ODIN OPEN DISCOVERY INNOVATION NETWORK

2026 Grant Type 1 Guidelines

For questions related to these guidelines, contact the ODIN Secretariat odin@au.dk

1. INTRODUCTION & KEY DATES

These guidelines describe the process and requirements for applying to ODIN Grant Type 1 (2026). They outline the scientific scope, eligibility criteria, application steps, review process, and obligations for funded projects.

The Open Discovery Innovation Network (ODIN) is a national Danish programme supporting early-stage, exploratory, precompetitive research with relevance to drug discovery and/or clinical diagnostics, addressing unmet medical or technological needs.

ODIN operates under a unique funding framework. All projects must be co-created with at least one industry partner, while funding is allocated exclusively to academic and other non-profit participants. In addition, all foreground results and data generated during ODIN projects must be shared openly, without intellectual property protection or usage restrictions, in order to maximise re-use and downstream innovation.

These conditions are integral to the programme and apply to all funded projects.

The programme and specific scope areas are supported by the Novo Nordisk Foundation and the Lundbeck Foundation. Projects funded under this call follow the same ODIN principles, rules, and evaluation criteria, regardless of funding source.

These guidelines are authoritative for the ODIN Grant Type 1 (2026) call but are not exhaustive. Detailed templates, instructions, and formal requirements for each process step are provided via WorldLabs and, for invited applicants, through call-specific documentation issued by the ODIN Secretariat.

For questions related to the application process or administrative requirements, applicants may contact the ODIN Secretariat odin@au.dk

Important Dates for Grant Type 1, 2026

ODIN Information Meetings	March-April
ODIN Worldlabs Marketplace opens	02-Mar
1. Deadline for posting on WorldLabs Marketplace	**29-April**
Online pitches & matchmaking	Early May
Contact main applicant's Business Developer	Before submitting abstract
2. Deadline for ABSTRACT application	**16-Jun**
Decision letters for ABSTRACTS	Mid-Aug
Contact with legal representative (if necessary)	Before submitting full application
3. Deadline for FULL-LENGTH application	**24-Sept**
Decision letters for Grant Type 1	Late-Dec

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2. GRANT TYPE 1 2026 – AT A GLANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of ODIN is to contribute to solving unmet clinical needs, leading towards drug discovery and/or diagnostics development by:

- Funding collaborative, high-risk research projects co-created by academia and industry
- Generating openly shared knowledge with broad potential for further use within downstream research and innovation.

SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

Projects must fall within cardiometabolic and cardiovascular diseases, infectious diseases, regenerative medicine, disease-agnostic platform technologies/tools/methods, and/or central nervous system diseases.

WHO CAN APPLY?

At a minimum, projects must include:
- An eligible main applicant from a Danish partner university, and
- At least one industry partner actively engaged in the project

Additional collaboration partners (universities/hospitals/non-profits/companies) are welcome and will be favourably assessed.

PROJECT DURATION

- Up to 3 years

APPLICATION STEPS

1. Post (or join) a project idea, challenge or resource on WorldLabs
2. Submit an extended abstract
3. Submit a full-length application (by invitation only)

FUNDING

- Maximum budget per project: up to DKK 6,5 million
- Funding is allocated to academic and other non-profit participants only
- Industry partners participate through in-kind contributions.
- A total of up to DKK 52 million is available to projects from two foundatíons in 2026.

BUDGET FRAMEWORK

Eligible costs covered by the ODIN grant include:
- Salaries for certain scientific and technical personnel
- Minor equipment (up to DKK 200.000 per project)
- Operating Expenses and Bench Fees
- Dissemination costs such as ODIN-related travel, events and open publication
- Direct administrative expenses (5% fee)

GENERAL PROGRAM CONDITIONS

- The research must be precompetitive and suitable for open collaboration
- The generated data must be broadly useful beyond the immediate project team
- All foreground results and data generated within the project must be shared openly, without IP protection or usage restrictions
- There is no limit to company involvement across or within projects
- Individual academics have certain restrictions on total project involvement. They may:
  - Be main applicant on a maximum of one active Grant Type 1 project
  - Be involved in a maximum of three active ODIN-funded projects overall
- If the project is funded, all partners must:
  - Sign and adhere to ODIN's non-negotiable Project Agreement
  - Adhere to ODIN's openness, reporting, participation and dissemination obligations, as listed in the Grant Decision Letter
- Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to further develop their ideas and apply again in future relevant ODIN call rounds

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LUNDBECK
FOUNDATION

3. SCIENTIFIC SCOPE 2026

The ODIN programme and scientific scope areas are supported by the Novo Nordisk Foundation and the Lundbeck Foundation. All projects are funded under a single ODIN Grant Type 1 call and are subject to the same ODIN principles, eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, and obligations for openness, regardless of funding source. Projects must clearly fall within at least one of the scientific scope areas described here.

NOVO NORDISK FOUNDATION–SPONSORED SCOPE AREAS

UP TO DKK 38 MILLION

Projects may address any of the following areas:

Cardiometabolic and Cardiovascular Diseases (CMD and CVD)
Development of innovative approaches to better understand, prevent, diagnose, and/or treat diseases affecting the heart and blood vessels, as well as cardiometabolic conditions including diabetes, obesity, and their interrelated risk factors.

Infectious Diseases
Advancing research and technologies to address the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of infectious diseases, including novel approaches to combat antimicrobial resistance.

Regenerative Medicine
Development of cutting-edge therapies and technologies to repair, replace, or regenerate damaged tissues and organs.

*Disease-Agnostic Platform Technologies and Research Tools/Methods**
Innovative technologies, tools, and methods that enable advancements in drug discovery, drug delivery, and/or clinical diagnostics across a broad range of therapeutic areas.

*Such platforms/tools/methods must provide foundational innovations that can eventually be adapted or applied to multiple disease contexts, including one or more of the other NNF-relevant scope areas. This must be clearly explained within the application.

LUNDBECK FOUNDATION–SPONSORED SCOPE AREA

UP TO DKK 14 MILLION

Diseases of the Central Nervous System (CNS)
Advancing innovative research into the biological mechanisms, development, function, and pathology of the brain and nervous system to better understand, prevent, diagnose, and treat disorders of the central nervous system.

4. OPEN INNOVATION IN SCIENCE PRINCIPALS

PRECOMPETITIVENESS & OPENNESS IN ODIN

All funded ODIN projects must comply with the central principals of Open Innovation in Science (OIS), meaning they must be based on precompetitive research and are required to share project-generated results openly. These projects create a robust foundation of knowledge based on excellent research and help move the life science industry forward by solving common challenges and tackling barriers faced by everyone. Open sharing of the

research results maximises scientific value by reducing barriers to knowledge-exchange, thus increasing the potential for further downstream research and eventual innovation and commercialization by any party.

If a project cannot reasonably share its main results openly and in a way that allows others to re-use them, it is not suitable for ODIN funding.

This section clarifies what constitutes precompetitive and open research, including foreground data, background data, and confidential information, and outlines ODIN's expectations for open sharing and dissemination.

WHAT IS PRECOMPETITIVE RESEARCH?

In ODIN, precompetitive research refers to research that is carried out before commercial competition becomes relevant.

Precompetitive research typically focuses on answering foundational questions, tackling shared industry barriers, or investigating methods, data, or tools that are broadly relevant. The generic results:

- Are broadly interesting and useful to others beyond the project partners
- Can be shared openly with the public without compromising the ability of the partners or others to adapt the results for specific, commercial, and protectable applications

ODIN **does not include projects** that:

- Depend on keeping key results confidential or exclusive
- Require IP protection or restricted access in order to have value
- Are designed so that the main outputs can only be used by a single product, company, or organization

WHAT ARE BACKGROUND AND FOREGROUND DATA?

Only foreground data and results are subject to ODIN's open sharing requirements.

Foreground data refers to e.g. data, materials, methods, software, analyses, and knowledge (including negative results) **generated within the timeline of the ODIN-funded project**. Foreground data must be made available in a manner that enables use by others, subject to applicable legal, ethical, and regulatory constraints (e.g. GDPR), and must not be limited in its use due to restrictions on background data.

Background data refers to e.g. IP, data, materials, methods, software, assets, know-how, or **results that existed prior** to the start of the ODIN project, or that are generated independently of it. Background data is not required to be shared, disclosed, or made public, and is considered confidential information. However, effective collaboration within the project

team may require the private exchange of confidential background data between project partners, and this can be done under appropriate confidentiality arrangements.

Only results generated within the ODIN project are subject to ODIN's open framework.

Anyone is free to build on ODIN foreground data in subsequent projects. New results developed outside the ODIN project may be pursued within closed projects and for commercial purposes.

5. THREE-STEP APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

The application process for ODIN Grant Type 1 (2026) consists of three steps, each with a fixed deadline and required activities and documents.

Applicants are responsible for ensuring full compliance with all formal and administrative requirements at the time of submission. Applications that do not meet these requirements may be rejected without scientific evaluation.

STEP 1 – POST A PROJECT IDEA, CHALLENGE OR RESOURCE ON WORLDLABS

All extended abstracts must be linked to a project idea, challenge or resource posted publicly within the Marketplace of WorldLabs. You may post the idea yourself or become involved in a project posted by someone else.

You must first join the ODIN WorldLabs platform https://www.worldlabs.org/c/odin/ and create a profile in order to access the Marketplace.

About WorldLabs & the ODIN Marketplace
WorldLabs is a curated international platform that plays a central role in the ODIN process. It functions as a shared, open collaboration and matchmaking platform for introducing yourself and sharing project ideas, research needs, and expertise. This enables crucial early interaction and co-creation across the ODIN network.

The platform is an excellent place to find inspiration and/or potential partners. The WorldLabs platform allows you to create both an individual profile and specific project idea for the call in which you plan to apply. We strongly encourage you to create a detailed individual profile before posting an idea, as this will make you more findable by others. You can browse through the members of the ODIN network as well as project ideas for current and past calls.

When you are ready, you can post an idea, challenge or resource in ODIN's WorldLabs Marketplace. The post will become visible to ODIN's broad network of collaborators, allowing you to connect with companies and researchers who are actively looking to engage in new projects. Your team can then develop and refine the project concept before submitting an extended abstract.

FAQ - Posting your Idea/Challenge/Resource on WorldLabs

Do I have to post an idea on the Marketplace?
Yes and no. Abstracts must be related to a post from within the ODIN Marketplace. Abstract applications that are not clearly linked to an idea/challenge/resource posted in the Marketplace will be administratively rejected without review. However, you are welcome and encouraged to join projects that are posted by others, so you don't necessarily have to create your own post.

Where and how do I post?
Posts must be uploaded to the ODIN Marketplace. https://www.worldlabs.org/c/odin/mkt/

The **Ideas & Challenges section** allows members to post specific research ideas and/or problems that they would like to solve within the frame of ODIN. A template is available on WorldLabs if needed.

The **Resources Offered section** allows members to showcase their unique skills, tools or technologies that may be relevant for a variety of ODIN projects.

Edits can be made after posting. If a post was published in a previous call round, you may edit it to show your interest in the 2026 call round. Note that some questions have been altered or added in 2026, so carefully read through your previous responses and edit as needed.

Who can make a post?
Anyone may post an idea, challenge or resource on WorldLabs, including main applicants, companies, co-applicants, and researchers. Importantly, **teams do not have to be fully formed** before posting the idea. The marketplace can (and should) be used as a tool to find additional partners/resources.

What should be posted?
WorldLabs posts are expected to be high-level and non-confidential, consisting of a brief description of the idea or challenge, how the potential outputs might be broadly useful, and resources and partners both available and needed. Importantly, **ideas do not have to be fully formed** before posting. As new partners join, it is expected that the project will develop further and **may change significantly**.

When should the post be made?
The deadline for posting on WorldLabs in the Grant Type 1 Call is **29 April 2026**, but you are strongly encouraged to post as early as possible. Early posting provides more time for partner identification, dialogue, and project development, and increases the likelihood of forming a strong, well-balanced team and project.

What should I do after posting?

Be proactive! The best use of WorldLabs is in finding and connecting with potential matches yourself. Use filters to search through others' posts in the Marketplace or search the ODIN [Worldlabs members](#) to find relevant people. You can send and receive messages directly through the platform. Check back often to make sure you haven't missed a message.

Matchmaking

The ODIN Secretariat provides additional matchmaking services linked to WorldLabs posts. This may involve activation of our scientific ambassadors within partner universities and/or our industrial connections, themed networking and pitch events etc. Please reach out after posting your idea if you would like to make use of these additional services. The most successful projects are those who proactively seek partners both within and outside of ODIN. While the Secretariat does their best to connect people and companies to relevant projects, they cannot guarantee a match.

Informal Review Process for Step 1 – Contact a Business Developer

There is no formal review process for ideas/challenges/resources posted on WorldLabs. However, before (or shortly after) a post is published by a main applicant, or when a main applicant joins a project team, a business developer from that person's university must be contacted to assess that the project appears to be precompetitive, that it does not appear to violate any existing Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), and that foreground knowledge generated can be shared openly.

STEP 2 – SUBMIT AN EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The project idea will evolve as partners become involved. Once the team is set with a good idea and the right competencies, the partners must collaborate to translate the idea into a co-created ODIN project where everyone plays an active role, including all applicants and industry partners. The team's main applicant may then submit an extended abstract via [ODIN WorldLabs 'Opportunities.'](#) Additional information, templates and guidance will be provided directly within the WorldLabs application page. The last day to apply is 16 June 2026.

The extended abstract requires:

- A link to the originating idea/challenge/resource posted within the ODIN Marketplace
- Confirmation that the project has been discussed with a business developer from the main applicant's institution
- ONLINE APPLICATION (available from April) – An offline template will be provided
- NON-BINDING DOCUMENTATION OF COMPANY ENGAGEMENT - in the form of e.g., emails or written documents. An optional template will be provided.

The extended abstract is used to assess whether a project idea and team is sufficiently strong, relevant, and aligned with ODIN's selection criteria to proceed to a full-length application. Detailed project plans, budgets, and a complete consortium (beyond minimum requirements) are not required at abstract stage. However, clarity of the project concept, strength of the scientific rationale, and quality of the proposed collaboration will be considered in the abstract evaluation.

Review Process for Step 2 - Abstract

After administrative checks, extended abstracts are reviewed and scored individually by at least 5 members of the ODIN Project Review Committee (PRC). Based on normalized total scores from the abstract evaluation, the highest scoring applications (typically around 20) will be invited to submit a full-length application.

The main applicant will be notified of the outcome of the abstract review via email. While it is not possible to provide detailed personal feedback, the Secretariat provides general feedback based on the average scoring. Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to further develop their ideas and apply again in future relevant ODIN call rounds.

STEP 3 – FULL-LENGTH APPLICATION (BY INVITATION ONLY)

Invited teams may submit a full-length application via WorldLabs 'Opportunities'. At the time of invitation, the Secretariat will provide a link and further details, including all templates and guides.

Guidelines, scientific scope areas, application questions, evaluation criteria, documentation and funding conditions are updated for each call round; however, 2025 application documents are available on WorldLabs for reference.

The full-length application:

- Builds on (and must remain clearly linked to) the extended abstract
- May involve refinement of the project scope and/or team, for example as a result of new or changed partnerships, scientific input or resources
- Must include all required documentation (and signatures when necessary) e.g. budget, GANTT, company letter(s) of support, CVs, figures
- Must be anonymized of names and pronouns, as it is subject to blinded review

The main applicant is encouraged to consult a legal or compliance specialist at their institution to assess any regulatory, contractual, data protection, or licensing considerations that may affect the implementation of the project or the open sharing of its results.

If there have been significant changes to the project's scope, activities, or expected outcomes since the abstract stage, applicants are encouraged to reassess the project's precompetitiveness and openness in dialogue with a relevant business developer.

Responsibility for obtaining all necessary approvals and ensuring compliance with applicable legal and regulatory requirements rests with the applicants. Failure to secure required approvals may delay project start or, in exceptional cases, lead to termination of the grant.

Review Process for Step 3 - Full-length applications

After administrative checks, each application is appraised individually by up to 11 non-blinded Project Review Committee (PRC) members from industry and academia. In addition, it is appraised individually by up to 3 double-blinded expert reviewers (iPRP)

The PRC then meets in plenum to discuss each project, taking into account the individual evaluations and blinded reviewer input. In case of deadlock within the PRC regarding an application, the blinded review(s) will be given extra weight to resolve the situation.

Following this meeting, a consultation procedure will be implemented. ODIN's Steering Group has the final mandate to determine which projects to fund.

Consultation Procedure

Following the scientific review and PRC meeting discussing the applications, applicants may be invited via email to take part in a consultation procedure in accordance with §19 of the Danish Public Administration Act. As part of this procedure, applicants have the option to submit a brief written statement in response to the assessment provided by the PRC. More information will be provided during the consultation procedure.

Final Funding Decisions

After the consultation procedure, the PRC finalizes a shortlist for suggested nominations. The ODIN Steering Group will make the final decision on which projects to fund. The Steering Group considers the PRC's nominations, the quality of the project proposals, the entire ODIN portfolio, and the sum of funding allocated for the specific call.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome in December 2026. While it is not possible to provide detailed personal feedback, the Secretariat provides general feedback based on the average scoring. Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to further develop their ideas and apply again in future relevant ODIN call rounds.

ODIN REVIEW GOVERNANCE

The Secretariat can administratively reject applications that do not meet the guidelines e.g.:

- Is not linked to a relevant idea posted in the ODIN Marketplace by the deadline
- Does not have an eligible team, or requests funding for ineligible people or purposes
- Is missing mandatory information or central documents
- Is not sufficiently anonymized (full-length application)

The Secretariat reserves the right to allow for minor administrative fixes to applications within a brief timeframe after the call deadline, at their own discretion.

The Project Review Committee (PRC) consists of up to 11 members, both academic researchers and relevant companies. The PRC reviews and rates all abstracts as well as non-anonymized full-length applications. They then nominate projects to the Steering Group. Academic PRC members may not apply as main applicants in a Grant Type 1 call round in a year that they are sitting on the committee.

The blinded international Project Review Panel (iPRP) are scientific field-experts that review and rate anonymized full-length applications. These reviews may be used to enhance the PRC's discussion and final nomination and to examine and counter the potential for bias.

The Steering Group (SG) consists of 10 members, both senior academic representatives and relevant companies. The SG makes final funding decisions.

You can [read more about the review organs](#) within the documents on our website.

6. TEAM MEMBER ELIGIBILITY

This section defines the minimum eligibility requirements and programme conditions for ODIN Grant Type 1 (2026). All partners are expected to actively contribute to the co-creation and execution of the project, and must agree to comply with ODIN's open, precompetitive, and IP-free framework.

Applications that do not meet these requirements will be rejected without scientific review.

MAIN APPLICANT

Eligibility
The main applicant must:
- Hold a permanent (time-unlimited) or tenure-track contract at the level of associate- or full professor.
- Be employed at one of the five Danish partner universities:
    - Aalborg University
    - Aarhus University
    - Technical University of Denmark
    - University of Copenhagen
    - University of Southern Denmark

Responsibilities
The Main Applicant submits both the abstract and full-length application using their own WorldLabs profile. If the project is granted, they act as the Grant Recipient and hold overall

responsibility for project coordination, reporting, and financial administration on behalf of the project team.

Budget

Main applicants may not receive salary; however, they are eligible to receive a portion of the ODIN grant budget to support their research team's activities.

Restrictions

An individual may serve as Main Applicant on only one ODIN Grant Type 1 application per call year and may hold a maximum of one active ODIN Grant Type 1 project as Main Applicant at any given time.

Active members of the Project Review Committee (PRC) may not apply as Main Applicant for ODIN Grant Type 1 while serving on the PRC.

INDUSTRY (COMPANY) PARTNERS

All ODIN Grant Type 1 projects must include active participation from at least one for-profit industry/company partner. Company Partners are considered formal project participants and contribute to the scientific development and execution of the project.

For the purposes of ODIN, the terms *company* and *industry* are used interchangeably.

There is no limit to the number of projects in which an individual company may participate. Company Partners:

- May be of any location and size (from start-ups to multinational corporations), provided they are established as legal entities in a business registry in any country.
- Participate through in-kind contributions to the project (e.g., expertise, materials, data, platforms, or access to facilities).
- Must sign the ODIN Project Agreement and agree to openly share foreground knowledge.
- May not receive funding from the ODIN grant.
- Are not required to provide direct financial support beyond in-kind contributions.
- Are not subject to direct project reporting obligations, as all formal scientific and financial reporting is handled by the main applicant on behalf of the project team.

Company in-kind contributions

The nature and scope of in-kind contributions should be determined by the project team and aligned with the scientific objectives of the project. Contributions are expected to be proportionate to the company's size, capacity, and role in the project and should reflect meaningful engagement rather than symbolic participation.

The relevance and adequacy of the proposed in-kind contribution will form part of the evaluation of the application.

Non-profit companies

Non-profits may participate as a company partner if they are contributing in-kind only and they are not requesting any grant funding. Note that at least one for-profit company must also participate.

Non-profits participate as co-applicant if they are included in the budget as a funding recipient, regardless of additional in-kind contribution (See 'Co-Applicants,' below)

Joint academic/company affiliation

In some cases, academic or clinical researchers may have formal or informal affiliations with companies, particularly spinouts or industry collaborations. To safeguard the integrity of the programme and ensure compliance with national rules on impartiality, applicants may not be financially or personally affiliated with any company partners within the same project. Persons affiliated with such companies may participate as either an applicant OR company partner, but not as both within the same project.

All applicants with company affiliations must comply with the Danish Public Administration Act (Forvaltningsloven) Consolidated Act 2014-04-22 No. 433, Part 2, on rules of ineligibility.

In addition, all potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed at the time of application and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

CO-APPLICANTS

In addition to the Main Applicant and industry partner(s), projects may include co-applicant institutions contributing to the scientific work. Co-applicants may be based in Denmark or internationally. Individuals may be involved in up to 3 active ODIN projects.

Eligible co-applicant institutions/organisations include:
- Public universities, where the co-applicant team is led by an assistant professor level or above (or equivalent)
- Public hospitals, where the co-applicant team is led by a clinician or researcher
- Non-profit companies/institutions, where the team is led by an eligible researcher

Co-Applicants can receive a portion of the ODIN grant. They are part of the formal project consortium and share responsibility for the scientific direction, coordination, and delivery of the project. They participate in internal project governance and decision-making and may contribute to defined deliverables and outputs.

Co-Applicants must sign the application budget and must agree to openly share foreground knowledge by signing the ODIN Project Agreement (if granted), regardless of whether they receive ODIN funding.

If multiple departments from the same institution/organisation are part of the project, they should be listed as individual co-applicants to differentiate their roles and budgets.

7. BUDGET FRAMEWORK

Each project may apply for up to DKK 6,5 million, allocated to academic and other non-profit participants only. Industry partners participate through in-kind contributions.

The budget must be realistic, cost-effective, and directly related to the project activities. All costs must be necessary for the implementation of the project and must be presented using ODIN's budget templates.

The ODIN grant does NOT cover costs related to the following:
- Any funding allocated to for-profit company partners, either directly or indirectly
- Salary costs not attributable to ODIN project-related hours
- General institutional overhead (i.e. rent, electricity, water, maintenance etc.)
- PhD programme costs and non-project PhD activities (see 'Salaries: PhD students')
- Patent applications or other activities intended to restrict access to results
- Representation and hospitality expenses not directly required for project execution or dissemination
- Costs already covered by other funding sources (see 'No Double Financing')

ODIN may reject or request revision of budgets that include unclear, non-justified, or ineligible costs.

SALARIES

ODIN may fund salaries for certain academic/non-profit personnel working on the project, provided that:

- Salary is charged only for hours spent on ODIN project work
- The role and contribution are clearly described in the application
- Time allocation is realistic and proportional to the project plan

Eligible salary categories:
- Scientific/academic employees with time-limited contracts, e.g. postdoctoral researchers, assistant/associate professors on fixed-term contracts, research assistants, and occasionally PhD students (see 'PhD Students', below)
- Researchers employed at non-profit companies or institutions, provided that the organisation participates as a co-applicant
- Technical and administrative staff (TAP) supporting clearly defined, project-specific activities within an applicant or co-applicant team. Permanently employed TAP are eligible, provided their contract is dependent on securing external project funding

Salary costs are **not eligible** for:
- Personnel employed by for-profit company partners
- Applicants or other scientific personnel whose salaries are fully covered by institutional base funding (e.g. time-unlimited/permanent contracts), except in certain instances (see 'Exception for certain time-unlimited academic/clinical staff').

Exception for certain time-unlimited academic/clinical staff

Where an applicant in a time-unlimited (permanent) academic or clinical position is required to secure research-related salary from external funds, ODIN may cover a limited salary contribution for project management and supervision, capped at a **maximum of two months' salary per individual per project year**. This must be clearly noted and justified in the application.

PhD Students

PhD students and their salary may be included in ODIN projects only in justified cases where their involvement is appropriate to the project and team. In most cases, scientific contributions are expected to be provided by postdoctoral researchers or more senior staff. If PhD salary is requested:

- ODIN covers only salary costs corresponding to the actual time spent on the ODIN project.
- ODIN does not cover any other PhD programme-related costs or non-project activities, including e.g. enrolment/tuition or PhD school fees, coursework or training, teaching obligations, or time spent on general PhD programme requirements not directly attributable to the ODIN project.
- A signed statement must be provided by the relevant institutional authority (e.g. Head of Department or PhD School) in the full application confirming that:
  - All non-ODIN PhD costs and any salary costs not attributable to the ODIN project are fully secured at the time of application; and
  - The PhD will comply fully with ODIN's open framework

Any remaining ODIN-related PhD salary will not be covered by ODIN if the project is terminated early.

MINOR EQUIPMENT

Equipment purchases may be included up to a maximum of DKK 200.000 per project, provided the equipment is necessary for execution of the ODIN project and clearly justified in the application. Eligible examples include small laboratory instruments, specialised hardware components, or dedicated computing equipment required for project activities. Equipment may not be purchased from for-profit company partners.

OPERATING EXPENSES

Operating expenses may be included where they are necessary for project execution, such as:
- Laboratory consumables and materials directly related to the project
- Access to relevant facilities or services
- Project-specific sample handling and processing
- Software or licenses necessary for the project, subject to ODIN openness requirements
- Other direct project expenses that can be justified and documented
- External accountant (up to DKK 50.000) per partner not covered by 'Rigsrevisionen'
- Subcontractor fees (see 'Subcontractors in ODIN,' below)

Subcontractors in ODIN

Subcontractors provide specific, well-defined services on a transactional basis (e.g. data analysis, specialised technical services). Subcontractors do not participate in project co-creation, have access only to the data strictly necessary to perform the contracted task, and have no strategic interest in project outcomes. Subcontractors may be paid through the grant.

Company partners and subcontractors serve fundamentally different roles within ODIN projects, since company partners are active collaborators who have scientific or strategic interest in the project outcomes.

An organisation may not participate in the same project as both company partner and a subcontractor. Paid subcontracting should be used only where the required expertise or service is not available within the project team and must be clearly justified in the application.

BENCH FEES

A 'bench fee' may cover research-related operating expenses associated with a salaried scientific employee actively working on the project (e.g. laboratory supplies, specialist training, fieldwork, equipment hire, and maintenance). Bench fees may only be used for project-related expenses that cannot be allocated to another budget category. They do not cover overhead costs (e.g. rent, administrative support, representation, social contributions).

Cap and eligibility

Bench fees in ODIN are automatically capped at a maximum of DKK 8.000 per month (DKK 96.000 per year) per full-time salaried scientific employee actively working on the project. Bench fees do not apply to technicians/TAP.

The application must clearly specify the expenses covered by each 'bench fee'. To be eligible, the fee must be part of the general expense policy of the applicant's institution/department and must apply independently of funding source. Note that the document may have a different name, particularly in organisations outside of Denmark. Applicants should consult their individual institution's finance department or research support unit for guidance.

Documentation in case of audit

Partners claiming bench fees are responsible for complying with their institutional policy and must provide the document upon request. The Main Applicant, as Grant Recipient, must ensure that relevant documentation of the applicable bench fee policy can be provided in the event of audit.

NOTE: The Project Supplement Agreement (projekttillæg) does not apply to ODIN grants

DISSEMINATION

Travel, participation and publication costs may be included when necessary for project execution and ODIN requirements. E.g.:

- ODIN-related training, reporting, events or other activities (typically 1-day events within Denmark, 1-3 per year)
- Project-related collaboration visits between partners
- Conferences with presentations related to the ODIN project
- Organization of meetings or smaller conferences with project-relevant stakeholders
- Publications in open access journals (fees must be paid within project timeline)
- Open database storage fees (fees must be paid within project timeline)

Projects should aim to produce at least one openly published, peer-reviewed article per year of the project. Costs related to open dissemination and publishing can be covered within the budget, as long as they are utilised within the project's timeline.

DIRECT ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (MAX. 5%)

Administrative support may account for 5% of the total budget for each applicant and is automatically calculated in the budget forms. This fee covers administrative expenses related directly to the project, such as accounting, salary payments, purchasing, hiring, and auditing/financial reporting on the project. The fee does not replace or duplicate other budget categories and must not be used to cover general institutional overhead.

Applicants that do not require administrative expense coverage can remove this charge within the budget template.

NO DOUBLE FINANCING

ODIN does not allow double-financing of costs. This means that costs may not be charged to the ODIN grant if they are already covered by other funding sources, including institutional core funding or other grants. Applicants and grantees are responsible for ensuring that no costs are funded more than once and that all budgeted costs clearly comply with these guidelines.

8. SELECTION CRITERIA

Reviewers will consider and base scores on the following criteria when assessing applications.

Although not official selection criteria, the Project Review Committee favour projects with innovative, high-risk 'wild ideas,' as well as projects including multiple partner universities.

Scientific Scope: How relevant is the project within the 2026 ODIN Scientific Scope?

Note: A proposal will be administratively rejected if more than half of the reviewers deem the project as not relevant to the scientific scope.

Scientific Excellence: How strong and innovative is the project's scientific rationale and methodological approach to addressing the defined unmet need within drug discovery and/or diagnostics? Is the scientific plan credible, feasible, and well-structured to deliver the proposed outcomes?

Interdisciplinarity and Industry Engagement: Does the project bring together sufficient and relevant expertise across scientific disciplines and sectors, with clear and meaningful engagement of industry partners through active in-kind contributions, to create a well-rounded and collaborative research effort?

Value Creation for the Project Partners: To what extent will the project's results be useful and valuable for the participating partners for further research, development, and/or future innovation activities, including (but not limited to) downstream relevance to drug discovery and/or diagnostics?

Breadth of Value Creation (beyond the team): To what extent will the project's results be useful and valuable beyond the immediate project partners/team, including for broader academic research, industrial innovation by third parties, and others? The highest rated projects will have clear innovation pathways for industry.

Openness: How well does the project align with ODIN's model, with precompetitive results that are suitable for sharing, a robust plan for open dissemination, and no built-in dependencies that would restrict use of the outputs?

Budget: Is the proposed budget realistic and proportionate to the project's aims, activities, and expected outputs?

In addition to the selection criteria, the Steering Group takes the overall call budget and project portfolio into consideration when selecting projects for funding with regards to e.g., scientific scope balance, participants, gender, and risk profiles.

9. RULES FOR FUNDED PROJECTS

If a project is awarded funding, implementation is governed by the Grant Decision Letter and Project Agreement. These documents define the Grant Recipient's responsibilities, reporting and payment procedures, dissemination obligations, and conditions for continuation or termination of funding. Applicants should familiarise themselves with these obligations before applying. All Projects must comply with the Danish Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

GRANT DECISION LETTER

A grant letter will be issued to the main applicant, which describes the formal expectations of the ODIN grant. The Grant Letter is a binding document that specifies call- and project-specific conditions and may be updated between call years. A version of this letter can be found on the ODIN website or downloaded here.

PROJECT AGREEMENTS

If the project receives funding, all partners must sign the Project Agreement in accordance with their local rules of delegation. The Project Agreement is non-negotiable, as it has been previously defined by ODIN partner universities and company partners. The Project Agreement template can be found on the ODIN website or downloaded here.

OPEN DISSEMINATION AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS

ODIN expects funded projects to actively disseminate their foreground results through openly accessible scientific publications, databases and other relevant channels, including reference to the specific grant number on all documents.

Examples of open dissemination include, but are not limited to:
- All publications related to the project must be open access
- Submitted manuscripts must be made available as preprints whenever possible
- Foreground data must be published in open online databases as soon as possible, and at the latest 6 months after conclusion of the grant.

To ensure the data is useful and reusable, all projects must follow the FAIR principles and share their data under a CC BY, CC0 or software license, allowing use by others. Granted projects will be invited to a workshop on Data Sharing & Openness to ensure good practices.

ODIN also has a dedicated community on Zenodo, a free, open-access, catch-all research repository operated by CERN, where all project data -- including datasets, software, and publications -- are made publicly available.

In addition to open sharing in public databases, projects should aim to produce at least one openly published, peer-reviewed article per year of the project. Publications should be submitted as preprints whenever possible.

DISCONTINUATION

If a project fails to make the necessary progress or it is discovered that its aim is not achievable, the Steering Group can choose to terminate the project and discontinue funding. In the unlikely event that the ODIN Steering Group is forced to terminate a project, ODIN does not assume liability for personnel or other costs incurred after project discontinuation.

GRANT TYPE 2A – TOP-UP ELIGIBILITY

Grant 2A offers top-up funding (up to 1 year and DKK 1,5 mio.) to extend the value of previously funded ODIN Grant Type 1 projects through e.g. new research activities, expanded partnerships, and enhanced openness. All Grant Type 1 projects are eligible for this funding and will receive additional information when the call opens.

10. KEY DOCUMENTS

All documents related to ODIN can be found on the website: open-odin.dk

All documents related to the 2026 Grant Type 1 call round can be found on WorldLabs: https://www.worldlabs.org/c/odin/opportunities

NOTE: At the time of publishing these guidelines, some call-specific documents are not yet publicly available. Once finalized, they will be published in the above link.

11. PRIVACY POLICY

Please consult ODIN's Privacy Policy for more information on how applications and your personal data are handled.

12. DISCLAIMER

The information provided in these guidelines is subject to change and may contain errors or omissions. The ODIN Secretariat reserves the right to modify, update, or amend these guidelines at any time without prior notice. Changes and versions will be indicated within the document. Substantial changes made after 29 April 2026 will be communicated via WorldLabs or e-mail. The Secretariat assumes no liability for discrepancies arising from the use of these guidelines.