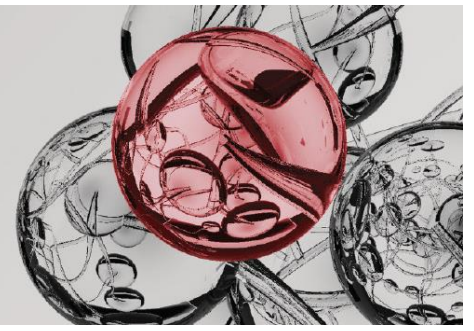


# TALENT Doctoral Fellowship Programme



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Important introductory remark

The University of Copenhagen/the Faculty of Science will base the decision as to whether candidates and proposals are eligible in the context of the TALENT Doctoral Programme on the documents and information, which the candidates provide when submitting their applications through [the job portal](#). Please note that this is **the only valid way to submit** an application to the TALENT Doctoral Programme. **Applications sent via email will be discarded**. The University of Copenhagen/the Faculty of Science will evaluate the applications **after** the application deadline: October 1, 2018. To sum up, UCPH/SCIENCE **does not** pre-evaluate candidates, e.g. if they email their CVs to the TALENT Secretariat.

Furthermore, UCPH/SCIENCE made [templates](#) – which are **mandatory** to complete and submit as part of an application – to ensure that UCPH/SCIENCE receives all the information that is needed to evaluate the applications properly.

Lastly, requirements are indeed requirements, meaning that applicants **must** comply with them. **Waivers will not be granted**.

➤ **NATIONALITY**

*Q: I am not a European citizen, am I still eligible to apply?*

**A:** The TALENT Doctoral Programme is open to all nationalities. However, it is important to note the so-called mobility rule, [eligibility criteria no. 1 on the TALENT website](#), which one has to comply with, along with the other criteria and requirements.

➤ **MOBILITY**

*Q: I am originally from Italy but moved to Denmark the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, 2017. Am I eligible to apply?*

**A:** The declaration re. mobility, which must be completed as part of the application procedure:

[https://talent.ku.dk/dokumenter/TALENT\\_Template\\_4\\_Declaration\\_of\\_Mobility.pdf](https://talent.ku.dk/dokumenter/TALENT_Template_4_Declaration_of_Mobility.pdf) says: *In order to apply for an individual PhD fellowship under the TALENT Doctoral Programme, co-funded by Horizon 2020/Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, candidates must undertake transnational mobility according to the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.*

*This means that all nationalities can apply, but candidates **may not** [MUST NOT] have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Denmark for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to TALENT's call deadline: October 1, 2018. Time spent on obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention, compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.*

*...Please indicate the period(s) and the country in which you have legally resided and/or had your main activity (work, studies, etc.) during the last 3 years...*

From the information that you provide, it seems that you have legally resided in Denmark more than 12 months during the period October 2, 2015-October 1, 2018 and thereby do not comply with the mobility requirement.

➤ **AGE**

*Q: Is there any age limit in terms of being eligible to apply?*

**A:** There is no biological age limit but (please see the [Guide for Applicants](#), page 1, point 2, incl. note 1):

**2. [Applicants] *Must* at the TALENT call deadline (October 1, 2018) be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience [NOTE]1) of their research careers and **must not yet** have been awarded a doctoral degree.**

**Note 1 'Full-time equivalent research experience'** is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, in this case Denmark, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.

**In conclusion:** the term young in the call refer to the researcher age, i.e. years of experience. There is no biological age limitation for applicants.

➤ **IN THE FIRST FOUR YEARS (FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT RESEARCH EXPERIENCE) OF THE RESEARCH CAREER**

*Q: I have difficulty understanding [eligibility criteria no. 2](#) about applicants:*

**2. *Must* at the TALENT call deadline (1 October 2018) be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience [NOTE]1) of their research careers and **must not yet** have been awarded a doctoral degree.**

**Note 1 'Full-time equivalent research experience'** is measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree entitling him/her to embark on a doctorate, either in the country in which the degree was obtained or in the country in which the researcher is recruited, in this case Denmark, even if a doctorate was never started or envisaged.

*Would you please explain?*

**A:** The question is best explained by way of an example:

An applicant got her MSc on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2014 and has worked full-time as a research assistant since then. In other words, she lives up to the requirement of being in the first four years of her research career because she will have worked 3 years and 11 months as a research assistant at the time of the application deadline: the 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2018.

Applicants are encouraged to pay attention to the word **equivalent** and the following in the [Guide for Applicants](#) (page 2, note 4):

*In case of career breaks, the TALENT secretariat encourages applicants, for whom it would be relevant, to submit evidence-based/documented CVs.*

To avoid any misunderstanding, if an applicant has had other jobs outside research or been on parental leave, it is important to highlight it in the CV ([template provided](#)) because time away from research will be deducted towards the four years (from the date of being awarded the MSc degree, alternatively BSc degree). (Part time work in research is calculated proportionately.) It is up to the applicant to document that she/he fulfills the requirement of being in the first four years of her/his research career.

#### ➤ SUPERVISOR(S)

**Q:** *Should an applicant have been in contact with and/or made an agreement with a potential main supervisor from one of the 12 departments at the Faculty of Science before the applicant can submit an application?*

**A:** The [Guide for Applicants](#) (page 2):

*Applicants are also given the opportunity to indicate the department they see most fit to host their project and the names of three suitable main and co-supervisors.*

This does not imply that the applicant in advance should have been in contract with and/or made an agreement with a potential supervisor from one of the 12 departments at the Faculty of Science. The mandatory template for [the cover/motivation letter](#) requires the applicant to list potential supervisors, incl. potential department, **but the applicant does not need pre-approval in order to mention potential supervisor(s) or department**. That being said, the choice is not legally binding for the Faculty of Science. The mentioned template reads:

- *At the department you indicated above, whom do you consider most suitable to be your main supervisor? Mention maximum three names.*
- *Whom do you consider most suitable to be your co-supervisor(s)? The person(s) could work at another department than the one you indicated above but the person(s) could also be from other universities, industry etc. Mention maximum three names.*

The Guide for Applicants (page 2, note 2) says about the main supervisor: *The proposed main supervisor must be employed at the Faculty of Science/the University of Copenhagen and be, as a minimum, an Associate Professor. During the evaluation*

process, the Head of Department must approve the choice of main supervisor. Further on, the Head of the PhD School will make the final decision.

Under each programme area (bottom of the page) (e.g. [Health & Genomics](#)) you will find **examples** of the departments, centres and sections covering the mentioned area. It is up to you as an applicant to investigate the options you have when it comes to indicating a potential programme area, a potential department and potential supervisor(s). Moreover, please note **that the open positions are within the departments at the Faculty of Science at the University of Copenhagen** and that the applicants must indicate which of [these 16 programme areas](#) their project fall within. The text under each programme area, 'the research department' contains a link to an overview of [all 12 departments at the Faculty of Science](#).

### ➤ PROJECT PROPOSAL

**Q:** *Should I draw up my project description in collaboration with a potential supervisor?*

**A:** The [Guide for Applicants](#) (page 1) points out that TALENT is a bottom-up programme, which means that you are the one to draw up your project. Please note [the mandatory template for the project description](#).

### ➤ ENGLISH SKILLS

**Q:** *The master programme I attended was in English. Do I still have to document my English skills?*

**A:** The [Guide for Applicants](#) (page 2, incl. note 3):

**English skills:** *applicants with English as their second language must pass a language proficiency test such as IELTS, TOEFL, Cambridge Advanced English or Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE) [NOTE]3 before admission and **should therefore upload a copy of their test score sheet at the time of applying.***

**Note 3:** *The Faculty of Science accepts the following tests and scores: IELTS – Academic (IDP Education, British Council and Cambridge English Language Assessment) with a minimum score of 6.5. TOEFL Tests: ITP TOEFL-test with a minimum score of 560 points; Internet-based TOEFL-test with a minimum score of 83 points. Cambridge English: Proficiency (CPE) or Advanced (CAE) passed at level C1 or C2. For more information go to: [www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/proficiency/](http://www.cambridgeenglish.org/exams/proficiency/)*

**You must comply with this requirement; otherwise, your application will not be eligible.**

**Q:** *When is English considered to be my native/first language?*

**A:** English is considered one's native/first language if one is from the following countries: Anguilla, Antigua, Australia, Bahamas, Barbados, Barbuda, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Canada (except Quebec), Dominica, Grand Cayman Islands, Grenada, Guyana, Irish Republic, Jamaica, Montserrat, New Zealand, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, Turks & Caicos Islands, United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, & Wales and United States of America.

**To sum up:** if you are originally from one of the above-mentioned countries, you are not required to present an English test along the lines otherwise described.

### ➤ BSc vs. MSc

**Q:** *I have a BSc and anticipate to be awarded my MSc on November 15, 2018. Do I fulfill the requirements regarding education/degrees in order to apply?*

**A:** The [Guide for Applicants](#) (page 1) reads:

3. **Must hold a relevant MSc degree at the time of applying.** However, candidates, who do not hold an MSc degree, are also considered eligible **if their credentials and CV equal those achieved on an MSc.** This could be in the form of five years of full-time undergraduate and postgraduate education OR four years of full-time undergraduate education combined with relevant courses, fieldwork, scientific publications or conducted research (**these aspects must be documented by uploading additional documents as part of the CV.**)

Thus, the degree that will count (in this case) at the application deadline October 1, 2018 is the BSc degree. One will therefore have to document (not just mention) that one is at MSc level, even though one does not yet have an MSc. **In conclusion: an applicant not holding an MSc will be subject to an individual assessment of her/his qualifications.**

**Q:** *Can I apply without having my final diploma at the application deadline?*

**A:** Applying without a final diploma is feasible, **but the thesis must be defended and the diploma/other official documentation of the obtained degree issued and sent to the TALENT secretariat no later than October 31, 2018.** This way, the documentation for the awarded degree is available before the expert/international evaluation takes place November 1-21, 2018.

➤ **ENROLLMENT AS PHD STUDENT**

**Q:** *Do I have to be enrolled as a PhD student at the University of Copenhagen/the Faculty of Science at the time of the application deadline?*

**A:** As you can read in the [Guide for Applicants](#), there are no requirements towards being enrolled as a PhD student at UCPH/SCIENCE in order to apply for a fellowship within the TALENT Doctoral Programme. Page 2 of the mentioned guide says; *applicants awarded a TALENT doctoral fellowship must be enrolled in the 180 ECTS/three year PhD programme at SCIENCE.* I.e. enrollment is required **only**, if one is offered a fellowship.

➤ **ALREADY PHD DEGREE/POST DOC**

**Q:** *I already have a PhD but would like to pursue a second one. Am I eligible to apply?*

**A:** No, since [eligibility criteria no. 2 on the TALENT website](#) clearly stipulates that an applicant must not yet have been awarded a doctoral degree.

**Q:** *I am enrolled as a PhD student at another university and would like to apply to the TALENT Doctoral Programme. I am wondering if I fulfill [eligibility criteria no. 2 on the TALENT website](#)?*

**A:** Eligibility criteria no. 2 on the TALENT website states that an applicant is eligible to apply as long as the applicant has not yet been **awarded** a doctoral degree. However, the other requirements, e.g. the one re. mobility, still must be fulfilled.

➤ **TEMPLATES IN GENERAL**

**Q:** *Where do I find the templates mentioned in the job advertisement and do I have to use them?*

**A:** The Faculty of Science, University of Copenhagen made [templates](#) – which are **mandatory** to complete and submit as part of an application – to ensure that

UCPH/SCIENCE receives all the information that is needed to evaluate the applications properly.

➤ **THE TEMPLATE FOR THE PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

*Q: Is it OK to delete the three sections Excellence, Impact and Implementation, incl. the headings, subheadings and the evaluation criteria in the project description and make up a different project structure?*

**A: No, you are to address each and every section, heading, subheading and criteria. Otherwise, your application will be incomplete and thereby be deemed ineligible** during step 1 (eligibility and admissibility checks) of the evaluation.

➤ **PUBLICATIONS**

*Q: May I apply even though I do not have any publications on my CV?*

**A: Yes.**

➤ **BUDGET**

*Q: Do I have to make a budget as part of my application for the TALENT Doctoral Programme?*

**A: Since funding will be provided, if selected, and applicants are not asked to fund the projects partly themselves, applicants should not draw up budgets. To be clear; there are no requirements in the application material towards drawing up a budget.**

➤ **LIVING IN DENMARK**

*Q: If I am selected for a fellowship, do I have to move to Denmark?*

**A: Yes, if selected, you must live and reside in Denmark and you will and must be employed by one of the 12 departments at the Faculty of Science/University of Copenhagen.**

➤ **HOUSING COSTS**

*Q: Does the TALENT Doctoral Programme cover costs for housing?*

**A: If selected, the PhD student will receive a salary (susceptible to taxes) and the student will have to pay for housing out of the salary (after taxes). In other words, the programme does **not** cover housing – but provides a salary.**