

Villum Investigator – Terms of reference for the selection committee and reviewers

The objective of the Villum Investigator Programme is to find the very best curiosity-driven 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.

The selection process puts high emphasis on finding the people who have proved their talent with a track record of excellent research and capacity building for the last 10 years or more. In addition, applicants must present an ambitious plan for their future research.

The Villum Foundation expects that Villum Investigators have an outstanding international reputation within their research fields, e.g. at the level of ERC Advanced Grant holders.

In order for the foundation to be able to evaluate the applicant and the research, the reviewer is asked to address the points below in the review report. The foundation expects a well-argued review of approximately 2-3 pages.

Applicant

- Does the applicant have a high standing in the international research community (e.g. by comparing the standing of the proposed Villum Investigator with that of world-leading researchers within this research area)?
- Is the track record of the applicant characterised by ground-breaking research and have her/his achievements typically gone beyond state of the art?
- Has the applicant demonstrated sound leadership and commitment to building capacity by supporting, training and advancing young researchers and engaging in strong international collaborations? Is he/she well qualified for leading an initiative of this size?

Research

- 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?

Research environment

Is the research environment at the host institution ideal for the proposed research and for recruiting and training students and young researchers from abroad as well as from Denmark?

Concluding remarks

Please sum up the overall assessment and point out the three top qualities and the three weakest points of the application.

Please rank on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 poor, 2 fair, 3 good, 4 very good and 5 excellent) both the applicant and the proposed research held against the criteria of the Villum Investigator Programme.

Conflict of interest

In order to ensure that an assessment is not suspected of bias, a reviewer must not have a conflict of interest (such as close family relationships or friendships with any of the persons involved in the proposed research, joint projects or co-authorship within the past 5 years, etc.). Applicants will receive an anonymised copy of the reviews and will be asked to comment on them before the foundation makes its final decision.