

Introduction to budget template and new budget model

Budget template

When applying to WDF you must go through the application portal. The budget is required to be submitted using an Excel spreadsheet which can be downloaded as part of the process.

This budget template file consists of four sheets:

1. Summary & Budget – for the applicant to enter budget data
 - a. Please note that the “Summary” columns A to E is filled out on the basis of data entered in columns I to Y.
 - b. The data from each of the cells under “Summary” is required when entering the data in the WDF-portal. Please copy the amounts exactly!
2. EXAMPLE Summary & Budget – includes a sample budget. The cells match one-to-one the cells in the “Summary & Budget” sheet, and explanations for individual cells can be found as Excel “notes”.
3. Introduction – provides an overview of the new budget model and introduction on how to use the template.
4. Q&A – answers to common questions from new users of the application portal.

New budget model

As universities increasingly depend on external funding, it is essential that overhead contributions reflect actual costs.

Six Danish foundations commissioned an independent accounting consultancy company to do an analysis of Danish university grants to suggest a more sustainable funding scheme. This suggestion resulted in the new budget model. In the new model, overhead previously used and calculated as a percentage of the total budget, is replaced by a supplement, calculated based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) academic staff requested in an application to a foundation. This supplement is typically larger than the previous overhead. So, this change is not a cost-saving measure. On the contrary, it aims to support universities in a more sustainable manner.

Using the new budget model introduces limitations to what can be applied for, in that some expenses are considered to already be included in the supplement. The two most important changes are listed here:

- Standard IT equipment is covered by the supplement and can no longer be included in applications. Special equipment, e.g. lab equipment is still eligible for support.
- Danish universities may not apply for salaries for permanently employed academic staff. International universities may still apply for such salaries.

More details about what is fundable can be found in the last two pages of this document: [Press release](#) but this is a rather elaborate description, so you are welcome to reach out to thch@eriksholm.com with questions be it on specifics or more general questions.