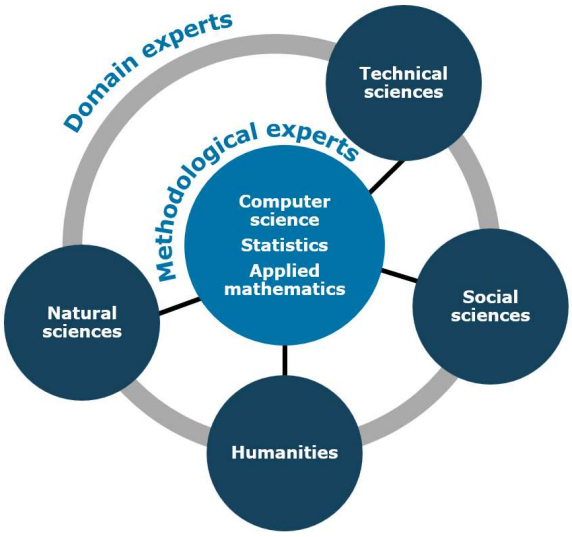
VILLUM FONDEN

Villum Synergy: Terms of reference for the selection committee and reviewers

The objective of the Villum Synergy Programme is to strengthen interdisciplinary research in Denmark by supporting collaborations between experts in computer science, statistics, applied mathematics and domain experts from the natural and technical sciences, as well as the humanities and social sciences.

To be considered an interdisciplinary project in the Villum Synergy call, the proposal should bring two separate research fields together (one of which is data science) to answer key questions that cannot be answered in the two fields separately. It is important that the research questions should bring value to both fields and that data science is not considered purely as a supporting tool.



Initiation and full project proposals are evaluated by the foundation's research committee on technical and natural sciences supplemented with additional members from computer science statistics, applied mathematics and humanities/social sciences. Additionally, peer review and interviews are used in the evaluation of full project proposals.

Responsible Research Assessment
Villum Fonden has joined the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA) that recognises the diversity of contributions to, and careers in, research. This should be considered when evaluating the CV. Journal- and publication-based metrics should only be used in a responsible way.

Assessment criteria for the committee and for external reviewers

- To what extent does the proposed research present new and original ideas?
- Does the research have the potential for reaching significant scientific breakthroughs and making an impact?
- Is the proposal the product of genuine collaborative work?

- Is it evident that the applicants have formed a workable collaboration among disciplines and people?
- Is the track record of the applicants within their respective disciplines characterised by groundbreaking research and have their achievements typically gone beyond state of the art?

In addition, the committee is asked to assess the synergy potential of the project:

- Collected synergies
- The enhancement of each individual area: the domain and the method area

Concluding remarks:
Please include remarks summarizing the assessment.
Please list the three top qualities and the three weakest points of the application.

Please rank the applicants and the research on a 1-7 grading scale (with 1 being the lowest and 7 being the highest) compared to the applicants and research proposals you have assessed the last five years.

Conflict of interest
The following situations will be considered as a conflict of interest:

- I am PI or team member in the proposal
- I was involved in the preparation of the proposal
- I would benefit should the proposal be accepted or rejected
- I am involved in the management of an applicant, or have been so in the past 3 years
- I am collaborating scientifically (e.g. joint publications) - or have done so in the past 5 years - with the PI
- I have (or have had) a mentor/mentee relationship with the PI
- I have family ties or close personal relationship with the PI
- I am (or was) in a relationship of scientific rivalry or hostility with the PI

If a conflict of interest is established, the committee member is not permitted to evaluate the given proposal, take part in any discussion about it or score it. The committee member must leave the room or the electronic forum when the proposal is discussed.