

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

**Business PhD Scholarship on Quantum  
Algorithms or Quantum Software  
DeiC National Quantum Algorithm  
Academy**

---



## Table of Contents

<b>Information about the call</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Background and implementation</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Business PhD Scholarship on Quantum Algorithms or Quantum Software</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Application guidelines</b>	<b>6</b>
Further elaboration regarding information and rules about business PhD Scholarships	6
Company and company supervisors	7
University and university supervisor(s)	8
Business PhD Candidate	8
Multiple companies for a business PhD Project	9
What should the application include?	10
<b>From approval to project start</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Employment and education conditions for the business PhD student</b>	<b>12</b>
Employment	12
Salary	12
During the Project	12
Communication Obligation	12
<b>How are the investments disbursed?</b>	<b>13</b>
Company	13
University	13
Applicants	15
Proposal	16
Company	17
<b>Evaluation procedure and selection process</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>About Danish e-Infrastructure Consortium (DeiC)</b>	<b>19</b>

## Information about the call

**Application in e-grant form opens:**  
1 February 2026

**Application deadline:**  
24 March 2026 12:00 CET

**Applicant notification:**  
Mid-June 2026

**Earliest start date:**  
1 September 2026

**Latest start date:**  
1 December 2026

**Evaluation committee:**  
National Quantum Algorithm Academy Evaluation Committee

**Contact:**  
Louise Juel Broch  
Consultant, DeiC  
louise.broch@deic.dk  
+45 2070 9866

**For more information about DeiC.**  
<https://www.deic.dk>  
<https://deic.dk/da/quantum-infrastructure>

**Guideline version**  
2026.02

## Background and implementation

In the Danish National Strategy on Quantum Technology part 1, DeiC is appointed to initiate activities “in order to support Denmark fully using access to quantum computers and supercomputers (HPC facilities) for the benefit of Danish research and innovation in the quantum field”<sup>i</sup>.

In other words, to support the development of the next generation of algorithms and software related to future quantum computers and quantum simulators.

The DeiC Board of Directors has therefore decided to create Danish Quantum Algorithm Academy (DQAA). The academy will award scholarships on PhD and postdoc level to establish a national ecosystem for development of quantum algorithms and software.

The PhD students and postdocs will be employed at the Danish universities or in Danish private companies (business PhD and business postdocs).

In addition to organising the scholarship programme, the DQAA will manage a national coordinating function, with for instance support for workshops, meetings, a sabbatical programme, and other instruments which can boost a national quantum infrastructure.

The DeiC DQAA scholarship programme had two calls in 2024. In future years one annual call is expected.

The calls can be applied for by researchers from both the traditional STEM fields and by researchers from other fields such as health science, social sciences, and the humanities. Interdisciplinary applications are welcome. All calls are in free and open competition. The programmes opening now are:

- **3-year PhD Scholarships to be applied for by associate professors or full professors at Danish universities.**
- **3-year business PhD Scholarships.**
- **2–3-year Postdoc Scholarships to be applied for by PhDs.**
- **2–3-year business Postdoc Scholarships to be applied for by PhDs.**

The calls will be posted through DeiC communication channels (website, social media, and newsletter), direct mails to the Danish universities and for the postdoc calls through relevant scientific newsletters.

Both PhD students and Postdocs must be affiliated with a Danish university as host university for the scholarship.

# Business PhD Scholarship on Quantum Algorithms or Quantum Software

DQAA is offering 3-year Business PhD Scholarships in the areas of quantum algorithms or quantum software. The stipends are scheduled to begin in 2026.

Associate professors and full professors at Danish universities can apply for fully funded scholarships aiming to develop, study or test quantum algorithms, related software, and their applications. The principal applicant is assumed to be the main supervisor.

As a rule, a researcher can only supervise one business PhD student funded from DQAA at a time.

The Business PhD student does not need to be named before the application is granted.

The stipend will be managed by the PhD School of the main applicant, and the student shall be enrolled at that PhD school. The selection of students follows the procedures of the PhD school.

The grant will cover salary and pension in accordance with the agreement between the Ministry of Taxation and The Danish Confederation of Professional Associations on Academics in the State, a fee of DKK 80.000 per year covering running expenses and thesis evaluation, and 44 % overhead.

The application must include a tentative estimate of the required access to quantum computing and HPC resources. Access to a selection of quantum computer systems, quantum simulators and HPC systems will be negotiated separately as part of the DeiC Q-Access programme.

The supervisor and the Business PhD Student automatically become members of the National Quantum Algorithm Academy and have the obligation to participate in activities related to the academy, e.g. working groups, schools, meetings, dissemination etc. and in general to contribute to the advancement of the Danish Quantum Algorithm community.

# Application guidelines

These guidelines are intended to assist you in the application process when applying for the Business PhD Scholarship grant from DQAA.

It is important that you read these guidelines carefully before initiating the application process, as the guidelines contain the complete call text as well as instructions regarding the application.

DQAA will treat all applicants and application information confidentially, using the national grant system e-grant. e-grant can be accessed through [e-grant.dk](https://e-grant.dk), using MitID or by manually creating a user account.

Read more about personal data collection in e-grant in general and on how long your data is stored in e-grant: <https://ufsn.dk/english/processing-of-personal-data-by-the-danish-agency-for-higher-education-and-science/>

## Further elaboration regarding information and rules about business PhD Scholarships

DQAA follows the same rules and guidelines as Innovation Fund Denmark and cover the following areas.

A Business PhD project is a research and educational initiative focused on business applications, conducted in partnership between a private or public company, a business PhD student, and a university. The project must be of high research quality and have a direct or indirect impact on the company's business, either in the short term or long term. The programme also ensures that the business PhD student completes a PhD degree.

The Business PhD student is employed by a company in Denmark while also being enrolled at a university. The student splits their time between the company and the university, dedicating all their working hours to both the project and their studies. The student is supported by a university supervisor and has both a primary and a co-supervisor within the company. The project's duration corresponds with the length of the PhD programme, which is typically three years in Denmark.

A Business PhD project is a collaboration between a company, a university, and a business PhD student. Thus, the parties must jointly decide on a time allocation for the student that is appropriate for the project and ensures a strong connection to both the university and the company. It is possible for a company and a university to apply for funding for a project without having a candidate preselected.

DQAA is committed to promoting diversity in all its aspects. Therefore, all potential applicants, regardless of their academic field, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or age, are encouraged to apply for the fund's resources.

## Company and company supervisors

### The company must meet the following criteria:

- Have a department with an independent Danish CVR number, geographically located in Denmark, where the business PhD student can be employed and carry out their work within the company.
- Have financial resources and facilities to support the project throughout its entire duration.
- Be financially independent of the university. This means that:
- The university may not own more than 25% of the company. This means there must not be a financial flow between the research institution and the company that creates a relationship of economic dependency between them. Ordinary trade in products or services on commercial terms, or the redistribution of public project funds in collaborative projects, is not considered a significant financial flow.
- There must be no significant financial transactions from the university to the company.
- Assign both a company supervisor and a co-supervisor to the project.
- Be part of the private sector.
- Not be “in difficulty” as defined by Article 2, Section 1, Point 18, of the Commission Regulation (EU) No. 651/2014 of June 17, 2014, concerning the compatibility of certain categories of state aid with the internal market under Articles 107 and 108 of the Treaty. However, this condition does not apply to companies that were not in difficulty on December 31, 2019, but were affected by a crisis between January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021.
- Have complied with any repayment orders issued by the European Commission in one or more decisions where state aid provided by Danish authorities was found illegal and incompatible with the internal market.
- Not be undergoing compulsory dissolution, bankruptcy, voluntary liquidation, or suspension of payments.
- To qualify as part of the private sector, the company must meet the following criteria:
- Not be a state, regional, municipal entity, or an interest organisation representing public organisations.
- Have a revenue stream where no more than half is publicly funded (including EU grants and payments from citizens mandated by law).

The company must appoint both a primary supervisor and a co-supervisor. The primary supervisor serves as the company’s formal representative in the project and collaborates

with the business PhD student and the university supervisor to ensure the successful execution of the project and the student's education. The primary supervisor is responsible for providing professional guidance to the student and must possess sufficient knowledge of the project's subject matter to offer competent advice in the area. The co-supervisor is tasked with ensuring the continuity and security of the project, stepping in if the primary supervisor can no longer fulfil the role. Additional co-supervisors and third parties may also be involved.

### **The primary supervisor and co-supervisor must meet the following criteria:**

- Have experience related to the project's theme (research experience is not required).
- Possess deep industry knowledge.
- Hold at least a bachelor's degree or have significant experience in the relevant field.

The company supervisor and co-supervisor do not need to be employed by the company but must be actively working in the private sector.

## **University and university supervisor(s)**

### **The university participating in the project must meet the following criteria:**

- Be a university or higher education institution in Denmark or abroad that is officially authorized to offer PhD programmes.
- Assign a university supervisor to the project.

The university appoints a supervisor who will work with the business PhD student and the company to ensure the successful completion of the project and the student's education. The university supervisor serves as the university's formal representative in the project and is responsible for providing academic guidance to the student.

### **The university supervisor involved in the project must meet the following criteria:**

- Be a recognized researcher in the project's field.
- Be actively engaged in a research environment within the project's field.
- Be employed by the university and affiliated with the PhD school.

## **Business PhD Candidate**

A company and a university can apply for a Business PhD project either with or without a named candidate. If the project is approved, the candidate must still meet the requirements outlined in this section.

It is also possible to apply with a candidate who has up to eight months remaining in their education. If the application is approved, the candidate must complete their studies and meet the grading requirements within six months of the project's approval.

### **The Business PhD candidate must meet the following criteria:**

- Hold a relevant master's degree.

## **Multiple companies for a business PhD Project**

Multiple companies can collaborate on a business PhD project. It will be assessed whether the companies collectively have the financial capacity to complete the project. One of the companies must be the primary applicant responsible for hiring the candidate, paying the salary, and receiving the fund's financing.

### **Funding for the company**

DQAA covers a portion of the company's expenses for the business PhD candidate's salary and travel, as well as the university's expenses related to the project. Funds are disbursed to both the company and the university, and the funds must be used solely for their respective project-related expenses

DQAA finances up to DKK 17,000 per month for the business PhD candidate's salary for three years, covering up to 50% of the total salary (actual salary expenses calculated based on the annual gross salary including pension, insurance, and vacation pay).

Additionally, the company has DKK 100,000 available for:

- The candidate's travel expenses (for attending relevant conferences both domestic and international, and for stays abroad).
- Participation in PhD courses that offer ECTS credits and are not provided by the host university.

This includes one round-trip to the destination per stay, visa, travel insurance, accommodation, and university fees. However, expenses for food, daily/local transportation, books, etc., are not covered. Up to DKK 5,000 of the DKK 100,000 can be used for the business advisor's project-related travel expenses. An additional DKK 5,000 can be used for the university advisor's project-related travel expenses.

The company must cover all other project expenses, including equipment, materials, and data collection. This also includes personal equipment for the business PhD candidate, such as a laptop and mobile phone.

Note that no more than 50% of a company's total expenses for a Business PhD project may be financed by public funds.

### **Funding for the university**

DQAA provides the university with a fixed amount of DKK 360,000 (including overhead) for:

- Supervising the business PhD candidate
- The candidate's work facilities at the university, including equipment, materials, apparatus (acquisition and/or use), and external services necessary for the university component of the project
- The candidate's participation in relevant PhD courses at the host university
- Assessment of the PhD thesis
- Dissemination of results, including printing the thesis

This funding amounts to DKK 10,000 per project month for the university.

The project duration corresponds to the length of the PhD programme, which is three years in Denmark. If the project extends beyond three years, such as with an international PhD programme, DeiC will finance up to DKK 17,000 per month for the company, but only for the final three years of the project. The university will also receive funding only for the last three years of the project period.

DeiC reserves the right to terminate the project if the PhD degree is not obtained within five years of the project's start.

## What should the application include?

When applying to DQAA, you must provide a comprehensive description of the business PhD project, including details about the participants and organisations involved (company, university, and any third parties).

### **The application should contain the following elements:**

- **Objectives and success criteria:** Define the goals of the project and the criteria for measuring success.
- **Business significance and impact:** Explain the relevance and expected business impact of the project.
- **State-of-the-art and theoretical background:** Provide an overview of the current state of knowledge and any theoretical frameworks relevant to the project.
- **Project description:** Outline the project's scope, methodology, and expected outcomes.
- **Expected publications:** List anticipated publications resulting from the project.
- **Courses, conferences, and international stays:** Detail the planned participation in relevant courses, conferences, and any international experiences.
- **Structure and timeline:** Describe the project structure and provide a detailed timeline.

- **Time allocation:** Specify how the time will be divided between the company and the university.
- **Company:** Provide details about the company's role and involvement.
- **Exit strategy:** Outline a plan for how the candidate can complete their education if the project cannot be finished at the applying company.
- **Research institution:** Detail the role of the research institution.
- **Potential third parties:** Include information about any third parties involved.

### **Additionally, the application must include:**

- **CVs for advisors:** Provide CVs for both the company and university advisors.
- **CV for potential candidate:** Include the CV of the candidate if identified.
- **Complete bachelor and master diplomas:** Submit full copies of the candidate's bachelor and master diplomas (not just the cover pages). If the candidate has not yet graduated, include transcripts of completed courses.
- **Signatures:** Obtain signatures from the candidate (if identified), the company advisor, the company's financial officer, the university advisor, the university's financial officer, the university's PhD programme financial officer, and any third-party advisors.

Failure to comply with the formatting and deadline requirements specified in the e-grant application form and annex templates, or use of incorrect templates, may result in DeiC rejecting the application without evaluation.

It is possible for a company and a research institution to apply for the programme without a specific business PhD candidate. If the application is approved, the parties must find and approve a qualified candidate within six months of the approval date.

DeiC will publish the title, summary, and participants of approved projects online. Ensure that the title and summary do not contain confidential information.

## **From approval to project start**

An approved Business PhD project begins on the date the university enrolls the candidate as a PhD student. The enrolment date must be on or after the date the project grant is awarded. The project must commence no later than six months after approval. If conditional approval has been given, the condition must also be met within six months. If the approved project does not start within six months of approval, or if the condition is not fulfilled within six months – for example, due to the absence of a candidate or the candidate not being graduated – the DQAA reserves the right to withdraw the grant.

Once the project is approved, DQAA will create a grant case in e-grant. You will need to submit financial statements, reports, and other documents related to the project obligations through e-grant. All project participants must be added to the grant case in e-grant. It is the responsibility of the project parties to ensure that relevant individuals are always attached to the case.

## Employment and education conditions for the business PhD student

### Employment

The business PhD student must be employed full-time by the company and work under private employment conditions. The student's work duties and hours should be fully dedicated to the business PhD project and education, and the employment contract should explicitly release the student from tasks not related to the project. The student's time should be appropriately divided between the company and the university to ensure engagement with both environments. The employment must, at a minimum, be under standard employee conditions. Other employment conditions follow any applicable agreements or individual contracts.

Non-compete clauses or similar in the employment contract should not restrict the student's ability to seek employment elsewhere. The employment contract should also not contain educational clauses requiring the student to reimburse the company for training costs if the education is interrupted or if the student changes jobs after completing the Business PhD project.

### Salary

The total salary (including pension) for the business PhD student must be at least equivalent to the salary for PhD fellows employed by the state. Salary rates can be found on trade union websites. Specific salary questions should be directed to trade unions.

### During the Project

If the project is approved, DeiC will set up a grant case in e-grant. You must submit financial statements, reports, and other written documents as required by the project through e-grant. Deadlines for submitting required documents will be indicated in the e-grant case. If documents are not submitted within the deadlines, the DQAA may halt the project, withdraw the remaining grant, and demand repayment of any pre-paid amounts.

The company advisor is responsible for the company's communication with DQAA including submitting required documents. The university advisor is responsible for the research institution's communication with DQAA through e-grant, including submitting the necessary documents.

### Communication Obligation

In a Danish PhD programme, the student must gain experience in knowledge dissemination related to the PhD project, according to Chapter 3, § 7 of the PhD regulations. Dissemination can include articles, lectures, teaching, and other forms of knowledge exchange within the company, university, or elsewhere. The scope, type, and content of dissemination should be agreed upon by the company, the student, and the university.

Business PhD students are not employed by the university and therefore have no contractually required teaching duties. However, if all project parties agree, university teaching can be part of the knowledge dissemination. All dissemination activities should be mutually agreed upon in the project and included in a collaboration agreement before the project starts. If any dissemination activities involve teaching, this must be indicated in the application.

## How are the investments disbursed?

### Company

The company will receive 85% of the total company grant when the project starts. The grant will be paid to the company's NemKonto associated with its CVR number.

The final portion of the grant will be paid after the DQAA receives and approves the following at the end of the project:

- Final accounts
- Auditor's report
- Final evaluation of the project

The company's use of the grant during the project period must be detailed in the final accounts. DQAA will then settle with the company. Be aware that this may require the company to repay some of the pre-paid grant at the project's end.

The company must also certify that the total public grant does not exceed 50% of the company's total project costs.

The final evaluation will assess the project's impact, results, and process within the company. DQAA does not require additional technical reporting during the project.

### University

The university will receive 85% of the university grant when the project starts. The remaining 15% will be paid when DQAA receives documentation that the student has obtained the PhD degree. If the student does not obtain the PhD degree, the final 15% will be forfeited.

## Do I need to provide financial statements or reports during the project?

The university advisor and PhD school ensure ongoing academic monitoring of the project, while the company advisor ensures the project's integration within the company. DQAA monitoring focuses on collaboration, results, and impacts.

1.5 years into the business PhD project, the student must complete a questionnaire about the project's status and internal collaboration. The responses will provide DQAA with insights into the practices of business PhD projects, and DQAA may hold follow-up meetings with selected projects to learn more.

At the end of the project, the company must complete a final report evaluating the project's effects, results, and process. Submission of the final report is a prerequisite for DQAA to make the final payment to the company.

DQAA does not require additional technical reporting during the project. The student's attainment of the PhD degree will demonstrate that the project has met the academic requirements of a PhD programme.

## **Notification obligation and approval of changes**

The company and university must immediately inform DeiC of significant changes to the basis of the grant. This includes, but is not limited to, changes in supervision, leave, major interruptions or delays, and significant academic changes. Significant academic changes are those that make the project unrecognizable from the originally approved project.

The project can only proceed once DeiC has approved the changes. Failure to notify DQAA may result in the grant being terminated and any pre-paid grant being reclaimed. Change requests must be submitted via e-grant.

## **Leave**

Leave can be requested for the business PhD student. The request must be submitted via e-grant.

DeiC must approve the leave before it begins. DeiC does not provide grants during part-time or leave periods, including parental or sick leave. The project end date will be extended by the leave period, and the grant will be provided for the extended period instead. If the company receives reimbursement from another public source due to, for example, parental or long-term illness of the student, leave from the business PhD project must be requested.

## **If a project is interrupted**

If a business PhD project is interrupted, the project participants must prepare a joint report to DeiC explaining the course and reason for the interruption. The report must be signed by the company, university, and student and submitted to DeiC within three months of the interruption.

If a project is terminated early, both the university and the company may be required to repay part of the pre-paid grant, but only for the portion of the project period that is not completed.

## What should I do at the end of the project?

The university approves the overall PhD programme and awards the PhD degree after the PhD thesis has been assessed as suitable and defended in a public defence. If the business PhD student is enrolled at a foreign university, this university must award the PhD degree according to the country's national regulations.

The university assembles the PhD assessment committee. In a business PhD at a Danish university, the assessment committee must include at least one member with relevant research experience from the industry, as specified in Chapter 11, § 27 of the PhD regulations.

### Application content

This section provides guidelines on the content required in the sections of the online application form for this call.

## Applicants

This section contains information about all those involved with the application, meaning the main applicant as well as any co-applicants. Information about each applicant is collected through individual fields, detailing experience, publication history etc.

The principal applicant is assumed to be the main supervisor for the PhD student.

## Principal applicant

Information	Guidelines
First name	
Last name	
Job title	
Phone Number	
Work email	
Nationality	
ORCID Number	
Affiliation/university	The principal applicant must be from a Danish university
Department	
Department address	
Department website	
CV	(PDF) Please provide a brief CV, max 2 pages, with details of relevant educational and research experience. The CV must include a link to a full CV.
Publication list	(PDF) Please provide a list of up to 10 most relevant publications for evaluating your experience. Include a complete specification of all authors for each publication with your own name highlighted. This document is solely for written publications authored by the applicant. Exhibitions and other non-written publications should not be included in this document. Include a link to full publication list in ORCID).
Summary of own research	Please provide a short summary (max 2.000 characters) of own research relevant for the application
Supplementary information	(voluntarily) Use this field to make the review committee aware of any special circumstances regarding your application that the committee should be aware of. Please do not include any personal information of sensitive character (i.e. illness, family conditions etc).

### Co-applicants (must be completed by all co-applicants)

Information	Guidelines
First name	
Last name	
Job title	
Phone Number	
Work email address	
Nationality	
ORCID number	
Affiliation/university	The principal applicant must be from a Danish university
Department	
Department address	
Department website	
CV	(PDF) Please provide a brief CV, max 2 pages, with details of relevant educational and research experience. The CV must include a link to a full CV.
Publication list	(PDF) Please provide a list of up to 10 most relevant publications for evaluating your experience. Include a complete specification of all authors for each publication with your own name highlighted. This document is solely for written publications authored by the applicant. Exhibitions and other non-written publications should not be included in this document. Include a link to full publication list in ORCID).

### Proposal

Describe the suggested project for the PhD candidate providing the following information:

Information	Guidelines
Project title	Maximum 150 characters, including spaces
Executive summary of project	Please provide a stand-alone summary of the project, describing its purpose, target group, and activities. The summary must be suitable for publication. Maximum 2.000 characters including spaces.
Project description	(PDF max 4 pages, including illustrations and references) Describe the project in detail here. The description can include purpose, hypothesis, methodology and relevance for the purpose of the call.
Estimate of required access to Quantum Computing and HPC resources	(PDF max 1 page). Describe the estimated required access to Quantum Computing and HPC resources for the project.

## Company

Information	Guidelines
Company	
CVR Number	The company must have a Danish CVR number
P-Number	
Address	
Department	(PDF) Description of the department the PhD will be associated with
Leader of the administrating department	The person who will sign the grant agreement
Work email	
Phone number	
Administrative contact for the grant (Full name)	
Work email	
Phone number	

# Evaluation procedure and selection process

## Key criteria for the assessment of applications

The application must be submitted via e-grant, [www.e-grant.dk](http://www.e-grant.dk). Please note that e-grant will open for applications on 1 February 2026.

The application will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

1. The experience of the applicants, demonstrating the ability to supervise the project.
2. The scientific value of the project.
3. Relevance to the scope of the call.

### Deadline for applications:

Material received after the deadline will not be considered. If the required material is incomplete, the application will be rejected administratively.

The deadline for this call is 24 March 2026.

### Evaluation process

We expect the evaluation process to be finished by mid-June 2026.

### Evaluation committee

The evaluation committee is a group of 5 people with strong research experience in the relevant areas. Members are selected after the application deadline from a group of 15 subject matter experts. This optimizes discipline coverage and minimizes conflicts of interest.

The committee makes a short list of the received applications.

Each application on the list will be assessed by 3 experts.

The committee makes recommendations to the DeiC Board who makes the final decision.

### Appeals

According to Ministerial Order no. 615 of 29 May 2023 (Ministerial Order on Danish e-Infrastructure Consortium's Tasks and Organization, etc.) paragraph 18, decisions on the management and allocation of funds for digital research infrastructures and on the research network, including the allocation of computation time, cannot be appealed to another administrative authority.

# About Danish e-Infrastructure Consortium (DeiC)

The Danish e-infrastructure Consortium (DeiC) is tasked with the mandate to develop and coordinate cooperation on digital research infrastructure between universities covered by the Danish University Act.

DeiC's vision is that researchers at the Danish universities must have access to a digital infrastructure that enables research and education at a high international level.

Other relevant institutions with educational and research activities can participate in the collaboration after approval by DeiC's board.

DeiC's board consists of members at management level from the eight Danish universities, who all have a mandate from their own university. In addition, the Rectors College appoints a board chairman for DeiC.

DeiC's legal basis is described in executive order BEK 615 of 26/05/2023.

---

<sup>1</sup> Strategy for Quantum Technology June 2023  
Part 1 – World-Class Research and Innovation