

Application Guide – Open Competition Grants

This guide is meant to assist applicants in addressing the essential steps when applying for open competition funding through the LEO Foundation.

As a first step please read our Grant Policy section on the homepage with particular emphasis on projects and costs NOT supported by the Foundation. We also highly recommend that you download and read the Grant Terms in full to ensure that you and your host organization can comply with the conditions set forth here.

Next, please download the Application Form and fill in all mandatory fields (marked by red asterisks) according to the requirements below. Please note that the LEO Foundation strongly recommends that the combined application does not exceed five (5) written pages – excluding figures, project references and mandatory attachments. The application should also be submitted as a single PDF file.

Project title: Please provide a short, concise descriptive title for the project.

Project type: Please mark the most appropriate field for your application. If “other” is marked please specify.

Lead investigator & project responsible: Please fill in name, title, contact address, email and preferably a phone number for the primary applicant (to be designated as grantee if approved). If approved, the grant will be paid out in annual instalments pending progress report approval to the host organization of the grantee. Any redistribution of funds to other members of the project group will be the responsibility of the grantee and his or her host organization.

Project group: Not mandatory and should only be included if relevant for the application. Should include all active participants of the project who will be receiving funding apart from the main applicant.

Project affiliations: Not mandatory and should only be included if relevant for the application. Should include all contributing project partners not funded by the grant.

Abstract: Please provide an easy-to-read synopsis (layman’s terms) of the project of no more than 250 words suitable for publication on e.g. the LEO Foundation home page, LinkedIn or other social media. It should not contain any confidential or IP-related information.

Project plan: This is the central field in the application. Please include all standard elements of an application such as background info, hypotheses to be tested, aim(s), materials and methods, statistical analyses, project feasibility, impact assessment, publication strategy etc.

Project references: Please list all references from the “Project plan” section. Preferably add direct links to e.g. PubMed.

Funding applied for in total: Please state the total amount applied for in Danish kroner (DKK) for the current application. If the application only covers a part of a larger project please also include budget and time line for the entire project (e.g. as PDF attachments) with budget post(s) applied for at LEO Foundation highlighted.

Funding applied for in detail: Please include details regarding the funding applied for in the application – e.g. divided into project years/quarters and tasks/work packages and further subdivided into personnel/salary, running costs, equipment etc. Enough detail should be given to provide the Foundation with a comprehensive financial overview. If deemed necessary you may provide here only a high-level budget and then add the detailed budget as an attachment.

Note on salaries: The Foundation will not support salary posts that are already covered by existing base salary or any other funding. In particular, if salary for PIs or co-applicants at the level of Assistant Professor or higher are requested these will need to be accompanied by an explanation as to why these posts are necessary and what exactly they cover (e.g. simply stating “fringe” or “benefits” is not acceptable).

Description of milestones: This field should provide a project overview of the expected outcome(s) in terms of milestones and deliverables (incl. publications/presentations) and a rough estimate of when the individual parts are expected to be completed. The Foundation recommends the use of Gantt-plots to support this.

Mandatory attachments:

(1) Short CV (max two pages) for main applicant incl. total number of scientific peer-reviewed publications. Preferably also including an *h*-index and total number of citations (Scopus). In addition, a 1-page CV should be included for each and all project group members.

(2) One-page specification of your 10 most important publications (with direct links and relevant author(s) underlined).

Additional information:

A typical LEO Foundation Open Competition grant ranges between two (2) and four (4) million DKK and lasts for one to three years.

If your application has been previously submitted (partly or in full) to the LEO Foundation, then you should indicate all relevant changes made from the previous version in the submission email.

Your application, if approved for review, will be evaluated by the LEO Foundation Scientific Evaluation Committee according to the criteria and scoring guide shown below:

Main criteria	Scoring guide
Significance & Impact	1 = Exceptional
Innovation & Novelty	2 = Outstanding
Strategy & Approach	3 = Excellent
Lead Investigator(s) & Team	4 = Very good
Environment & Resources	5 = Good
Overall Focus & Project Plan	6 = Satisfactory
	7 = Fair
	8 = Marginal
	9 = Poor

