

Call 2025: Marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean

We invite applications for the programme **MARiNAO - Marine research in the North Atlantic Ocean**.

Final submission date 17th February 2025 at 12:00 Faroese time (GMT)

Aims of the programme

The overarching aim of the programme is to generate new knowledge on the marine environment in the North Atlantic Ocean and to promote cooperation between the Faroe Islands, Greenland, and Denmark on marine research.

Thematic framework

We call for proposals focused on **marine processes related, but not limited, to the Greenland-Iceland-Faroe-Scotland Ridge** (hereafter called “the Ridge”).

The Ridge is an important geographical boundary between the North Atlantic Ocean and the subarctic seas. Water exchanges across the Ridge are strongly modulated by its presence: cold water from the north sinks hundreds of metres on the southern side, thus breaking the hydrostatic assumption used in most ocean and climate models. Marine life flourishes at the shallow banks. Strong horizontal fronts between northward flowing warm waters and southward flowing cold waters cause strong mixing and intense eddy activity. In the west, the East Greenland Current is the main conduit of sea ice, glacial ice and freshwater exiting the Arctic Ocean, yielding productive fishing grounds that have been used for hundreds of years.

The Ridge is a region of large scientific complexity in most marine disciplines, and a unifying theme for the countries inhabiting it. Therefore, we seek collaborative and interdisciplinary project proposals between Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark. Where relevant, we encourage cooperation with partner institutions from other countries in the area, which may participate with own funding.

A successful project is dedicated to marine disciplines, such as physical, chemical, or biological oceanography, including themes such as ocean acidification and climate change, marine ecosystems, or biodiversity.

Expected impact

Successful proposals are expected to contribute to enhancing the scientific standing of marine sciences in Greenland, the Faroe Islands and Denmark, through capacity building; data collection and data management; knowledge and infrastructure sharing; and the production of scientific excellence.

Financial framework

The programme is funded by the Danish Finance Act. The programme is run by Research Council Faroe Islands.

The total budget for this call is up to 14.4 million DKK*

The maximum amount of funding available per project is DKK 3.6 million. The aim is to fund four projects.

Funding may be used for:

- Scientific/academic salaries
- Technical/administrative salaries
- Operating expenses (including data collection and data management, travel costs, Open Access fees)
- Equipment and Infrastructure (max. 15% of applied budget)
- Overhead/administration expenses (25% of salaries)

Funding will be granted for Greenlandic, Faroese and Danish research collaborations. A fair share of co-funding by the research consortium (cash or in-kind) is encouraged and must be documented in the detailed budget.

Partner institutions from outside these countries may participate with own funding.

Salaries must be calculated according to the relevant national rules, and the respective organisations' own budgeting models.

The project leaders and key researchers are obliged to participate in annual meetings/workshops within the framework of this programme upon invitation. Travel costs to these meetings will be covered by Research Council Faroe Islands.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for funding, the following conditions must be met:

- The host institution (project owner) must be a research-performing organisation based in one of the three countries.
- The project leader must be a researcher employed at the host institution.
- The consortium must include partners from at least two of the three countries.
- Projects should be based on the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and applications must include information on RRI-related aspects (public engagement, open access, gender, ethics, and science education).

Proposals that do not fulfil the eligibility criteria listed above will not be processed.

In addition, we strongly recommend that:

- The consortium includes partners from all three countries.
- Early career researchers (PhD and Post Doc), plan research stays in at least two of the three countries.

Please see an overview of the projects already funded from this programme [here](#)

Submission of applications

The project leader must submit the application with enclosures on behalf of the research consortium no later than 12.00 Faroese time (GMT) on 17th February 2025. The application must be submitted via the [application portal](#)

The full application must contain all information required as requested below.

- **Information requested on the portal**
 - General information
 - Budget summary
 - Project consortium - Participants and description of research teams and gender balance in the project consortium (Max 2400 characters)
 - Project summary (Max 800 characters)
 - Communication and knowledge exchange strategy including public outreach (Max 2400 characters)
 - Data management plan (Max 2400 characters)
 - Description of the relevant legal and ethical frameworks and procedures needed to perform the research (Max 2400 characters)

- **Enclosures – in pdf-format**
 - Project description with implementation plan and risk assessment (Max 10 standard pages – [template](#)).
 - References – (Max 40 references)
 - An overall budget detailing the expected costs for the project, specified into the following posts: Salaries, expenses, and overhead.
A specification on how the costs will be distributed among the different funding sources, including funding sought from this call. The project partners' own contribution (cash and in-kind) to the project must be documented.
 - CV, including a list of maximum ten publications (maximum 3 standard pages for the project leader and 1 standard page for each key researcher).
 - Signed Letter of commitment from leader of host institution – ([template](#))
 - Letters of Commitment from all project partners.

Standard page definition for uploaded documents: 2400 characters including spaces. This equals Calibri, 12-point, 1½ line spacing. Please use the template for the project description.

Processing of proposals

Research Council Faroe Islands' guidelines on impartiality will apply when handling possible conflicts of interest.

- **Eligibility:** An eligibility check of submitted proposals will be carried out by the administration according to the eligibility criteria described above.
- **Peer review:** Eligible proposals will be evaluated by a panel of international experts. The experts will use the following assessment criteria:
 - Scientific excellence
 - Potential scientific impact
 - Quality in the implementation and management plan
- **Strategic assessment:** The programme committee will assess the strategic relevance of the proposals to the call according to the following criteria:
 - Alignment with the overall objectives and the thematic framework of this call
 - The impact of the proposed research collaboration for the region

- **Final decisions:** The programme committee will assess the scientific excellence and the strategic relevance of the proposals to the call to make the final decisions.

We expect the funding decision to be announced in September 2025. All applicants will receive written feedback.

Management and monitoring of the research projects

Research Council Faroe Islands will sign a contract with the host institution for the project.

The research projects will be monitored through annual reporting consisting of a scientific progress report and a financial report. A final report must be submitted at the end of the funding period.

Responsible adviser:

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Tórshavn, Faroe Islands 5th November 2024

This call for proposals may be subject to revision until eight weeks before the application submission deadline. If the call is revised, we will provide notification here.

** The funding for this call is available under the condition that the Finance Acts 2025 and 2026 will be passed by the Danish Parliament.*