

SURVIVAL KIT: Postdocs and Assistant Profs

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Introduction

These pages include some basic information and collection of relevant links to get started and navigate as postdoc and assistant professor at Department of Political Science, Aarhus University. It is developed by the assistance of postdocs/assistant professors and vice-head of department. It is not complete in the sense that all relevant information can be presented here. But hopefully, it includes relevant information and directions for obtaining more information.

New Employee

You can find most information about starting at our department here:

<https://ps.medarbejdere.au.dk/en/about-the-department/for-new-employees>. There is a specific site for postdocs and assistant professors, you may find relevant: <https://ps.medarbejdere.au.dk/en/for-assistant-professors-and-postdocs>. You can find our policies regarding work environment here: <https://ps.medarbejdere.au.dk/en/about-the-department/work-environment>.

Mentorship Scheme

At the Department, all postdocs/assistant professors are offered to be mentored by a senior member of the academic staff (“adjunktvejleder”). Find out more about your mentor’s role and the scheme at the following [link](#). Please inform vice-head of department (Helene Helboe Pedersen, helene@ps.au.dk) about your mentor arrangement within the first month of your contract. You can seek advice regarding possible mentor from your PI or the vice-head of department.

Teaching at AU

The Political Science Department at AU follows a K-system to determine teaching obligations. Find out more about this system on the [following page](#). If you are teaching at the department for the first time, our director of studies has written a newcomer’s [guide to all matters related to teaching](#) at the department. The vice-head of department will send a shared excel file to coordinate and plan teaching. It is helpful to discuss teaching opportunities with your PI, mentor and vice-head of department. Teaching arrangements must be coordinated with the relevant section head ([list of sections](#)). The faculty offers university teaching courses. Emails are circulated each semester to sign up for this course. It is a requirement for being hired as associate professor at the department that the course is completed during your time as postdoc or assistant professor.

Postdoc group and research workshops

The postdoc/assistant professor group meet for lunch one Wednesday per month during the semester. We discuss departmental policies and relevant issues for the group. You receive invites via the postdoc-email-list (you sign up by contacting the department secretary, Olivia Belling-Nami olbe@ps.au.dk)

Besides you section, you may also participate in the departmental research [Workshops](#).

Contract Extensions

The department may extend your contract if your teaching is in demand. Calls will typically go out once a year, and extensions are given depending on teaching needs. You can read more about the co-funding policy [here](#).

Available Grants and Funding Opportunities

If you consider applying for funds as postdoc/assistant professor, it is important to contact vice-head of department (Helene Helboe Pedersen). Hereby you get access to the organized feedback on research proposals that the department offers, and you can clarify how the department may be able to support your application with co-funding. At the outset, the department considers funding six months of salary beyond your current contract, but it is important to have a dialogue with the vice-head of department on these matters before you start preparing the application, as it varies depending on the grant.

International Grants

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Postdoctoral Scholarship**
 - Usual Application Deadline(s): September
 - Duration: 12-24 months (Europe), 24-36 months (Global)
 - Phd Years: 0-8 years
 - Host institution: Own grant but less than 12 months residence requirement within the 36 months prior to application in a given country, otherwise application abroad.
 - AU grantee: Miklos Zala, 2023-25 (mikloszala@ps.au.dk).
 - [Link](#)
- **ERC Starting Grant:**
 - Usual Application Deadline(s): October
 - Duration: 5 years
 - Phd Years: 2-7 years
 - Host institution: no need to be employed by the host institution at the time of proposal submission, but a mutual agreement and commitment are necessary if the proposal is successful.
 - AU grantee: Martin Vinæs, Martin Baekgaard, (consolidator: Carsten Jensen, Lasse Lindekilde, Rune Slothuus)
 - [Link](#)
- **Fulbright Grants (US):**
 - Usual application deadline(s): October
 - Duration: it varies depending on what grant call you apply to.
 - PhD Years: 0-no upper limit?
 - Host institution: This is a mobility grant that you can use to visit a university in the US. So, you need an invitation from a US host institution or supervisor. But you should be aware that while this is an international grant, you have to apply through your own country's Fulbright Center. You have to gather specific information about a given grant

through these national websites because conditions (e.g., the duration of the grant) can differ country by country. In general, there should be one separate Fulbright grant for teaching at least one semester at a US higher education institution, and another for doing postdoctoral research.

- AU grantee: Miklos Zala, 2014-15 (mikloszala@ps.au.dk)
- Link: since most postdocs here are from Denmark, here is the Danish Fulbright's link, but again, you have to visit the local Fulbright's website where you are a citizen (in case you are a dual citizen, you can check both). <https://fulbrightcenter.dk/grants-for-danes/>

- **NordForsk**

- Usual Application Deadline(s): Calls open continuously (app. 6 per year)
- Duration: Typical duration of funding
- Phd Years: "The project leader must be a qualified researcher (minimum PhD) employed by the host institution (Project Owner) during the duration of the network"
- Host institution: The host institution (Project Owner) for the research network must be an established research performing organization based in a Nordic country.
- AU grantee: Unknown
- Link: <https://www.nordforsk.org/>
- Other: Network application (must include members from at least three Nordic countries) + top-off grant (each research network must provide resources equaling 2/3 of the total budget)

- **Emmy Noether Programme – DFG (Germany)**

- Usual Application Deadline(s): Continuous (approx. 8 months until decision)
- Duration: 6 years
- Phd Years: 2 to 4 years (not binding condition) - junior researchers under temporary contracts only
- Host institution: German host institution (up to 2 suggested hosts institutions)
- AU grantee: Unknown
- Link: <https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/programmes/individual/emmy-noether>
- Other: Applicants are expected to continue their career in Germany, a letter of intent must be included in the application for researchers applying from abroad

Danish Grants

- **Carlsberg: Internationalisation Fellowships**

- Usual Application Deadline(s): Twice a Year (October /February)
- Duration: 1 to 2 years
- Phd Years: 3 years max
- Host institution: 1 or 2 international (outside Denmark) host institutions.
- AU grantee: ?
- Link

- Other: The applicant must have demonstrated a strong connection to Danish research. Applicants who are already affiliated to the international research institution(s) at the time of the application deadline, will not be eligible to apply.
- **Danish Research Foundation Grants**
 - 1. DFF-International Postdoctoral Grant**
 - Usual Application Deadline(s): October
 - Duration: 2 years
 - Phd Years: 3 years max
 - Host institution: International host institution
 - AU grantee: ?
 - [Link](#)
 - Other: Must have obtained the PhD from a Danish institution
 - 2. Sapere Aude: DFF-Starting Grant**
 - Usual Application Deadline(s): October
 - Duration: up to 4 years
 - Phd Years: 3-8 years
 - Host institution: Needs to be sponsored by the department (signature). Up to 6 months salary at AU.
 - AU grantee: ?
 - [Link](#)
 - **The Spar Nord Foundation: Annual, thematic postdoc call**
 - Usual Application Deadline(s): May
 - Duration: ?
 - Phd Years: PhD/Postdoc status
 - Host institution: Applicant must be (Associate)Professor
 - AU grantee: ?
 - [Link](#)

Other Funding Opportunities

- **CircleU**
 - Usual Application Deadline(s): October
 - Duration: Unclear
 - Phd Years: Open to all (even students)
 - Host institution: Circle U member University
 - AU grantee: Lars Vinter Johannsen (I think)
 - Link: <https://www.circle-u.eu/open-campus/seedfunding/>
 - Other: Network application (must include members from at least two other CircleU Universities. Maximum available amount per project = EUR 10.000)