Call for applications for scholarships at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

With the purpose of developing and sharing knowledge of the highest quality within various fields of engineering, the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (DAFSHE) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has entered into a partnership agreement.

1. Grant type

As part of the partnership agreement DAFSHE has acquired “Visiting Slots” (scholarships) at MIT for a total duration of 24 months. Thus DAFSHE invites PhD students, faculty members, and scientists employed by a Danish university or a Danish public research institution to submit applications for the following:

- Fellowships for PhD students for a term of up to 6 months in the period 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2019 to 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2020 or
- Fellowships for faculty members and scientists for a term of up to 12 month in the period 1\textsuperscript{st} March 2019 to 31\textsuperscript{st} December 2020.

1.1. Visiting scholarship at MIT

The membership fee acquired by DAFSHE will cover the expenses of visiting researchers at MIT. Fellows from Denmark will accordingly fund their own lodging and living expenses, whilst assuming responsibility for their own salaries, benefits, health insurances, preparations for visa applications, etc.

1.2. Travel grant

In addition to the scholarship, applicants have the possibility of receiving a prepaid travel-grant of DKK 15,000 (c.f. the application form). The travel grant can be used to help cover travel expenses from Denmark to the MIT research facility, accommodation, and daily expenses for food and local transport in connection with the visit to MIT.

The travel grant is prepaid and the recipient is not required to provide DAFSHE with a financial account but only documentation for travel costs. DAFSHE will report the payment to tax authorities as a tax-free travel grant according to current rules. In this regard, the recipient may be required to keep receipts concerning expenditures in relation to travel from Denmark to the MIT research facility as documentation for the tax authorities. Expenses that are not covered by the travel grant are taxable in consideration of applicable current rules.
2. Assessment criteria

The present call is open to PhD students, faculty members, and scientists employed by a Danish university or a Danish public research institution.

In the assessment of the received applications, importance will be attached to the following criteria:

- The alignment of scientific focus of the research project with those of MIT
- The quality and intellectual merit of the research project proposed.
- The value added by collaborating with a counterpart from MIT
- Potential for future scientific collaboration.

Applicants will be evaluated by DAFSHE and MIT on the basis of the assessment criteria.

It should be stressed that the purpose of the partnership program is research collaboration, not education or training for the Danish visitor. In particular, a MIT faculty host is intended to be a research partner of the visitor, and is not expected to provide basic education or training in how to conduct research. A visitor’s degree of participation in the program is expected to be commensurate with that of MIT’s core researchers.

3. Requirements and procedures for applications

Applications must be submitted in English using the electronic application form, which is available on https://ufm.dk/forskning-og-innovation/tilskud-til-forskning-og-innovation/e-ansogningssystemer.

The visiting scholar must have a member of the MIT research group acting as an official host. The applicants are expected to identify a MIT faculty member host by themselves prior to applying for the fellowship. Neither DAFSHE nor MIT can provide assistance in matching applicants and MIT faculty members.

A prerequisite for DAFSHE’s decision to grant visiting researchers a scholarship is that their candidacy has been accepted by MIT prior to DAFSHE’s final assessment.

The application will be reviewed by an appointed evaluation committee at MIT and granted by DAFSHE. Depending on the quality of the applications received, DAFSHE and the evaluation committee at MIT reserve the right to grant scholarships of shorter duration than initially applied for. However, this procedure will be conducted in dialogue with the applicant(s).

All fellows will be required to comply with MIT’s standard policies and procedures during their participation in the program. Each fellow will be required to execute and abide by the terms and conditions of MIT’s standard form of Inventions and Proprietary Information Agreement for Visitors. For more information see http://tlo.mit.edu/disclose-protect-your-intellectual-property/forms-protect-ip-rights and download: Visiting Personnel and Students Invention and Proprietary Information Agreement [DOCX].
Upon completion of the visit at MIT, the grant holder is required to submit a short debriefing report to DAFSHE using the form in e-grant along with documentation for the stay (boarding pass), and a letter from the hosting scientist at MIT.

4. Submission of applications
The application should be short and concise and should as a minimum include:

- Name of applicant
- Occupation/position
- Information on bank account
- Private address
- Intended period for the visit and amount of travel grant applied for
- Project title
- Motivation for applying for Fellowship at MIT
- Applicant’s scientific experience
- Project description
- Description of the relevance of the collaboration with MIT
- Potential for future collaboration

Furthermore, the following appendices must be included in the application:

- Short CV of the applicant and the collaboration partner at MIT (Max. 2 pages each)
- Two letters of recommendation from faculty members or academic personnel with knowledge of the candidate’s academic accomplishments. The letters of recommendation must be written on official letterhead and signed by the person recommending the applicant
- The application must be co-signed by the Head of Department at the Danish university or research institution using the fixed template which can be downloaded in the e-application system.

It is the applicant’s responsibility that the application contains the requested information and appendices. As a rule, DAFSHE does not collect additional information for use in the assessment of the application. Equally, as a rule, forwarded material and other documentation enclosed with the application (apart from the above mentioned appendices) will not be considered in the assessment of the application.

5. Deadline
The call will be open for applications until 1st December 2019. The granting of visiting months and travel grants for suitable candidates is assigned according to the first-come-first-served principle. This means that all applications that meet the criteria for funding under this program cf. the evaluation criteria in this call, will receive funding up until the 24 scholarship months have been occupied or the funding for a travel grant has been used.

Applicants will be notified shortly after the decision.

DAFSHE reserves the right to close the call for further applications before deadline if the “Visiting Slots” have been occupied or the funding allocated for travel grants have been used.
6. Contact information
The program will be administrated by DAFSHE. For further information please contact:

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