



## **Guidance on the merit criterion Innovation and Societal Impact for applicants and assessors**

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When a candidate applies for a position at the University of Copenhagen, the application must include a description of the candidate's qualifications and contributions within innovation and societal impact. This may, for example, include contributions where the candidate, through research-based innovation, including entrepreneurship and business development, collaboration with private and public actors, services to public authorities, policy development, advisory work, practice-oriented teaching, dissemination, or participation in public debate, has worked to translate research into use and value outside an academic context.

The purpose of the guidance is to help the applicant understand the merit criterion and highlight examples of their most relevant contributions in a way that can form part of an overall assessment for the position within their respective research field.

### **1. What the merit criterion covers**

The merit criterion "Innovation and Societal Impact" concerns how research-based knowledge and results are translated, brought into use, or qualify decisions, practice, and public discourse in ways that create value for people, society, companies, public authorities, civil society, interest organisations, and the environment. Activities that may, for example, lead to new or significantly improved solutions, products, services, methods, processes, practices, policy contributions, or other forms of societal value creation.

Research-based innovation and societal impact can be expressed through several tracks, including entrepreneurship and business development, qualified collaboration with private and public actors, services to public authorities, advisory work, practice-oriented teaching, dissemination, and contributions to public debate.

The key point is that the applicant can explain what they have personally contributed, what resulted from the effort, and what societal effect currently or potentially indicates use, value, or effect of the research outside an academic context.

A contribution to innovation and societal impact may, for example, be qualified by a plan for how the applicant will work systematically to translate research into innovation or societal impact outside an academic context.

## **2. For the applicant: Advice for your application**

When describing your contribution to innovation and societal impact, you should make clear in your application how you have worked – or will work – to translate your research-based knowledge into innovation and societal impact, for example through the use of new or improved solutions, methods, processes, or other forms of societal value creation outside an academic context. This applies to both commercial and non-commercial tracks.

Choose the 1-2 examples that best show your qualified contribution to innovation or societal impact. Briefly describe the need or the context of use, who the recipient or user is, what you have personally contributed, what resulted from the effort, and which signs currently or potentially indicate use, value, or effect of the research outside an academic context.

The activities must, moreover, have been carried out in accordance with UCPH's guidelines on conflicts of interest, impartiality, and secondary employment.

Expectations regarding your qualifications are aligned with the level of the position for which you are applying.

A possible structure could be:

- A short introduction (e.g. 1-1.5 pages) about your contributions within innovation and societal impact
  - What needs, problems, or opportunities do you work with in relation to your research, and who are the typical recipients or users (e.g. companies, patients, practice settings, municipalities, public authorities, cultural institutions, or civil society organisations)?
  - Briefly describe how you work – or will work – to translate research results into use, for example through entrepreneurship, business development, innovation or collaboration projects, services to public authorities, advisory work, practice-oriented teaching, dissemination, or public debate. This may, for example, be within 1-2 tracks that your examples later illustrate in practice.
- 1-2 examples of results or a plan for how to get there

- Choose 1-2 examples that best show how you contribute to innovation or societal impact through your research. For each example, you may briefly describe, for example: what need or context of use the example addresses, what you have personally contributed, and what resulted from the effort (e.g. an invention, patent or licence, software, a prototype, a collaboration project with a company or another external actor, a policy paper, a contribution to policy, services to public authorities, or another concrete deliverable). Conclude by describing which signs currently or potentially indicate the societal effect, i.e. the value or effect of the research outside an academic context. If you have a plan for this, you should indicate whom you will work with and what your next concrete step is.

### **Catalogue of examples – activities you may highlight under the criterion**

The table below provides examples of a range of activity types under the merit criterion and of signs or possible documentation that can often support the applicant’s description of their qualifications within innovation and societal impact and qualify their contribution. The list should not be seen as exhaustive or as an answer key, but as inspiration for the applicant. Other types of activity and forms of documentation may be equally relevant depending on the academic field, level of the position, and type of activity.

**For the applicant: Select the activities that best match your own examples. You do not need to cover the entire catalogue.**

Type of activity	Concrete examples of results or contributions that may be highlighted	Possible documentation that may be enclosed
<b>Research-based innovation, entrepreneurship, and business development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idea submission / invention disclosure</li> <li>• Patent or other IP track (applied for, granted, continued)</li> <li>• Proof-of-concept (PoC) or other maturation process</li> <li>• Establishment of a spin-out/start-up or contribution to business development</li> <li>• Licence, option, or other commercialisation agreement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Idea notification/invention disclosure</li> <li>• IP application, case material, or internal assessment</li> <li>• Licence, option, or collaboration agreement, or a documented process leading up to this</li> <li>• Grant award letter, investment letter, or other confirmation of funding</li> <li>• PoC memo, test results, milestones, or test summary</li> <li>• CVR registration or other documentation of company establishment</li> </ul>

- Funding for maturation, verification, or testing (public/private)
- Participation in an accelerator or incubator
- Board, mentor, or advisory role in a research-based start-up
- Prototype or other development of new or significantly improved products, services, methods, or tools
- Agreement or statement of interest from a pilot customer, user, or partner
- Documentation of participation in an accelerator, incubator, or start-up function

**Collaborations with companies, public authorities, and other external actors**

- Collaboration project with a company, hospital, municipality, region, agency, museum, NGO, interest organisation, or another external actor
- Concrete deliverables, e.g. prototype, guideline, report, tool, method, or data foundation
- Test or trial of the solution with a partner or in a practice context
- Development of new or improved practices, workflows, or decision-making bases for an external actor
- Pre-competitive or open innovation collaboration
- Challenge- or case-based programme with companies and students/early-career researchers
- Pilot-tested initiative, process, or method in external collaboration
- Contract-based research or development
- Collaboration agreement, contract, MoU, or other form of collaboration description
- Project description with purpose, roles, and deliverables
- Deliverables, materials, notes, or reports
- Feedback or statement from partner
- Brief summary of the pilot or test, including learning and next steps
- Documentation of the applicant's role and responsibility in the collaboration

	collaboration with an external partner	
<b>Research-based advisory work, services to public authorities, and policy work</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory effort that supports informed decisions by public authorities, organisations, companies, or fields of practice</li> <li>• Policy papers, consultation responses, or contributions to guidelines, standards, or legislative preparatory work</li> <li>• Reports, notes, or analyses used in practice</li> <li>• Participation in commissions, councils, boards, committees, or expert groups with concrete deliverables</li> <li>• Professional dissemination to practitioners or alumni as part of an advisory effort</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report, note, guideline, consultation response, or policy contribution</li> <li>• Terms of reference, invitation, appointment letter, or official communication</li> <li>• Minutes, decision note, or other documentation of the handling of the contribution</li> <li>• Peer review or publication, where relevant</li> <li>• Signs of use, further processing, follow-up, or implementation by an external actor</li> </ul>
<b>Practice-oriented teaching, competence development, and educational activities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult and continuing education or practice-oriented teaching programmes based on one's own research</li> <li>• Development of programmes in collaboration with practice or an external partner</li> <li>• Supervision of industrial PhDs, industrial postdocs, or students in external innovation or collaboration programmes</li> <li>• Activities that connect companies or other external actors with students and early-career researchers</li> <li>• Programmes in which participants put knowledge, methods,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programme, course description, or materials</li> <li>• Agreement with a practice partner or description of external involvement</li> <li>• Evaluations, participant feedback, or a summary of learning</li> <li>• Description of use, continuation, or anchoring in practice</li> <li>• Documentation of supervisory role or dissemination of the programme</li> </ul>

	or tools into use in practice	
<b>Dissemination, open science, public debate, and other knowledge translation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Textbooks, popular science publications, professional contributions to media, exhibitions, podcasts, or similar formats</li> <li>• Talks, debate events, opinion pieces, and other contributions to public debate</li> <li>• Dissemination that qualifies understanding, decisions, or practice among specific target groups</li> <li>• Efforts to make data, methods, software, or materials available in ways that promote use and reuse</li> <li>• Open Access publications, open data, open-source software, or tools</li> <li>• Citizen science activities or other participatory formats</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publications, links, materials, or programme</li> <li>• Documented participation, role, or invitation</li> <li>• Evaluations, feedback, or descriptions of use and response</li> <li>• Datasets, metadata, repository documentation, or open access documentation</li> <li>• Description of the set-up, participation, and results in citizen science or open science activities</li> <li>• Signs of follow-up activities, use, or further dissemination</li> </ul>