

QCA Incubator

From interdisciplinary quantum ideas to concrete outcomes

QCA Incubator is an initiative designed to support promising interdisciplinary quantum ideas grow into structured, visible, and output-oriented collaborations.

Once a year, QCA selects one team and supports them over a one-year period through facilitation, visibility, matchmaking, and structured follow-up — with the goal of reaching one concrete collaborative outcome.

The QCA Incubator does not provide funding. Instead, it contributes what an interdisciplinary cluster can uniquely offer: connections across disciplines, access to networks and infrastructure, and support that helps ideas move forward.

What is the goal?

QCA Incubator aims to:

- stimulate new interdisciplinary quantum collaborations among researchers, PhD students, and students across Aarhus University and the broader ecosystem
- support early-stage ideas with clear potential for development
- create space for researchers and students to test and develop ambitious collaboration ideas in a supportive, flexible format
- help teams translate conversations into tangible outputs

The ambition is simple: the QCA Incubator team should produce one concrete outcome within one year.

Examples could include:

- a joint funding proposal
- a concept paper or article
- a new collaboration format or research activity
- an industry collaboration
- a prototype, pilot activity, or clearly defined joint initiative

Who can apply?

QCA invites small interdisciplinary teams to propose one promising quantum-related collaboration idea.

Teams should:

- consist of approximately 3–6 participants from Aarhus University
- include researchers, PhD students and/or students from relevant disciplines
- bring together different departments, faculties, methods, or perspectives
- define one concrete output that can realistically be delivered within one year
- explain how QCA support can help move the collaboration forward

The incubator is particularly intended to create opportunities for students, early-career researchers and new interdisciplinary constellations.

What support does QCA provide?

Selected teams receive structured **non-financial support**, which may include:

- a facilitated kick-off workshop
- milestone check-ins during the year
- strategic matchmaking across faculties and communities
- introductions to relevant infrastructure and external partners
- proposal “stress-test” sessions and feedback
- visibility through QCA communication channels
- presentation opportunities through QCA flagship activities

The selected cohort will also be featured at **QCA Connect** as the annual *Incubator Spotlight*.

Selection process

Applicants submit a short application (maximum 2 pages) describing:

- the collaboration idea and why it matters
- participating team members
- interdisciplinary value
- one intended output within one year
- requested QCA support

Applications will be reviewed by the [QCA Leadership Team](#).

Selection will be based on:

- interdisciplinary potential
- strategic fit with QCA
- feasibility within one year
- expected impact
- clear added value of QCA involvement

Pilot timeline (indicative)

June – Call opens
August – Application deadline
Late August – Selection by QCA Leadership Team
September – Kick-off
December / QCA Connect – Incubator Spotlight
Following summer – Final output

How to apply

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF (maximum 2 pages – see description above).

Please send your application by email to:

Lise Refstrup Linnebjerg Pedersen (lrp@inano.au.dk)

Applicants will receive confirmation of receipt after submission.

Application deadline and timeframe

Application deadline: 17 August 2026 at 23:59 (CEST)

Notification of evaluation: September 2026

Start of the theme group: September/October 2026 (run for a one-year period)

Why QCA Incubator?

Great collaborations often begin as conversations.

QCA Incubator exists to help promising quantum ideas gain structure, visibility, and momentum — and turn interdisciplinary ambition into concrete outcomes.

About Quantum Campus Aarhus (QCA)

Quantum Campus Aarhus (QCA) brings together researchers, students, infrastructure, and external partners across Aarhus University and the broader quantum ecosystem.

QCA works to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration, increase visibility of quantum activities, and create opportunities for new research, education, innovation, and external engagement.

Through initiatives such as QCA Incubator, [QUBITS](#), [QCA Connect](#), networking activities, and ecosystem partnerships, QCA helps connect people, ideas, and opportunities across disciplines.

