

Call 2021: Marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean

We invite applications for the programme **Marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean**.

Final submission date 21st June 2021 12:00 Faroese time (GMT +1)

Aims of the programme

The overarching aim of the programme is to generate new knowledge on the marine environment in the North Atlantic Ocean and to promote cooperation between the Faroe Islands, Greenland and Denmark on marine research.

Thematic framework of the 2021 Call for Proposals

We call for proposals focused on **marine processes related, but not limited, to the Greenland-Iceland-Faroe-Scotland Ridge** (hereafter called “the Ridge”).

The Ridge is an important geographical boundary between the North Atlantic Ocean and the subarctic seas. Water exchanges across the Ridge are strongly modulated by its presence: cold water from the north sinks hundreds of meters on the southern side, thus breaking the hydrostatic assumption used in most ocean and climate models. The marine life flourishes at the shallow banks. Strong horizontal fronts between northward flowing warm waters and southward flowing cold water causes strong mixing and intense eddy activity. In the west, the East Greenland Current is the main conduit of sea ice, glacial ice and freshwater exiting the Arctic Ocean, yielding productive fishing grounds that have been used for hundreds of years.

The Ridge is a region of large scientific complexity in most marine disciplines, and a unifying theme for the countries inhabiting it. Therefore, the Ridge will be the focus of the 2021 call. A successful project is dedicated to one or more marine disciplines, such as physical, chemical or biological oceanography, including themes such as ocean acidification and climate change, marine ecosystems or biodiversity.

One third of the funding in this call will be allocated to projects in Faroese waters.

We seek collaborative project proposals between Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark.

We strongly encourage proposals that include recruitment (PhDs or Postdocs). For the recruitment positions, we strongly recommend a research stay in at least two of the three countries.

Expected impact

Successful proposals are expected to contribute to enhancing the scientific standing of marine sciences in Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark, through capacity building, data, knowledge and infrastructure sharing, and the production of scientific excellence.

Financial framework

The programme is funded by the Danish Parliament Act in the period 2020-2023. The programme is run by Research Council Faroe Islands.

The total budget for this call is DKK 16 million, of which one third is to be allocated to projects in Faroese waters, defined as the Faroe Islands Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The maximum amount of funding available per project is DKK 4 million. The aim is to fund four to seven projects.

Funding may be used for:

- Scientific/academic salaries (VIP)
- Technical/administrative salaries (TAP)
- Operating expenses (including data collection and analysis, travel costs, Open Access charges)
- Equipment and Infrastructure (max. 15% of applied budget)
- Overhead/administration expenses (25% of salaries)

Funding will be granted for Greenlandic, Faroese and Danish research collaborations. A fair share of financing by the research consortium (cash or in-kind) is encouraged and must be documented in the detailed budget.

Partner institutions from outside these countries may participate with own funding.

Salaries must be calculated according to the relevant national rules, and the respective organisations' own budgeting models.

The project leaders and key researchers are expected to participate in an annual meeting/workshop within the framework of this programme. Travel costs to these meetings will be covered by Research Council Faroe Islands.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding, the following conditions must be met:

- The consortium must include nationally eligible partners from at least two of the three countries.
- The host institution (project owner) must be a research performing organisation based in one of the three countries.
- The project leader must be a researcher employed at the host institution.
- ~~(Individual researchers are not allowed to apply as project leader for more than one project under this call. However, researchers can participate in more than one project.)~~ (changed 27th April 2021)
- Projects should be based on the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and applications must include information on RRI-related aspects (public engagement, open access, gender, ethics and science education).

Proposals that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria listed above will not be processed.

Submission of application

The project leader must submit the application with enclosures on behalf of the research consortium no later than 12.00 Faroese time (GMT +1) on 21st June 2021. The application must be submitted via the [application portal](#) (Not open for submission yet)

The application must contain all information required as requested below

- Application information requested on the portal:
 - General information
 - Budget summary
 - Project consortium - Participants and description of research teams and gender balance in the project consortium
 - Project summary
 - Communication and knowledge exchange strategy including public outreach
 - Data management plan
 - Description of the relevant legal and ethical frameworks and procedures needed to perform the research

- Enclosures:
 - Project plan (maximum 10 standard pages, including references – [template](#)).
 - Management plan (maximum two standard pages – [template](#)).
 - An overall budget detailing the expected costs for the project. A specification on how the costs will be distributed among the different funding sources, including funding sought from this call. The project partners' own contribution (cash and in-kind) to the project must be documented.
 - CV, including a short list of maximum ten publications (maximum three standard pages for the project leader and one standard page for each key researcher).
 - Letters of Commitment from all project partners.

Standard page definition for uploaded documents: 2400 characters including spaces. This equals Calibri, 12-point, 1½ line spacing. Please include line numbers in the Project description.

Assessment criteria

A panel of international experts will assess the proposals according to the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence
- Potential scientific impact
- Quality in the implementation and management plan

The programme committee will assess the strategic relevance of the proposals to the call according to the following criteria:

- Alignment with the overall objectives and the thematic framework of this call
- The impact of the proposed research collaboration for the region

Processing of proposals

Research Council Faroe Islands' guidelines on impartiality will be applied to handle possible conflicts of interest.

- **Eligibility:** An eligibility check of submitted proposals will be carried out by the administration according to the eligibility criteria described above.

- **Peer review:** Eligible proposals will be evaluated by a panel of international experts. The experts will use the assessment criteria as specified in this call.
- **Programme committee:** The programme committee will assess various strategic considerations (as outlined above) in addition to the expert assessments to make the final funding decision. We expect the funding decision to be announced in November 2021. All applicants will receive written feedback.

Management and monitoring of the research projects

Research Council Faroe Islands will sign a contract with the host institution for the project.

The research projects will be monitored through annual reporting consisting of a scientific progress report and a financial report. A final report must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

Responsible adviser:

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Tórshavn, Faroe Islands 2nd March 2021

This call for proposals may be subject to revision until eight weeks before the application submission deadline. If the call is revised, we will provide notification here.

27th April 2021: The Programme Committee decided to make a change in the Eligibility criteria: An individual researcher can apply as Project Leader for more than one application under this call. The call text has been changed accordingly.