



Danida Fellowship Centre

- sustaining development through research and learning

Capacity Development

Research

Commercial services

Fellows

News

About us

To search, type and hit enter



Research

Research Management Team

Research Cooperation

What we support

Window 1

Window 2

Building Stronger Universities (BSU)

Mobility Grant

What we support

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark supports research projects which build on collaboration between Danish research institutions and research institutions in low-income Danida partner countries, as well as emerging economies. Projects may either be driven by Danish research institutions or by research institutions in the collaborating countries. Projects are assessed by the [Consultative Research Committee for Development Research \(FFU\)](#), which recommends projects for funding to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark.

Through the [Building Stronger Universities \(BSU\)](#) programme the Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports long-term strategic partnerships between universities in Denmark and research environments in Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda, respectively. The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of selected universities in these countries to perform high-quality research. Activities include support to development of research policies and strategies, PhD-schools, development of research concepts, improved quality assurance of research, improvement of libraries and systematisation and upgrading of scientific publications.

Recommendations:

- **Do** justify how the proposed research relate to the themes described in the Calls.
- **Do** identify a research question which is not only intellectually challenging but also relevant (in context and for development in more general) and under-researched.
- **Do** formulate research questions or/and hypotheses that describe the innovative nature of the proposed research, how controversies in the literature may be addressed and how 'conventional wisdom' may be revised.
- **Do** explain carefully how the project contributes to new knowledge by positioning it in relation to existing research (not enough to provide a list of literature read).

Recommendations (continued):

- **Make sure** that the main responsible research(ers) can allocate sufficient time (not necessarily a good idea to select a director or dean as main researcher).
- **Do** ensure a good balance between input from each of the project partners.
- **Do** follow up on recommendations from the evaluation of the phase 1 application, when writing the Phase 2 application.

Recommendations:

- **Be** focused, realistic and feasible. It is not an advantage to cover very broad research questions or very extensive empirical material. It is not necessarily an advantage to apply for multi-country comparative studies unless the rationale is clearly explained.
- **Make sure** the capacity building element is based upon needs and great if innovative in nature!
- **Make sure** that the research is analytical rather than mainly descriptive.
- **Consider** that inter-disciplinarity is an asset and make sure that you have the right competences in the team.
- **Do** try to move from 'grey' to internationally refereed publications.
- **Make sure** the research to policy element and dissemination is as creative as possible

Warnings:

- **Do not** apply for “product development” projects.
- **Do not** apply for data collection projects without thorough explanation of how data will be used.
- **Do not** apply for “development projects”, as the grants are for research.
- **Do not** apply for consultancy type of activities.
- **Do not** apply for Ph.D. projects only without sufficient involvement of senior researchers (allocate enough time for the key applicant).
- **Do not** include an “excessive” number of researchers
- **Do not** make your application into a mini Ph.D. program
- **Do not** address only part of the call text.

Useful links

- The e-application system is accessible from DFC's website:
<http://dfcentre.com/research/calls-for-applications/>
- For questions concerning the practical application procedure, please contact the Research Unit at DFC by mail at: research@dfcentre.dk
- See the ongoing projects at Danida Research Portal:
<http://drp.dfcentre.com/>