

# VILLUM FONDEN

## **Villum Young Investigator Programme – Terms of reference for the selection committee**

The objective of the Villum Young Investigator Programme is to find the best, most inquisitive researchers within the technical and natural sciences and to give them the freedom to pursue new and original ideas which have the potential for significant scientific breakthroughs and impact.

Applicants are expected to be experienced postdoctoral researchers, assistant professors or associate professors of no more than two years' standing.

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

### **Applicant**

Does the applicant have a documented record of original research accomplishments?

Has the applicant demonstrated leadership skills (in the form of corresponding authorships, personal grants, conference organisations, head of committees or the like)?

Is the applicant likely to demonstrate sound management, mentorship and supervision in the training and advancement of young researchers?

Is the applicant sufficiently qualified to lead an initiative of this size?

Does the applicant have a national and international network (resulting from periods abroad, collaborative projects or the like)? Does the proposed research have the potential to elevate the applicant to an international research leader within his/her field? Does the applicant have the potential to receive an ERC Consolidator Grant or similar following a Villum Young Investigator grant?

### **Research**

To what extent does the proposed research present new and original ideas?

Does the research have the potential to lead to significant scientific breakthroughs and make an impact?

### **Research environment**

Is the research environment at the host institution ideal for the proposed research and for recruiting and training Danish and international foreign PhD students and postdocs?

### **Concluding remarks**

Indicate the three top qualities and the three weakest points of the applicant and the application.

On a scale of 1 (poor) to 5 (outstanding), rank the applicant and the research proposal compared with the other applicants and research proposals you have assessed in the past five years, considering the career stage of the applicant.

**Conflicts 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.