



Guidelines for research centres and research groups at the Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen

Laid down by the dean on 30 January 2013. Following hearings in the Faculty Collaboration Committee on 27 January 2023, JUR-LT on 6 February 2023, the Academic Council on 10 February 2023 and the PhD Committee on 17 February 2023, last revised with effect from 28 February 2023.

Part 1 - General terms and conditions

Section 1. The faculty's academic staff are organised in research centres and research groups.

- (2) The purpose of the research centres is to create strong research communities that strengthen the research as well as the academic environment. By forming an inspiring and flexible framework for excellent legal research within well-defined research themes and areas of high societal importance, the research centres should be beacons of new knowledge both within the faculty, at UCPH, and in relation to other universities and society at large. The research centres must also promote synergies between the faculty's research and educational activities, e.g. through collaboration with the course groups. A research centre can realise its research agenda in different ways, including in the form of a collective research plan, a community primarily based on individual research projects, and as intermediate forms of this. Promoting collaboration internally in the centre, across research centres, with other Danish and international research environments and with relevant societal actors is a fundamental purpose of the research centres.

Section 2. A research centre is to be labelled a "centre". The term "centre" can only be used by research centres approved in accordance with these guidelines.

- (2) The dean may decide that centres set up on the basis of an external grant, including for example centres of excellence, during the grant period are exempt from the approval requirement in accordance with the guidelines, cf. subsection (1).

Section 3. The associate dean of research may appoint a committee to advise him/her in connection with the recommendation to the dean on whether a centre is to be set up, or whether the application should be sent back to the applicants with a request for changes and a new application.

Part 2 - Centre establishment

Section 4. Generally, the establishment of a centre, including the extension of an existing centre, takes place in connection with a single round of applications cf. section 6, in which all of the faculty's research environments are included, every six years (the first time in 2023).

- (2). An application for the establishment of a centre, cf. section 1 and section 5, must contain:
- a description of the centre's research areas, the requirements and the basis for the establishment of the centre,
 - a description of how the centre expects to fulfil its purpose within a six-year period,
 - a list of members and affiliated staff, cf. Part 4,
 - indication of a centre director, cf. Part 5.
- (3) An application must be approved by all members of staff who wish to become members of the centre, and by the proposed centre director. The application may include the proposal of several candidates for the centre director post.

Section 5. In determining whether a centre can be established, emphasis is placed on whether it can be expected that the centre within a well-defined research theme or area, cf. section 1 (2), will:

- strengthen the quality, relevance and visibility of the faculty's research both nationally and internationally,
 - create an ambitious, attractive and inspiring research and work environment for academic staff at all levels,
 - contribute to attracting external funding,
 - contribute to the faculty's overall research needs, including in connection with the faculty's research-based degree programmes,
 - contribute to the development of the research foundation of and research integration in the faculty's study programmes, including further education, in collaboration with relevant course groups,
 - contribute to attracting, retaining and developing new academic staff, including PhD student and postdocs,
 - contribute to the implementation of the university's strategy and the faculty's goals and action plans,
 - contribute to the development of the faculty's national and international research and societal impact, including in the form of innovation and collaboration with stakeholders in society, including business collaboration.
- (2) Generally, all centres must have at least six members at professor, associate professor or assistant professor level. However, an exemption can be made for centres with at least five researchers, if the centre also has at least 3 PhD students and/or postdocs.
- (3) The associate dean of research can decide that all researchers who are not members of a research centre must be included in a special research section and appoint a director of such a section.

Section 6. Outside the ordinary application round every six years, applications for the establishment of a new centre, cf. section 5, may be approved by the Dean on the

recommendation of the associate dean of research for the period between the date of application and the next ordinary round of applications.

- (2) Applications for the closing of a centre outside the ordinary application round every six years, cf. section 4, must be sent to the associate dean of research. The application must account for the reasons the centre wishes to be closed down, and for where the centre director and the centre's members stand on the proposal for closure.
- (3) A centre that does not live up to the objectives set out in sections 1 and 5, as embodied in the annual centre agreements, cf. section 7, may be closed by the Dean on the recommendation of the associate dean of research.

Part 3 - Centre agreements

Section 7. A centre's activities are governed by annual centre agreements which, on the basis of a negotiation between the centre director and the associate dean of research, must be submitted for approval to the dean before the end of January each year.

- (2) The centre agreement must include a plan for how the centre will work to realise its purpose in the coming year, cf. section 1(2) and section 5(1), including a breakdown of the year's activities in the form of, for example:
 - research publications and conferences, etc.,
 - recruitment, retention and development of new academic staff,
 - applications for external funding,
 - the centre's contribution to the development of the research-base and research integration on the faculty's study programmes, including further education, in collaboration with relevant course groups,
 - the centre's contribution to solving current societal challenges,
 - innovation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders in society, including business collaboration.

The centre agreements can prioritise different activities year by year in accordance with the collaboration on research on which the centre is based, cf. section 1(2) and section 5(1).

- (3) No later than by the end of January, the centre director informs the senior management of the centre's activities and compliance with the centre agreement for the preceding year, cf. subsection (2).

Part 4 - Researchers' membership of and affiliation with centres

Section 8. A researcher may be a member of one centre, cf. section 9, and may also be affiliated with one or more centres, cf. section 10.

- (2) A reasoned application for membership or application for termination thereof must be submitted to the associate dean of research, who, on the basis of a dialogue with the relevant centre director(s), accepts or rejects the request.
- (3) Reasoned application for affiliation and application for termination of this must be sent to the centre director, who accepts or rejects the request.

- (4) Membership or affiliation with a centre does not change the rights a researcher may have as a result of their employment, cf., however, sections 9 and 10.

Section 9. A researcher who is a member of a centre is expected to engage actively to the centre's activities, including providing a research effort that contributes to the achievement of the overall objectives of the centre, cf. section 1, and the implementation of the annual centre agreements, cf. section 7.

- (2). With due respect for the individual researcher's freedom of research, the centre director and the employee discuss annually, as part of the performance and development review, expectations of the nature and extent of the employee's obligations in accordance with subsection (1).

Section 10. A researcher affiliated with a centre must, to a reasonable extent, play an active role in the general activities of the centre, including seminars and meetings.

Section 11. A centre may, upon application to the associate dean of research affiliate one or more external employees or collaborative partners, etc. to the centre to a specified extent.

Part 5 - Centre directors

Section 12. A centre director must be a full-time associate professor or professor at the Faculty of Law, enjoy broad academic recognition, have good managerial and collaborative skills and a wide, academic network.

Section 13. Applications to be appointed as centre director must be submitted to the associate dean of research. Generally, the appointment takes place in connection with the establishment of a centre. The dean invites the candidate(s) that have applied for the centre director post to a meeting with the senior management, after which the dean makes a decision on the appointment.

- (2). If the nominated candidate(s) for the centre director post are not appointed by the dean after the interview, the applicants for the establishment of a centre will be able to nominate further candidates for the position of centre director within a deadline stipulated by the dean.
- (3) A centre director can be relieved of duties by the dean after the centre director applies to the associate dean of research for this, or when there are other special reasons.

Section 14. The centre director is responsible for the operation and development of the centre's activities in accordance with the overall objectives of the centre's collective activities, cf. section 1, and the annual centre agreements, cf. section 7. This involves, amongst other things:

- coordination, quality and relevance assurance of research and other activities at the centre,
- planning of the centre's joint, academic research projects, goals and initiatives with respect for the individual researcher's freedom of research,
- profiling and visibility of the centre outside the faculty, including promoting collaboration with practitioners, researchers and employers from Denmark and abroad,

- applications for internal and external grants etc. for the centre,
- recruitment and career development, including by working for a research environment that supports researchers in recruitment positions, and that promotes their academic development and progression,
- execution of and follow-up on performance and development reviews with the members of the centre,
- participation in the faculty's management forums, including in JUR-LT and JUR-FORSK,
- participation in leadership development,
- work to ensure a good work environment, including socially, for all staff affiliated to the centre,
- contribute to good collaborative relationships and the realisation of potential synergies between different centres.

Section 15. Management responsibility for researchers who are members of or affiliated with a centre rests with the associate dean of research. The centre director will, upon delegation from the associate dean of research, hold performance and development reviews with the centre's members.

(2). Management responsibility for administrative staff who work for a centre or its members rests with a manager appointed by the dean.

Part 6 – Advisory centre committee

Section 16. The associate dean of research may, on the recommendation of the centre director of the individual centres, appoint an external committee to advise the centre director on the centre's activities and collaboration internally and externally.

Part 7 - Research groups

Section 17. Research groups can be established by staff who are affiliated with the same research centre, different research centres or who are not affiliated with any centre.

Section 18. Research groups are set up for two years at a time and must at all times have at least three researchers at assistant professor, associate professor or professor level from at least two different research centres affiliated.

Section 19. The establishment or extension of a research group occurs after an application from a group of researchers, cf. section 17.

(2). The application must include:

- a reasoned account of the purpose of establishing the research group,
- a delimitation of the group's research area,
- a research plan describing how the proposed group will achieve research within the group's research area,
- naming of a research group coordinator, who must be employed at the faculty at least at assistant professor/postdoc level, who represents the group, and who is responsible for ensuring communication about the group's activities on the faculty's website and for collaborating with the faculty's course directors and course coordinators etc on the research base of the faculty's study programmes,

- statement of the research group's contribution to research anchoring of courses on the faculty's study programmes.
- (3) The application must be accompanied by a list of the staff who wish to be affiliated with the research group. An application must be approved by all staff who wish to become members of the group. After the research group has been set up, the research group coordinator organises the admittance and announcement of members, as changes in the group's membership are communicated to the associate dean of research.
 - (4) Applications for the establishment or extension of research groups may be submitted to the associate dean of research at any time. The associate dean of research makes a decision on the application after consulting the associate dean of education.
 - (5) The associate dean of research appoints a research group coordinator and may, after consultation with the research group coordinator conclude the appointment.
 - (6) The associate dean of research may close a research group, with or without an application for this, after consultation with the research group coordinator.

Section 20. Research groups may be extended one or more times.

- (2) The recommendation to extend a research group must include an assessment of:
 - whether the group has delivered research results of an appropriate scope at a high academic level in the previous period,
 - whether these results have been achieved and disseminated as part of a joint research effort in the group,
 - whether the group has also been involved in research activities jointly (e.g. conferences, knowledge dissemination, etc.),
 - whether the research group, if it is extended, can be expected to achieve results beyond what can be achieved through individual members' own individual efforts,
 - whether the research group has contributed to the faculty's research-based degree programmes to the expected extent.