity, paternity or parentage after the completion of the PhD, the 15-year period may be extended by double the actual number of weeks on leave. The period of leave must be included in the person's CV.
Who can nominate?
Candidates may be nominated by universities, research institutions and private companies that conduct research. The nominated candidates must be employed by the nominating institution or company. Candidates may not nominate themselves.

Denmark's eight universities are divided into five groups according to the number of researchers they employ. On this basis, University of Copenhagen and Aarhus University will be entitled to nominate up to eight candidates each; Technical University of Denmark up to six candidates; the University of Southern Denmark and Aalborg University up to four candidates each; Copenhagen Business School and Roskilde University up to two candidates each; and IT University of Copenhagen one candidate. Other public research institutions, as well as small and medium-sized private companies, may each nominate one candidate, whereas 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 www.e-grant.dk.

The institution must coordinate its nominations.

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 nominee’s research and 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. There must be an assessment of the researcher's status in relation to elite researchers in the field. In addition, there must be a description of the impact of the research on society: for example, patents, impact on practice, etc. Finally, a list of relevant indicators of the academic impact on the research field in question should be included: publications, conference papers, quotings, etc. must be included (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 must be included. 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 should 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 adhered to, the nomination will be rejected without consideration. 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 2021. Prizes will be awarded at the Elite Research Prize award ceremony 2022, scheduled for week 9, 2022.

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 archival authorities according to the provisions of the Danish Archives Act (about every five years). After delivering documents to the archival 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 June 1, 2021, at twelve noon.

7. Contact information
 For further information, please contact the Danish Agency for Higher Education and Science by email at eliteforsk@ufm.dk, or call Katrine Bisgaard on +45 7231 8423.