Quick Guide to the Industrial PhD programme
– to potential Industrial PhD students

General information
This Quick Guide is about the Industrial PhD programme under Innovation Fund Denmark¹.

The programme means that the Industrial PhD student:
- Is employed in a private or public sector company at the same time as being enrolled at a graduate school at a university (in this case the Graduate School of Science and Technology/GSST at Aarhus University).
- Is focused on completing an industrially oriented research and education project.
- As a rule at GSST, splits his or her time equally between the company and the university.
- Has a main supervisor at the university, who is formally responsible for the PhD study, in addition to having a company supervisor and a company co-supervisor assigned and possibly additional co-supervisors.

For general information about the guidelines for the Industrial PhD programme, including admission requirements, application procedure and criteria as well as financial support for both the company and the university, see Innovation Fund Denmark’s website (in Danish or in English).

You can also contact the PhD partner responsible for the Industrial PhD programme at GSST.

Prior to application
To be considered for enrolment in an Industrial PhD programme, an application must be submitted to both Innovation Fund Denmark and GSST. The company formally applies to Innovation Fund Denmark, and the potential Industrial PhD student (the candidate) formally applies to GSST. GSST recommends that the company, the candidate and the potential main supervisor at the university are all involved prior to submitting an application to ensure that all parties agree on the framework and content of the application – and thereby also the Industrial PhD programme. GSST therefore encourages potential Industrial PhD students to contact a potential main supervisor at the university prior to preparing the application.

You can see a list of the PhD programmes available at GSST with a description of the research fields here. You can see a list of the departments and centres (e.g. iNANO) at Science and Technology with details of assigned supervisors (Professors and Associate Professors) and their research fields here.

Note also that GSST does not provide contact to any companies. You are welcome to contact them yourself, or contact a potential university supervisor who might have any company contacts.

¹ In Danish: Innovationsfonden
Application procedure
To be considered for enrolment in an Industrial PhD programme, an application must be submitted to both Innovation Fund Denmark and GSST.

The potential Industrial PhD student formally applies to GSST, and there are four annual application deadlines. You will find the application deadlines, language requirements, other requirements and the online application facility here.

The company formally applies to Innovation Fund Denmark. For Innovation Fund Denmark’s deadlines, see their website (in Danish or in English).

Note that the potential Industrial PhD student must be approved by GSST before the company submits an application to Innovation Fund Denmark. The candidate must apply via GSST’s online application facility mentioned above through the relevant PhD programme and enter the name of the company in the application. Furthermore, under the heading ‘Indicate possible financial support, if any’ you should state the following: ‘Applying for approval on the condition that Innovation Fund Denmark approves the Industrial PhD project’. Thus, if accepted by GSST the offer of admission will only be granted on the condition that the PhD project is later approved and the funding secured by Innovation Fund Denmark.

Innovation Fund Denmark can pre-approve an Industrial PhD candidate for an Industrial PhD application to the Fund. Contact Innovation Fund Denmark in this regard.