Call for applications for visiting scholarship at the Center for Interface Science and Catalysis at Stanford University and SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory (SUNCAT).

With the purpose of boosting scientific collaborative research within the field of energy science, the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education (DAFSHE) has entered into a partnership agreement with Center for Interface Science and Catalysis at Stanford University (SUNCAT).

SUNCAT is a research centre focusing on the atomic-scale understanding of surfaces, interfaces, and catalysts, aiming at providing the insight necessary for carrying out the systematic design of novel active and selective heterogeneous catalysts, electro-catalysts, and photo-electro-catalysts, in particular with a focus on energy-transformation and storage.

1. Grant type
As a part of this partnership, DAFSHE has acquired “Visiting Slots” (scholarships) for a total duration of 24 months at SUNCAT. Thus DAFSHE invites PhD-students, postdoctoral researchers, scientists, and faculty members at Danish universities or public Danish research performing institutions to submit applications for the following:

- Visiting Scholarship of a duration of 3-6 months

within the period 1st March 2019 to 31st December 2020 to carry out collaborative research within the field of theoretical or experimental energy science at SUNCAT.

1.1. Visiting Scholarship at SUNCAT
The membership acquired by DAFSHE will cover the expenses of visiting researchers at Stanford University for a duration of 3-6 months. These expenses cover research facilities, bench fees, visa cost, access to labs, contributions to workshops, meetings, conferences, etc. 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.

The typical visits are of durations of 3-6 months though shorter or longer visits may be granted. The scholarship covers various administrative costs associated with the visit to Stanford, providing the visitor with desk space at the SUNCAT Center at Stanford or Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), giving access to lab facilities, library resources, network, etc.
Visitors will be provided with a desk, either in an office (probably shared) or in one of the open working areas occupied by SUNCAT. The desk will have access to Stanford University Network (SUNET) or SLAC intranet. Visitors are expected to bring their own laptop computer.

1.2 Travel grant
In addition to the “Visiting Slots”, the 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 expenses for travel from Denmark to the SUNCAT research facility, for accommodation and daily expenses for food and local transport in connection with the stay at SUNCAT.

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 SUNCAT 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, postdoctoral researchers, scientific staff, and faculty members employed by a Danish university or a Danish public research institution.

The Visiting scholarship program particularly encourages applicants who wish to investigate issues connected with the ongoing research efforts at SUNCAT, including modelling of catalytic, electro-catalytic or photo-electro catalytic reactions at surfaces, synchrotron experiments/X-ray studies related to surfaces and interfaces, synthesis and characterization of catalytic systems, atomic layer deposition, electrochemical experimentation, electronic structure method and database development, or battery science. For more information about SUNCAT activities, please visit the web-site: http://suncat.stanford.edu/

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

- The scientific focus and quality of the research project.
- The value added to the research project by collaborating with a SUNCAT/Stanford University counterpart.
- The potential for future scientific collaboration e.g. publications and research applications.
- The applicant’s experience in conducting research.

Applicants will be evaluated by DAFSHE and SUNCAT 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 Stanford
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.

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.

A host among SUNCAT scientists must be appointed to the visitor. The host will be responsible for the local arrangements of the visit. It is highly recommended to contact potential hosts ahead of applying for a Visiting Scholarship. If help is needed in order to find a host, please contact Thomas Bligaard (see contact info below in section 9).

Visitors who wish to work with a particular SUNCAT member should include the name of that particular host in their application, so it can be taken into account when assigning a host.

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

Upon completion of the visit at SUNCAT, the applicant is required to submit a short (max. 1-page) debriefing report to SUNCAT to be used for SUNCATs reporting to the Danish Agency for Science and Higher Education. Furthermore, 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 SUNCAT.

4. **Submission of applications**

The application should be short and concise and must 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 Visiting Scholarship
- Project description, including the scientific focus and quality of the research project
- Description of the relevance of the collaboration with SUNCAT
- Potential for future collaboration
- Name of potential host and information on whether the potential host has been contacted

The applicants CV (max 2 pages) must be attached to the application. Furthermore, the application must be co-signed by the Head of Department at the Danish university or research institution using a fixed template, which can be downloaded in the electronic application system.
It is the applicant’s responsibility that the application contains all 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 for submission

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

6. Further information

The program is administrated by DAFSHE. For further information please contact:

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