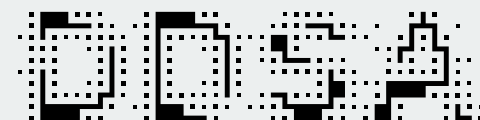
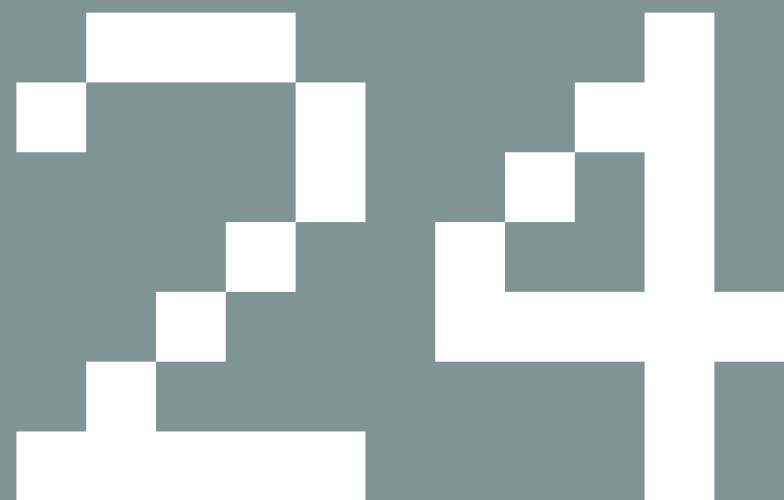
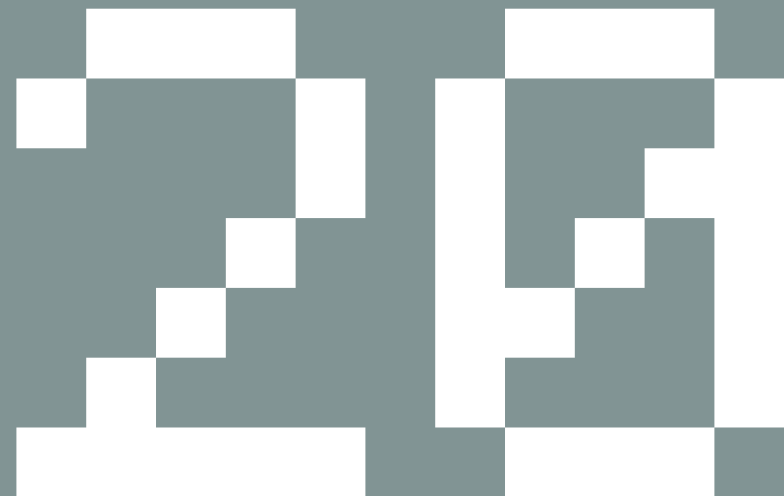
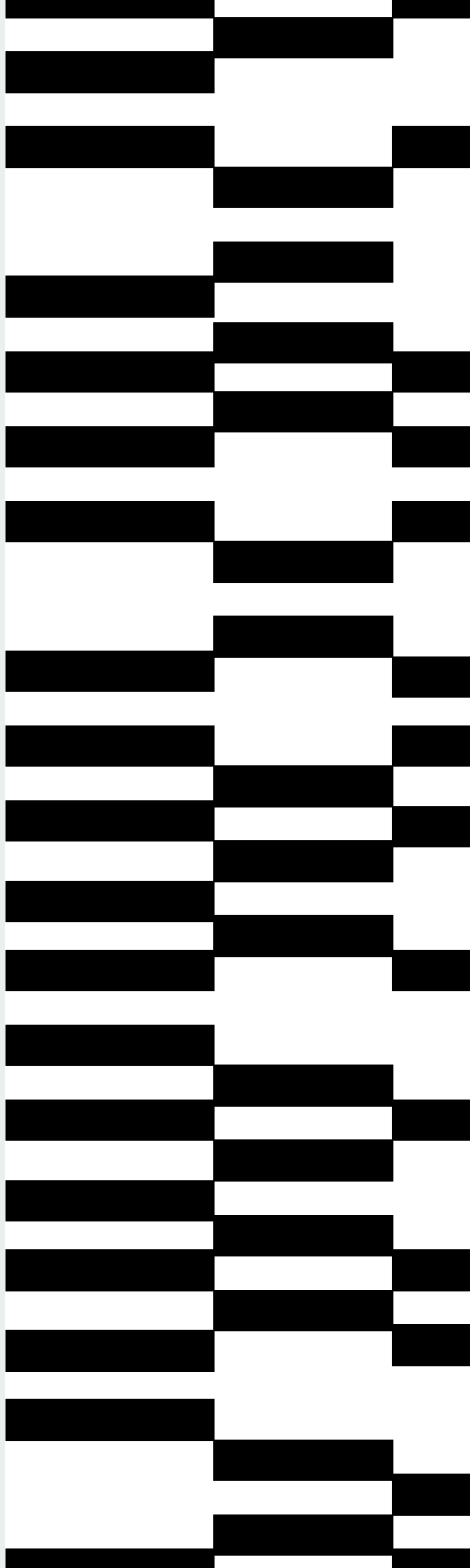
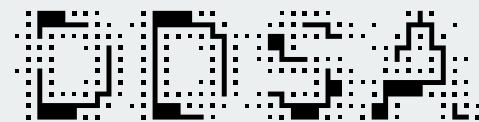
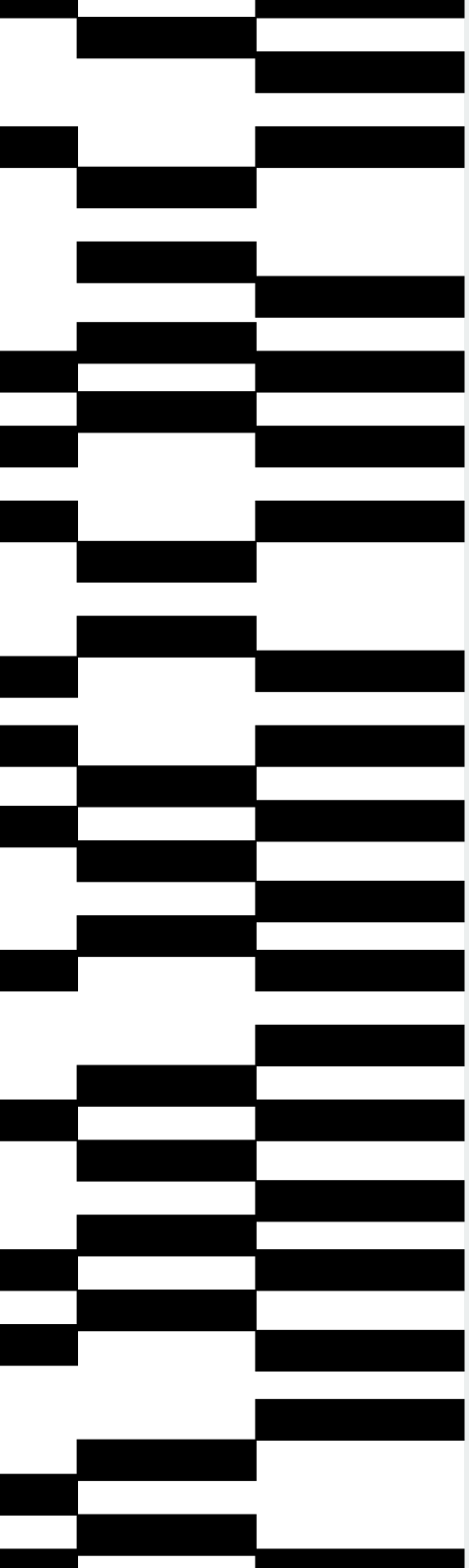


Annual Report 2024



Danish
Data Science
Academy





Danish
Data Science
Academy

Table of Contents

Letter from the Managing Director	04
DDSA Mission and Key Objectives	06
Timeline for DDSA Milestones	08
DDSA at a Glance	10

BRANDING AND VISIBILITY

Community Survey	13
Perception and Satisfaction with DDSA	14
Challenges and Opportunities that DDSA Can Help Address	15

SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE

DDSA PhD Fellowship 2024	17
DDSA Postdoc Fellowship 2024	20
DDSA Cross-Academy PhD Scholarships 2024	23
Visit Grants	25
Travel Grants	26
Synergies Across DDSA Funding Instruments	27
Pre-Graduate Retreat	28

COMMUNITY BUILDING

DDSA Annual Summer Celebration 2024	31
National Data Science PhD Meetup	34
Celebrating the Talents of the Future: Danish National Championship in AI 2024	36
Danish Digitalisation, Data Science, and AI 2.0 Conference (D3A)	38

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

DDSA Funding of Courses and Events	43
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COMMUNITY RESSOURCES

Mentoring Programme	47
Danish Data Science Calender	49
‘Ask Me Anything‘ Webinar Series	50



PARTNERSHIPS AND SYNERGY

Synergies Within Data, AI and Digitilisation	53
Collaboration between Academies and Learning Environments	54
Reaching Further	55

ORGANISATION

DDSA Secretariat	57
DDSA Board of Directors	58
DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee	59
DDSA Education & Networking Committee	60
DDSA Advisory Panel	61
DDSA Young Academy Panel	62
DDSA Cross-Academy Committee	63

APPENDIX

Marie Helene Andersson



The Past, the Present and the Future of Danish Data Science Academy

Data science is growing tremendously these years, and since DDSA was spawned four years ago, we have made our mark shaping the discipline, the culture and collaboration making Denmark an attractive location. We intend to keep growing and fostering data science many years ahead.

DDSA has earned credit by funding excellent research conducted by almost 50 young researchers in the PhD and Postdoc fellowship programmes and for the community of data science professionals the events are quality marked when receiving DDSA funding.

The most difficult task we manage is unifying across the domains that contribute to the data science area. Data science professionals meet to explore possible research spaces and welcome those who are approaching data science from other domains. This is possible due to our funders Novo Nordisk Foundation and Villum Foundation who acknowledge the interdisciplinarity as a basic condition for data science to flourish.

Community – offering a vibrant location in Denmark

As a young discipline in rapid development, DDSA has a mission: People working within the data sciences need to meet with each other and discuss aspects forming the discipline. More than 3000 professionals attend DDSA funded events every year. Such meetings build bridges between the executing professionals in the private sector and the public administration over to the investigative professionals in academia and research environments.

Creating a vibrant environment where the coolest thing is to work with data science in Denmark continues to be high on the DDSA's agenda in the coming years.

Fellowships – excellence in a fast-paced field

To grow a discipline, we need excellent talents to research greenfield areas and educate future generations. DDSA has from the start offered a model with fully funded fellowships for PhDs and postdocs, where applicants come with their own ideas to research projects, and we provide a transparent and thorough process by the Fellowship Evaluation Committee (FEC).

The PhD fellowships within data science will be granted by DDSA in 2025 and 2026 while the new academy DARA will grant the data science PhD fellowships the following three years 2027, 2028 and 2029.

DDSA – formed by professionals

By design DDSA is a bottom-up organisation where those who know the field have a great influence on the activities. DDSA is not a secretariat that mediates fellowships, we are an organization of more than 60 professionals who want to develop and grow data science as an exquisite and recognized professional discipline in Denmark and make it a safe and fun place to be a practitioner in data science.

Our Young Academy Panel (YAP) creates growth for talents with events such as Ask me Anything and career development through the DDSA mentoring program. Our Education & Network Committee (ENC) ensures that both summer schools for young researchers,

workshops for established professionals and series for those who are curious about the field have the means to develop data science in tempo and format tailored to the participants.

At the annual D3A conference, a plethora of current research topics are presented, and the conference connects people through safe conversation spaces. The conference is a great example of the partnerships DDSA engage in, producing the event with two other major flagships in Denmark, the Pioneer Centre for AI and the digital research centre DIREC.

Coming years for DDSA

Reflecting on the past and the present, we have come far in few years bringing value in short term as well as laying the foundation for long term growth. It is time to lay the tracks for coming years. That's why DDSA continues to support the growth of individual talent, offer and support community and educational events, and speak up about what data science is and initiate the conversations required in such a fast-evolving field – together with our partners and on behalf of the community.



Marie Helene Andersson
Managing Director

‘Creating a vibrant environment where the coolest thing is to work with data science in Denmark continues to be high on the DDSA’s agenda in the coming years’.

DDSA Mission and Key Objectives

MISSION

To create a collaborative national network that elevates and supports data science and enables excellent data science-driven research, teaching, networking, and knowledge sharing.

Train more skilled data scientists that will benefit both the public and private sectors in Denmark in the long term.

KEY OBJECTIVES

01

Branding and Visibility

Improve visibility of data science as a scientific discipline by acting as a platform for communication and outreach about data science research, education, and societal impact.

02

Scientific Excellence

Build national research capacity and enable scientific excellence by awarding PhD and Postdoc fellowships.

03

Community Building

Create a collaborative data science community in Denmark that connects data scientists across institutions and sub-disciplines through activities and events.

04

Training and Education

Support training of the next generation of researchers by supporting development of new courses to supplement, strengthen, and broaden the portfolio at Danish universities.

05

Community Resources

Enhance knowledge sharing by acting as aggregator of national overviews of courses, events, shared resources, methods, etc.

06

Partnerships and Synergy

Act as a national network that is complementary to, and synergetic with, other initiatives. Be open towards other foundations.

Summer Celebration



Timeline for DDSA Milestones

2021

2022

2023

Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
<p>November First employee hired</p>	<p>March All DDSA governing bodies and secretariat established</p> <p>First Large Course & Event Grants awarded (10 large and 21 small)</p> <p>June DDSA Grand Opening at Statens Museum for Kunst with 10 first DDSA PhD Fellowships awarded</p>	<p>August Pre-graduate retreat #1</p> <p>September Mentoring Programme kick-off #1</p> <p>First Visit and Travel Grants awarded (8 visit and 36 travel)</p> <p>November Danish Data Science 2022 Conference</p> <p>December DDSA website, Social Media channels and newsletter established and Data Science Calendar launched</p>	<p>January Launch of DDSAs new grant management IT Portal</p> <p>March Mentoring Programme #2</p> <p>Course & Event Grants awarded (12 large and 17 small)</p> <p>June National Data Science PhD MeetUp #1</p> <p>Celebrating Danish Data Science 2023 at Utzon Center in Aalborg – 6 first DDSA Postdoc + 10 new PhD fellowships awarded</p>

2024

2025

Fall	Spring	Fall	Spring
<p>August Pre-graduate retreat #2</p> <p>October Mentoring Programme #3</p> <p>November Data Visualisation Course</p> <p>Ask me Anything webinar series #1</p> <p>Danish National Championship in AI (DMiAI) #1</p> <p>December Visit and Travel Grants awarded (28 visit and 45 travel)</p>	<p>January National Data Science PhD MeetUp #2</p> <p>February First Danish Digitalisation, Data Science and AI Conference (D3A) 1.0 bringing more than 500 data science researchers together – in collaboration with Pioneer Centre for AI and DIREC.</p> <p>March Course & Event Grants awarded (15 large and 15 small)</p> <p>June Celebrating Danish Data Science 2024 at Museet for Søfart in Helsingør. Rotation of governing bodies, 6 DDSA Postdoc + 10 new PhD fellowships awarded + 6 cross-academy PhD scholarship awarded</p>	<p>August Pre-graduate retreat #3</p> <p>September Danish National Championship in AI (DMiAI) #2</p> <p>Ask me Anything webinar series #2</p> <p>October Danish Digitalisation, Data Science and AI Conference (D3A) 2.0 arranged in collaboration with Pioneer Centre for AI and DIREC.</p> <p>Mentoring Programme #4</p> <p>December Visit and Travel Grants awarded (51 visit and 58 travel)</p>	<p>January Community Survey with 245 respondents across academia, private and public sector</p> <p>February Data Voices series kick-off in collaboration with Danish Statistical Society</p>

DDSA at a Glance

Data science is a rapidly evolving field of crucial importance to the development of our society. This applies to everything from digitalisation and disease prevention to sustainable growth and business development. Knowledge sharing and training of new generations of data science experts is vital and this was the reason for establishing an academy for data science in Denmark.

Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA) aims to create a unique data science environment in Denmark which can compete internationally and attract talent. DDSA wants to unite private sector, public authorities, organisations, and the research sector, developing a world class Danish data science ecosystem that enables excellent data science-driven research, training, and knowledge sharing. To achieve this, DDSA is supporting and funding education, networking, and collaboration within Danish data science.

The Funding

- The Novo Nordisk Foundation and Villum Foundation have generously awarded DKK 184.3 million to the establishment and operations of Danish Data Science Academy in 2021-2026.
- The Novo Nordisk Foundation grant is DKK 152.5 million, and the Villum Foundation grant is DKK 31.8 million.

Principles

To secure a safe environment with high standards and transparency, DDSA works in accordance with the following principles:

- Code of Conduct – DDSA expects everyone engaged in DDSA activities to contribute to a safe and inclusive environment. Organisers of DDSA supported events are therefore responsible for informing and promoting the DDSA Code of Conduct² during the event, and for immediately notifying DDSA of any breach to it that has come to their attention.
- Conflict of Interest – DDSA is determined to maintain the highest standards of integrity, work ethics, and transparency across all its activities. To succeed in this, the work of all DDSA governing bodies and employees is governed by a set of guidelines. The basic principle underlying the DDSA Guidelines for Conflict of Interest are that decisions shall be made in an unbiased way.

Vision

DDSA's Vision is that Denmark has a world-class data science research and education eco-system.

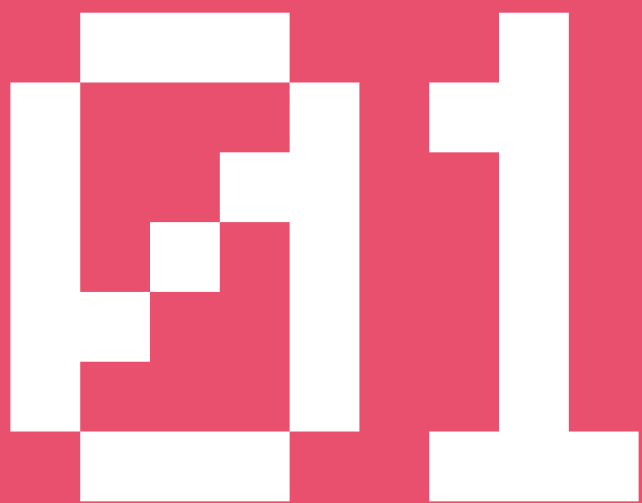
Mission

- Create a collaborative national network that elevates and supports data science and enables excellent data science-driven research, teaching, training, networking, and knowledge sharing; and
- Train more skilled data scientists that will benefit both the public and private sectors in Denmark in the long term.

Summer Celebration



Branding and Visibility



DDSA has conducted a community survey to understand how data scientists across sectors perceive its work and impact. The survey serves as both an evaluation of the past three years and a guide for future development. Results highlight strong satisfaction, especially among young researchers, and confirm DDSA's role in fostering a collaborative national data science community through funding, events, and networking initiatives.

Community Survey

In 2024 DDSA decided to ask data scientists in Denmark how they perceive DDSA, its activities and the issues they encounter. The aim was to reach data scientists across academia, private and public organisations and both those who know us well as well as those that may not be much in contact with DDSA.

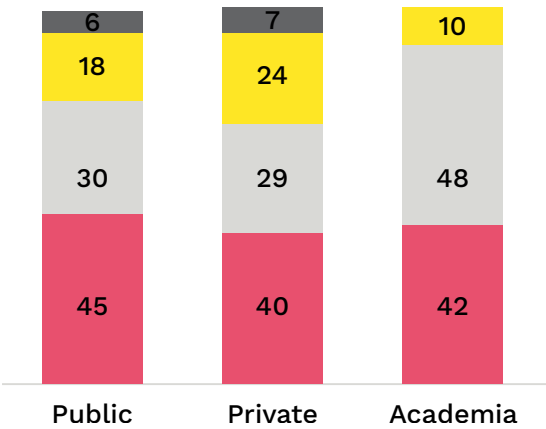
This became the Community Survey which gives a community view of DDSA after three years of activities. It thus serves as an evaluation as well as a substantial insight into the future needs for the community. DDSA will use the results to sharpen activities for the last two years of the current grant period, as well as inspiration for reapplying for a new grant period.

The survey was distributed through direct mail as well as by social media and newsletters from DDSA and partners. A consultancy specialising in surveys, Moos-Bjerre Consulting (MBC), was chosen as data collector and data processor, ensuring full anonymity for respondents. Over three weeks in January 2025 responses from 245 individuals were collected and the consultancy MBC reported on the results. DDSA has as data owner received the anonymised data set.

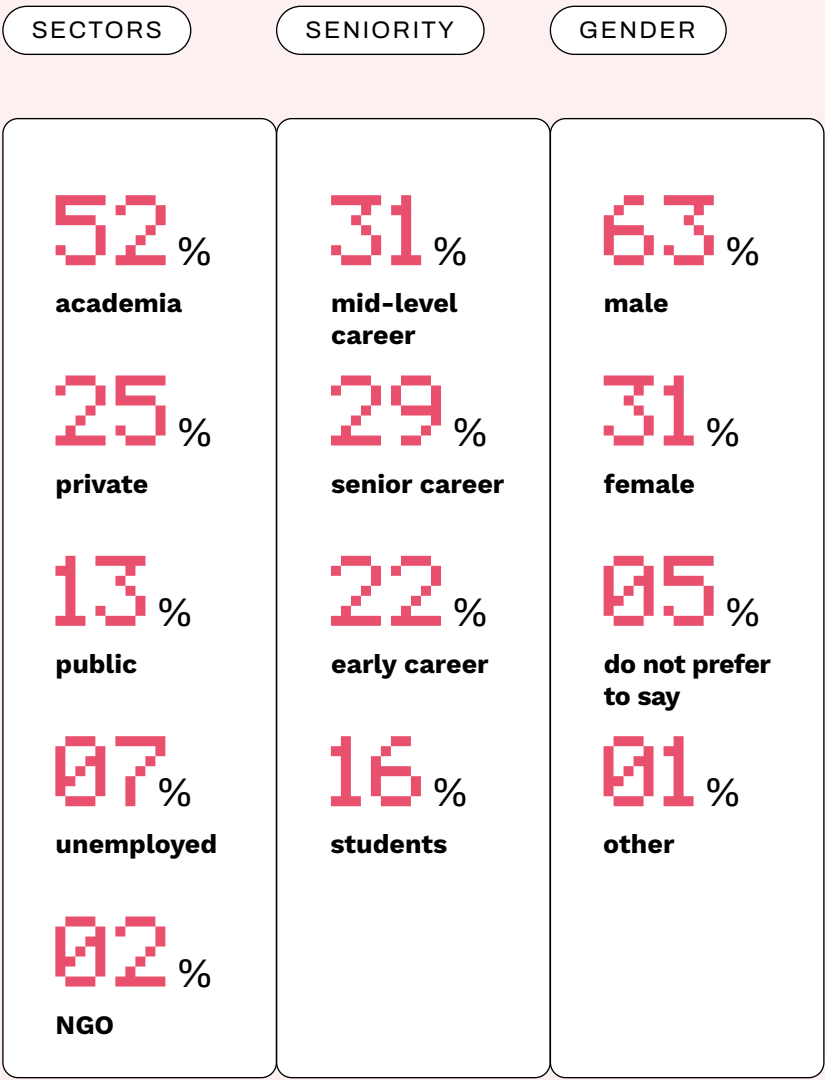
How well do you know the Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA)?
n=245

Note: Number are given in percentage

- Very well
- Somewhat
- Not very well
- Not at all / I don't know



Who are the respondents?



Perception and Satisfaction with DDSA

The survey shows that DDSA is particularly known for funding young researchers (PhD and postdoc), organising scientific events, and facilitating networking within data science.

The respondents are satisfied with DDSA and its’ activities to a very high degree, reporting that they would recommend DDSA and its activities to others in their network. Students and young researchers are the most satisfied. At sector-level, academia finds DDSA activities most relevant followed by the private sector.

The results show that DDSA has succeeded in establishing a collaborative national community that enables excellent data science-driven research, teaching, training, networking, knowledge-sharing and training of data scientists.

‘DDSA has united data scientists in a community that everyone wants to be part of’.

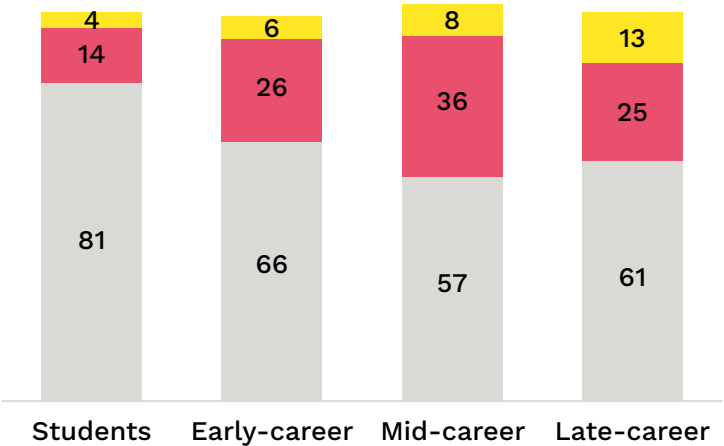
– Response from Community Survey

How likely are you to recommend DDSA?

On a scale from 0 to 10, how likely are you to recommend DDSA and its activities to others in your network?
n=245

Note: Number are given in percentage

- 9-10 scores indicate satisfaction and likely to recommend DDSA activities
- 7-8 score indicate satisfaction but not enthusiastic about DDSA
- 0-6 score indicate dissatisfaction



WHAT IS DDSA KNOWN FOR?

Most known for (60-80% of respondents)

- Funding of PhD and postdocs
- Organising events and workshops
- Facilitating networking and connections within data science

Less known for (30-45% of respondents)

- Supporting research and development in data science
- Offering education and training
- Advancing knowledge and skills in data science

Least known for (20-25% of respondents)

- Promoting collaboration between industry and academia
- Encouraging innovation in data science
- Encouraging increased inclusion and diversity in the field

Challenges and Opportunities that DDSA Can Help Address

DDSA asked what challenges the respondents face within data science and how they believe we can help address the issues and removing barriers. Access to data together with access to compute power are the main technical infrastructure challenges, while lack of training in the evolving data sciences and funding for talent programmes are structural challenges.

Among DDSA's current activities those focusing on networking and knowledge sharing are popular for all sectors and seniority levels, with the second most popular activity group being education and training, which academia finds the most relevant.

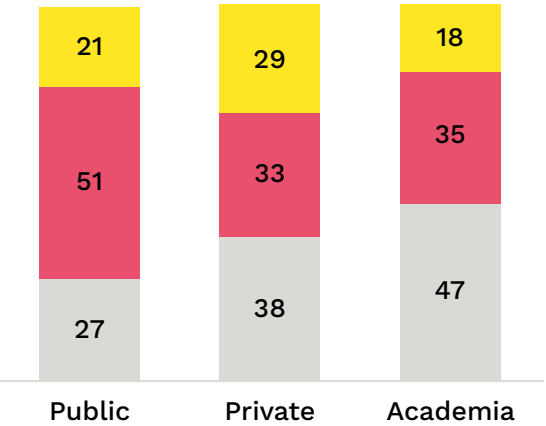
There is also an appetite for DDSA to be more vocal about data science issues. In the private sector application of models and algorithms is the most in demand issue to be addressed, while accessibility to data is most popular with academia and the public sector. Education and career in data science is a recurring issue across respondent groups, while late career respondents are particularly interested in ethics and explainability being addressed.

Respondents also consider interaction between academia and industry a space which DDSA may help to bridge. Activities respondents see as a good fit for future DDSA activities are networking, public speaking, education, internships and applied use. Supporting careers broadly in data science is also popular as a topic for DDSA to address.

How well do DDSAs activities align?
n=245

Note: Number are given in percentage

- Very or extremely aligned
- Moderately, slightly or not aligned
- Don't know



ACTIVITIES IN DEMAND

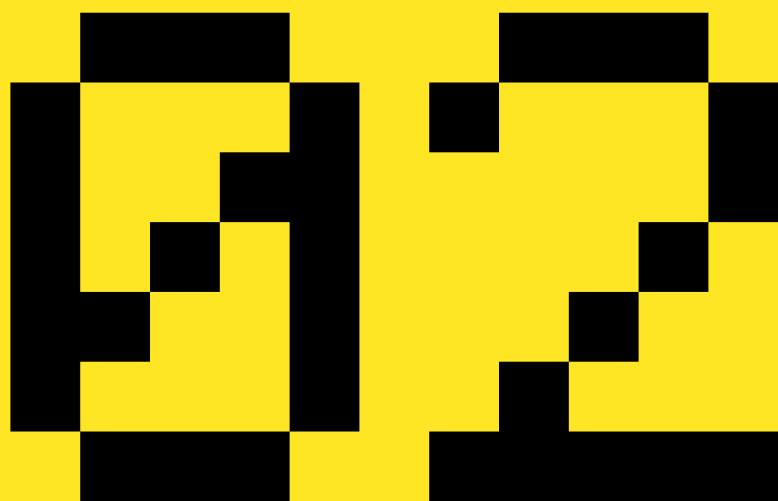
70-75% of respondents in the survey replied:

- Across sectors most responded: “Bring people together to inspire and learn from each other”
- “Fund education, training and courses within data science”. This reply varied across sectors with academia having a higher interest in these activities than the public and private sectors.

40-45% of respondents in the survey replied:

- “Speaking publicly about topics concerning the data science community” This reply was found across sectors.
- “Publishing knowledge about issues that data scientists experience”. This reply also varied across sectors with public organisations having a lower interest in this topic than the two other sectors.

Scientific Excellence



Data science is a fast-changing field, and DDSA strives to engage and nurture the young researchers – and future leaders – who are driving this field. By focusing on academic freedom and the researcher-driven idea, DDSA is aiming to engage and empower the new generation of talented data science researchers.

DDSA awards PhD and Postdoc Fellowships in an open competition. In addition, DDSA also supports mobility and development of students and young researchers by awarding Travel Grants for short research stays and international conference attendance, as well as Visit Grants to Denmark. All DDSA grants are personal awards that enable promising young data scientists to define and carry out their research career and professional development. Furthermore, DDSA hosts the annual DDSA Pre-Graduate Retreat for students curious to learn more about the opportunities and perspectives of pursuing a PhD in data science after graduation.

DDSA PhD Fellowships 2024

From left to right: Christian, Mathilde, Kasper, Johanna, Søren, Anders, Nicklas



9 FELLOWS

Christian Mikkelsen
Biomedical Image Segmentation using Graph Cuts, Technical University of Denmark.

Mathilde Diekema
Enhancing Circulating Tumor DNA Detection in Whole Genome Sequencing Data through Deep Generative Modelling, Aarhus University.

Kasper Fyhn Borg
Collective causal reasoning: extracting and modeling networks of causal relations in Danish and English, Aarhus University.

Johanna Dügler
Understanding the interaction of Privacy, Robustness, and

Fairness in machine learning algorithms, University of Copenhagen.

Søren Vad Iversen
Improved sampling for Bayesian Inference, University of Southern Denmark.

Anders Gjørbye Madsen
Causal Approach to Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare, Technical University of Denmark.

Niklas Gesmar Madsen
Perturbing the Rhythm; Interventions on Enzyme Dynamics with Geometric Graphs, Technical University of Denmark.

Martin Sæbye Carøe
Multi-modality reconstruction methods for robust mineral classification in the "Black Beauty" Mars meteorite using neutron and X-ray tomography, Technical University of Denmark. (Not pictured).

Sijia Feng
Physics-informed machine learning with multi-source satellite data to quantify field-scale N2O emissions for climate-smart agriculture, Aarhus University. (Not pictured).

In June 2024 nine young data science talents* were awarded a DDSA PhD Fellowship of DKK 1.89 million each at the ‘DDSA Summer Celebration’ event in June at Museet for Søfart in Helsingør. This brings the total number of DDSA PhD fellows to 29 in 2024.

The main objective of the DDSA PhD Fellowship Programme is to attract and educate excellent PhD students within data science, achieve scientific excellence and impact, while simultaneously extending the application of data science in relevant scientific domains. The scope of the programme enables visionary and ambitious young data scientists to pursue their own research ideas in collaboration with a Danish research environment in all fields of data science.

‘The evaluation process is conducted in a fair, thorough and transparent manner and fully supported by international and national members’.

– Kåre Lehmann Nielsen, chair of FEC

* Due to late withdrawal from one awardee, the 10th PhD Fellowship grant was pushed to the 2025 call allowing for 11 PhD Fellowship grants in 2025.

AWARDING PROCESS

113
applicants

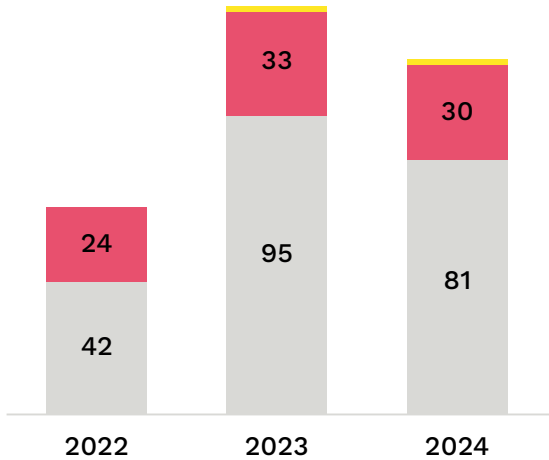
In 2024, DDSA received 113 PhD applications. Of these 20 were interviewed and 9 were awarded a fellowship. The DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee evaluated the applications based on applicant qualifications, the quality and impact of the proposed research, feasibility, collaboration, and alignment with the DDSA scope. Each application was scored individually by four committee members, followed by a full committee discussion meeting. The chair and the international committee members were responsible for conducting the interviews and selecting the final 10 candidates. The selected candidates were finally approved by the DDSA Board of Directors.

ATTRACTING TALENT

DDSA is committed to attracting and maintaining both national and international talent to grow the Danish data science research capacity. Attracting international talent especially from outside of Europe to Denmark is challenged by the Danish PhD model. To meet this challenge DDSA in 2023 opened the eligibility scope to applicants with preliminary master’s degrees and flexible PhD models (the 3+5 and 4+4 models). However, while many applicants apply with a preliminary five-year master’s degree, the flexible models have not proven popular among applicants, and in 2024 only 4 applications were for a 4+4-, and none for the 3+5 model. None of these passed to the interview round.

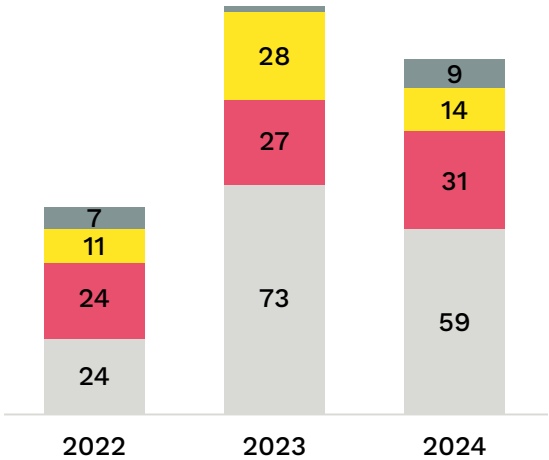
PhD applicants by gender, 2022-2024
n=66 (2022); n=130 (2023); n=113 (2024)

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say



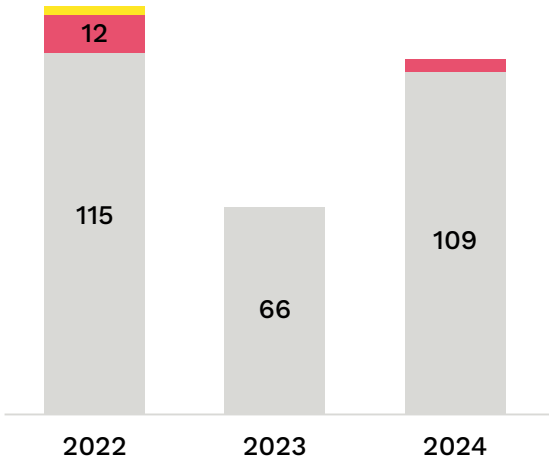
PhD applicants by region, 2022-2024
n=66 (2022); n=130 (2023); n=113 (2024)

- Denmark
- Europe, excl. DK
- Asia
- Other



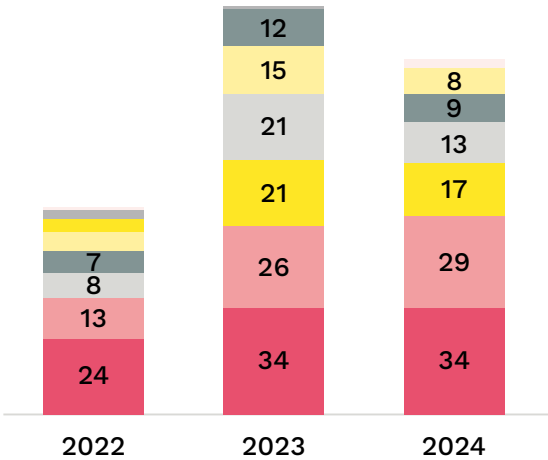
PhD applicants by model, 2022-2024
n=66 (2022); n=130 (2023); n=113 (2024)

- 5+3 PhD Model
- 4+4 PhD Model
- 3+5 PhD Model



PhD applicants by hosting institution, 2022-2024
n=66 (2022); n=130 (2023); n=113 (2024)

- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University



DDSA Postdoc Fellowships 2024

From left to right: Martin, Benjamin, Madeleine, Samuel, Emil



6 FELLOWS

Martin Rune Hassan Hansen
Improved detection of diabetes mellitus among African adults using machine learning, Steno Diabetes Center Aarhus.

Benjamin Skov Kaas-Hansen
BECAUSE-ICU: Better Trial Enrichment with Causal Evidence from Intensive Care Unit data, Rigshospitalet.

Madeleine Wyburd
Towards Early Detection of Structural Biomarkers of Cerebral Palsy, University of Copenhagen.

Samuel Matthiesen
Towards Uncertainty- and Geometry-aware Generative Models, Technical University of Denmark.

Emil Michael Pedersen
Developing a Multi-trait liability model for gene discovery in large biobanks, National Centre for Register-based Research.

Kazu Ghalamkari
NTN-C3: Nonnegative Tensor Networks – Identifying the Limits of Convexity, Gains of Complexity, and Merits of Certainty, Technical University of Denmark. (Not pictured).

In June 2024 6 junior researchers were awarded a Postdoc Fellowship of DKK 1.26 million. The main objective of the DDSA Postdoc Fellowship Programme is to attract and educate excellent postdoctoral researchers within data science, achieve scientific excellence and impact, while simultaneously extending the application of data science in relevant scientific domains. The scope of the programme enables visionary and ambitious early career scientists to pursue their own research ideas in collaboration with a Danish research environment in all fields of data science aligning with the scope of the Novo Nordisk Foundation.

Tapping into the full talent pool

To achieve scientific excellence, DDSA continuously monitors application and evaluation criteria to ensure that DDSA Fellowships are attractive and accessible to the full talent pool. DDSA acknowledges that early career researchers often are balancing a scientific career while managing family life at the same time. Therefore, in 2024, DDSA has initiated two changes in the Postdoc Fellowship call.

AWARDING PROCESS

49
applicants

In 2024, DDSA received 49 applications, 12 were interviewed, and 6 were awarded a DDSA Postdoc Fellowship. The DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee evaluated the applications based on the applicant qualifications, scientific independency, quality and impact of the proposed research, feasibility, collaboration, and alignment with the Novo Nordisk Foundation scope.

Each application was scored individually by up to four committee members, followed by a full committee discussion meeting. The chair and the international committee members were responsible for conducting the interviews and selecting the final 6 candidates. The selected candidates were finally approved by the DDSA Board of Directors.

ATTRACTING TALENT

Introducing the ‘Scientific Independency and Collaboration criterion’

In the 2024 Postdoc Fellowship call, the ‘Change of Environment criterion’ (mobility) has been replaced with a ‘Scientific Independency and Collaboration criterion’ to better the applicants’ opportunity to demonstrate scientific maturity and development. The new criterion worked to great satisfaction, and the Fellowship Evaluation Committee will continue to use this criterion going forward.

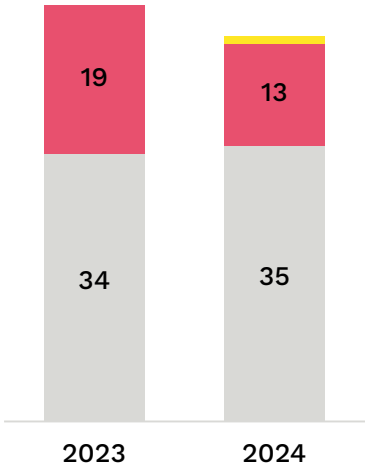
Multiplying Parental Leave by a Factor of Two

DDSA recognizes that rebuilding science capacity after parental leave takes time beyond the actual months of leave. Therefore, DDSA has expanded the leave period multiplying parental leave by a factor of two, meaning that if a candidate has had 6 months of leave, 12 months can be deducted from the PhD age.

Postdoc applicants by gender, 2023-2024

n=53 (2023); n=49 (2024)

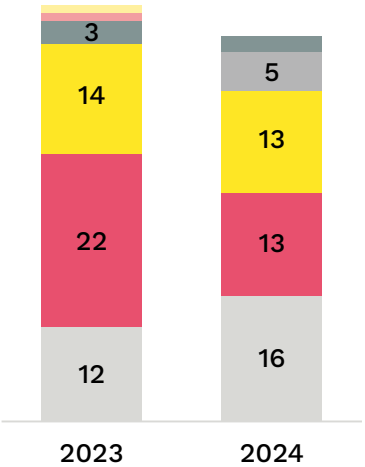
- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say



Postdoc applicants by region, 2023-2024

n=53 (2023); n=49 (2024)

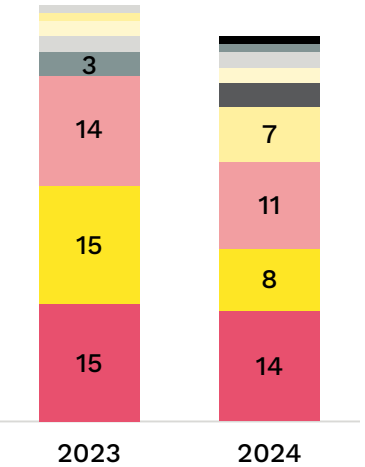
- Denmark
- Europe, excl. DK
- Asia
- South America
- North America
- Australia
- Middle East



Postdoc applicants by hosting institution, 2023-2024

n=53 (2023); n=49 (2024)

- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- Technical University of Denmark
- Aalborg University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University
- Rigshospitalet
- National Centre for Register based Research
- Steno Diabetes Centre



DDSA Cross-Academy PhD Scholarships 2024

From left to right: Shanshan, Malene, Jasmin, Manuel, Jakob



6 FELLOWS

Shanshan He
Disentangling the Genetic Basis of Diabetic Kidney Disease Using Single-Cell Multimodal Sequencing in Human Diabetic Kidney, University of Copenhagen.

Malene Nørregaard Nielsen
Illuminating the Potentials of Photoplethysmography in Patients with Atrial Fibrillation using Explainable Artificial Intelligence, University of Copenhagen.

Jasmin Hjerresen
Genetic regulation of the plasma lipidome and its link to cardiometabolic disease in Greenlandic Inuit, University of Copenhagen.

Manuel Mounir Demetry Thomasen
Development of vocal biomarkers for predicting diabetes-related complications using deep learning, Aarhus University.

Jakob Nebeling Hedegaard
Automatic Anomaly Discovery in Registry Data, Aalborg University.

Amalie Koch Andersen
Risk engine tool to support early prevention of diabetes-related complications for people with prediabetes, Aalborg University. (Not pictured).

In 2024 DDSA awarded 6 two-third funded Cross-Academy PhD Scholarships of DKK 1.1 mio each, in partnership with the Danish Cardiovascular Academy, and the Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy.

The Cross-Academy Scholarship was a one-off programme aimed at awarding in total 10 two-third funded PhD scholarships in open competition (5 with each academy respectively). The main objective of the collaboration was to fund education and cross-sectoral research in complex health related disciplines. By bridging the Danish data science environment with Danish cardiovascular, endocrine, and diabetes disease research we further extended the application of data science across relevant scientific domains that lie at the intersect of the academies’ common founder, Novo Nordisk Foundation.

PROCESS

08

applications

05

DDSA-DDEA scholarships

01

DDSA-DCA scholarship

06

awarded

The evaluation process was performed by the Danish Cardiovascular Academy, the Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy, and a sub-committee of DDSA’s Fellowship Evaluation Committee. The Danish Cardiovascular Academy and Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy performed the initial evaluation, aiming at forwarding a shortlist of ten candidates for

DDSA review. However, the scholarships did not reach the expected potential and DDEA received and shortlisted 8 applications for DDSA review, while DCA received 6 and forwarded 3 applications for DDSA review. In total 5 DDSA-DDEA and 2 DDSA-DCA scholarships were awarded, however 1 applicant withdrew from the DDSA-DCA Scholarship, and hence only 6 were awarded in total.

Visit Grants

DDSA supports students and early career researchers coming to explore research environments across Denmark – ideally to form the basis for a future PhD or Postdoc collaboration with a supervisor or Principal Investigator at a Danish host university.

In 2024, DDSA awarded 50 Visit Grants to students and young researchers who visited data science research groups in Denmark, more than double the number of Visit Grants awarded in 2023.

The Visit Grants are open to both national and international students, PhD students, and Postdoc researchers, and contribute up to DKK 15,000. Applications must be

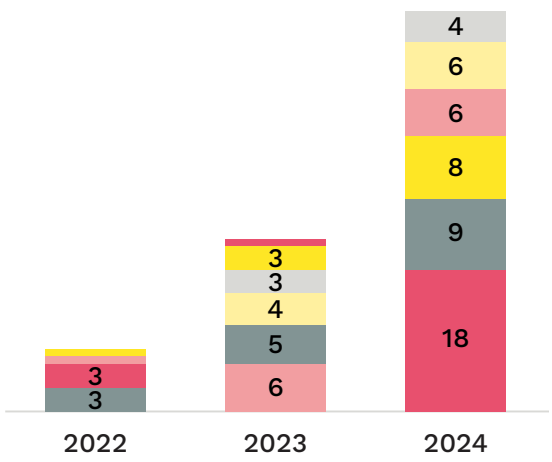
relevant to the DDSA research scope and are processed by the DDSA secretariat in collaboration with the DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee chair. To ensure a fair distribution across environments and applicants, a host supervisor can receive up to three visits per year, and candidates can apply for one visit grant per year.

From 2024 the programme has been monitored by DDSA Young Academy Panel, who provides input once a year. The call is open all year round to support upcoming opportunities for applicants.

Visit Grant by host supervisor’s institution, 2022-2024

n=8 (2022); n=28 (2023); n=51 (2024)

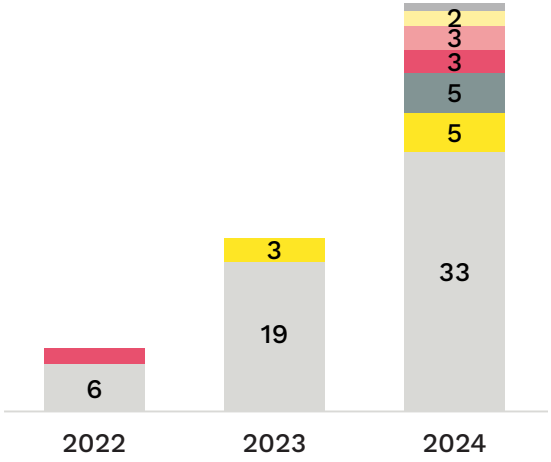
- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark



Visit Grant by applicant’s home institution country, 2022-2024

n=8 (2022); n=28 (2023); n=51 (2024)

- Europe
- USA
- South America
- Asia
- Australia
- Middle East
- Africa



Travel Grants

DDSA awards travel grants to foster professional development and engagement between young data science talent in Denmark and the international data science community.

In 2024 DDSA awarded 57 travel grants to students from Danish universities travelling to participate in scientific activities such as conferences, semesters abroad or research stays outside of Denmark, the largest amount of a travel grants grated hitherto.

The Travel Grant Programme was open for applications from January to July in 2024, and nearly half the applications were awarded to students travelling for semesters abroad, resulting in the programme budget running out of funding.

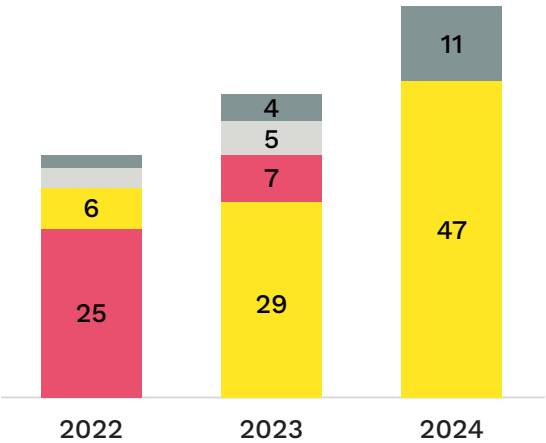
While DDSA recognizes the importance and value of a semester abroad, due to the massive demand for travel grants for semesters abroad, the DDSA Board of Directors and Young Academy Panel evaluated that students have other sources of funding available for funding semesters abroad, than they do other types of scientific activities, e.g. conference attendance and course participation outside of Denmark. Therefore, DDSA adjusted the funding scope to no longer include semesters abroad, aiming at keeping the next call open throughout the whole year of 2025, and thus enable students to seize upcoming travel possibilities during their study.

The grant contributes up to DKK 15,000 to travel costs, and applications are processed by the DDSA Secretariat in collaboration with the DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee chair.

Travel Grant by activity, 2022-2024
n=36 (2022); n=45 (2023); n=58 (2024)

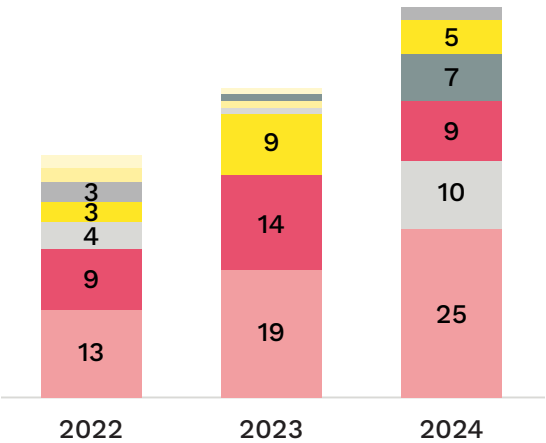
Note: Due to a massive demand for travel grants DDSA decided in 2023 to grant only Bachelors and Master’s degree activities.

- Postdoc related travel activity
- PhD related travel activity
- Master related travel activity
- Bachelor related travel activity



Travel Grant by university, 2022-2024
n=36 (2022); n=45 (2023); n=58 (2024)

- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University
- Other



Synergies Across DDSA Funding Instruments

The activities and programmes are designed to play together and create synergies enabling scientific excellence in Denmark.

As a part of the DDSA mission, one key objective is to build a national research capacity and enable scientific excellence by awarding PhD and Postdoc fellowships. To support and encourage this, DDSA offers Visit Grants to students and early career researchers to explore new research environments within data science and form the basis for a future DDSA PhD or Postdoc Fellowship application. Furthermore, young data scientists have the possibility to participate in the DDSA Pre-Graduate Retreat or to be paired with a mentor in the DDSA Mentoring Programme.

VISIT GRANT

08 %

**of visit grant
applicants from 2023
or 2024 applied for a
DDSA PhD or Postdoc
fellowship in either
2023 or 2024**

PRE-GRADUATE RETREAT

11 %

**of Pre-Grad Retreat
participants in
2022 and 2023
applied for a PhD
fellowship in 2023
or 2024**

MENTORING PROGRAMME

06 %

**of mentoring programme
participants (either mentors or
mentees) from the pilot (2022),
spring 2023 and autumn 2023
applied for a DDSA PhD or Postdoc
fellowship in 2023 or 2024**



‘I loved connecting with people, got really inspired and gained some new ideas about what I would like to do and how to achieve it’.

– Pre-Grad Evaluation

Pre-Graduate Retreat

The annual Pre-Graduate Retreat aims to attract young talent to data science research by creating awareness – and busting myths – about doing a PhD in data science.

This year, 45 students from a broad range of study programmes across the Danish universities joined the two-day Pre-Graduate Retreat in August at Rødding Højskole in Southern Jutland.

Since the first Pre-Graduate Retreat in 2022, the programme has been carefully designed to meet the students’ different interests and preferences and answering their basic questions: What is a PhD? How is life as a PhD? Which career paths can a PhD lead to? Why does data science research matter?

The variety of formats include inspiring talks and Q&As about data science research and -careers, a panel discussion, a group challenge, social activities, and plenty of opportunity for informal talks with junior- as well as high-profile data science researchers.

11 speakers, including organisers from the DDSA Young Academy Panel, joined the retreat to share their insights with the next generation of data scientists. For senior speakers, the event is also an opportunity to find their next potential research assistants and PhDs among the highly engaged participants.

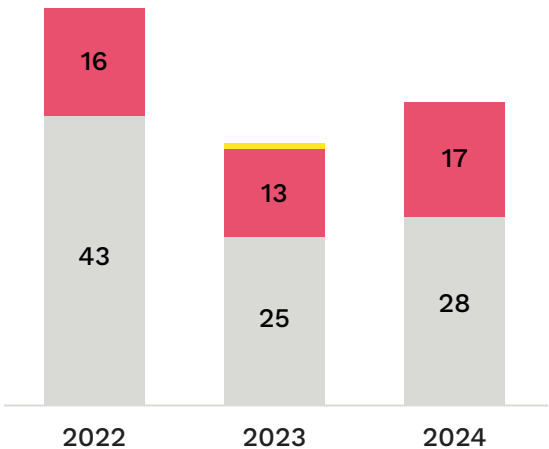
Like in previous years, the event received very positive evaluations. The participants particularly appreciated the inclusive and informal space, sharing reflections and questions with likeminded students, and the chance to talk to junior and senior researchers at eye level throughout the retreat.

The DDSA Pre-Graduate Retreat 2025 will take place 13-14 August at Rødding Højskole.

Pre-Graduate Retreat, participants by gender, 2022-2024

n=59 (2022); n=39 (2023); n=45 (2024)

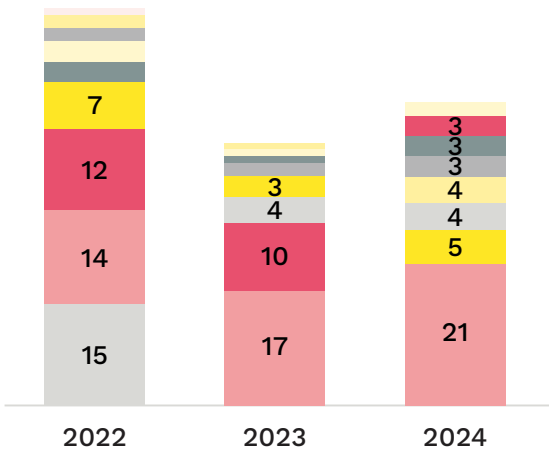
- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say



Pre-Graduate Retreat, participants by university, 2022-2024

n=59 (2022); n=39 (2023); n=45 (2024)

- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University
- Other



TO WHAT EXTENT ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE PRE-GRADUATE RETREAT ALL IN ALL?

67%

To a very great extent

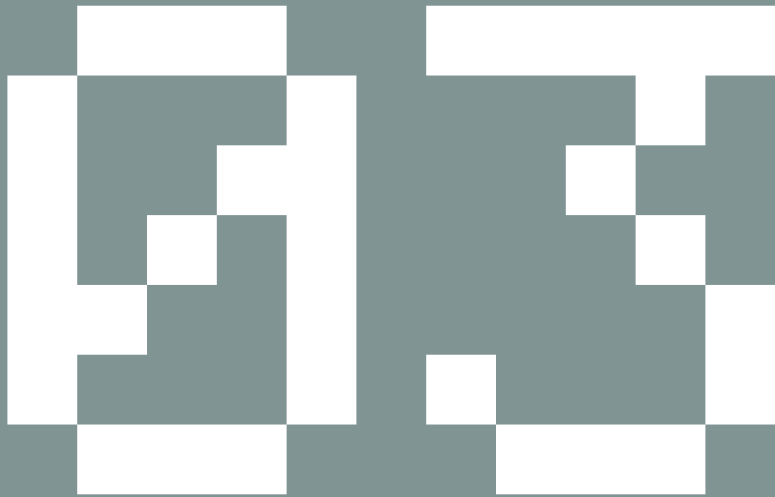
33%

To a large extent

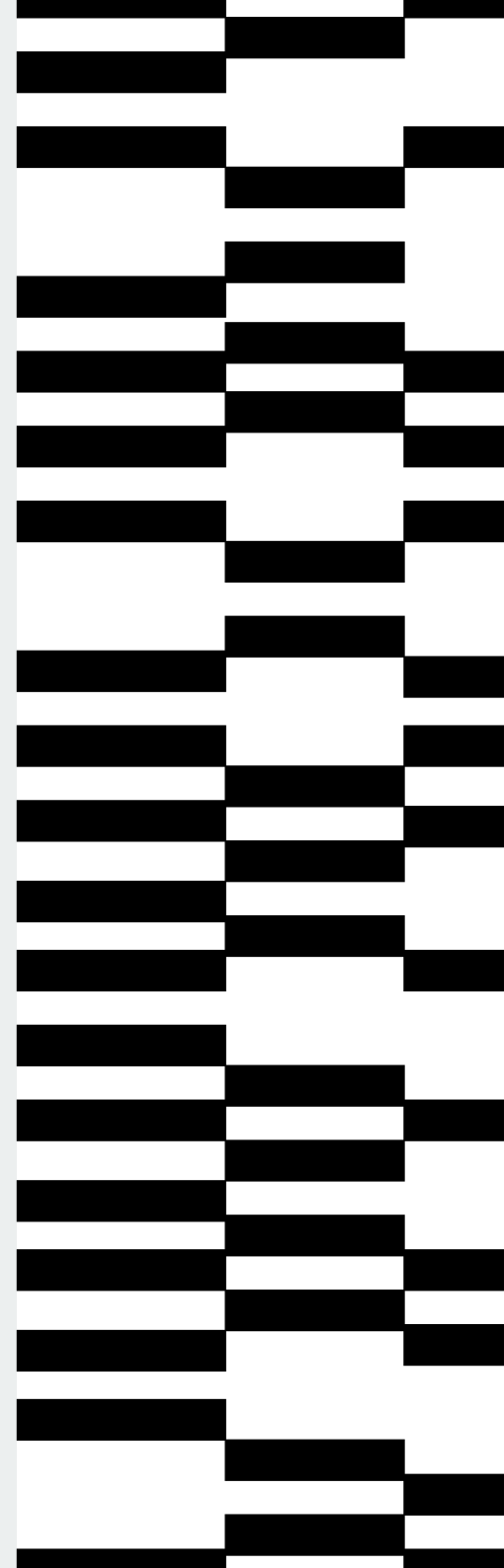
‘It has made the concept of taking a PhD much more realistic and relatable. I now know what kind of skills I can get out of a PhD and what I should consider.’

– Pre-Grad Evaluation

Community Building



An important goal of DDSA is to strengthen and consolidate the Danish data science community that is currently fragmented across geography, disciplines, and institutions. This will be achieved through a portfolio of recurring and ad-hoc events.





DDSA Annual Summer Celebration 2024

The summer celebration is part of a series of annual summer events connecting and celebrating Danish data science and awarding the new DDSA Fellows.

In June new and leaving members across all governing bodies gathered in Helsingør to celebrate DDSA activities and achievements during the first half of the funding period (2022-2024).

The event reviewed DDSA's initiatives and successes and featured a talk by DDSA Board of Directors Chair Professor Lars Kai Hansen. Professor Kåre Lehmann Nielsen, chair of the Fellowship Evaluation Committee congratulated the 16 new DDSA PhD and Postdoc fellows and the six Cross-Academy fellows.

This year the celebration was for DDSA organization people only, as it was held in connection with onboarding of new governing bodies.

Organisation

In pursuing our mission, DDSA relies entirely on the strong organisation represented by no less than 62 knowledgeable and engaged members of our governing bodies: The Board of Directors, the Fellowship Evaluation Committee, the Education & Networking Committee, the Cross-Academy Collaboration Committee, and the Advisory Panel.

The contributions of the governing bodies range from designing and executing DDSA activities, over assessing the broad range of applications for our funding programmes, to evaluating our achievements and developing the next strategic moves.

Members from throughout Denmark represent all Danish universities, public and private sectors, a multitude of different fields and professions within data science, and all seniorities from students to advanced researchers and professionals. In addition, half of the members of the Fellowship Evaluation Committee, and three members of the Advisory Panel are prominent international researchers or professionals.

Reappointment of the Governing Bodies for 2024-2026

The first generation of members were appointed in 2022. In 2024, in accordance with our foundational document, half of the members were substituted except from the Board of Directors continuing throughout DDSA’s funding period. More than 150 highly qualified and motivated candidates responded to our two open and public calls for nominations, and the new bodies were appointed in thorough processes striving to balance representation across specialisations, sectors, regions, and gender to the specific roles and tasks of each body.

The Young Academy Panel members were appointed by the Education & Networking Committee and took up their work from February 2024. The remaining bodies were appointed by the Board of Directors. The rotation of members was marked by hand-over meetings in connection with DDSA’s Summer Celebration in June 2024. The meetings were an opportunity to thank old and welcome new members, and to secure a transfer of knowledge between them. All bodies are constituted until the end of 2026.



**knowledgeable
and engaged
members of
our governing
bodies**

Summer Celebration



National Data Science PhD Meetup

The National Data Science PhD meet-up provides a unique platform for fostering collaboration, exchanging ideas, and strengthening the national data science community.

On January 31, 2024, data science PhD students from across Denmark gathered at Hotel Hesselet in Nyborg for the second National Data Science PhD Meetup.

Bringing together 60 PhD students from diverse research fields, the meetup facilitated meaningful discussions on common challenges, career development, and the latest trends in data science. A key focus of the event was open science, highlighting its benefits for increasing research transparency, collaboration, and reproducibility. Through engaging talks and interactive sessions, participants explored how open data, open software, and open access can shape the future of scientific research.

Beyond academic discussions, the meetup also emphasized networking and peer learning. Guided sessions helped attendees build new connections, share experiences, and establish a supportive network for their future careers. Set in a welcoming and inspiring environment, the event successfully created a space for young researchers to collaborate and grow as part of Denmark's data science community.

Taking place just before the D3A 1.0 Conference, the meetup also served as a valuable opportunity for participants to connect ahead of the larger event.

PROGRAMME

Keynote by

Kirstie Whitaker

Programme Director for Tools, Practices and Systems,
The Alan Turing Institute

Open Science in Action

Melanie Ganz-Benaminsen

Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen and Rigshospitalet

Jennifer Bartell

Project Coordinator/Data Scientist,
Center for Health Data Science, University of Copenhagen

Jesper Salomon

Science Manager, Novozymes

EVALUATION

29

participants
in total

20

satisfied to a
very great extent

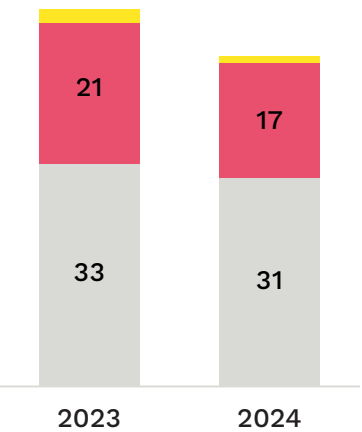
07

satisfied to a
large extent

Out of 29 participants 20 replied that they to a very great extent were satisfied with the event, and 7 replied that they to at large extent were satisfied with the event.

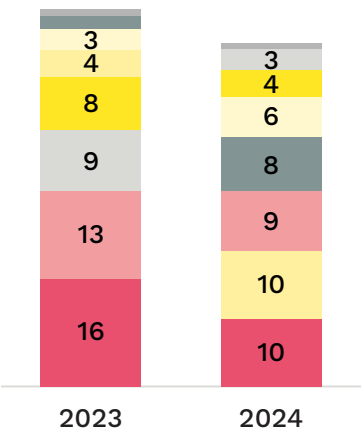
PhD Meetup, participants by gender, 2023-2024
n=56 (2023); n=50

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say



PhD Meetup, participants by university, 2023-2024
n=56 (2023); n=50 (2024)

- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University
- Other



Celebrating the Talents of the Future: Danish National Championship in AI 2024

The Danish National Championship in AI is a week-long hackathon bringing together bachelor's and master's students from all Danish universities. Here the students get to put their AI-skills to the test across a range of different disciplines.

The 2024 competition offered the following challenges:

1. Traffic Simulation: In this challenge the objective was to control the traffic lights at a congested intersection. The participants' job was to get as many vehicles as possible through the intersection, thus minimizing the time waiting at the stop lights.

2. CT Inpainting: In this challenge, the students received so-called "CT slices" which are 2D cross-sectional anatomical images of patients. A CT slice is obtained by selecting one row of a full 3D CT volume. The images have been corrupted by randomly generated masks. The students' job was to inpaint the masked regions and thus recover the original CT image.

3. Cell Classification: The challenge involved images of human bone marrow cells taken with a special microscope. There are three groups of cells, each divided into two smaller groups. One of these smaller groups looks very similar (homogeneous) but is a small part of the total. The goal was to create a method to identify this similar-looking group.



Winning team

For the first time, a team of students from both University of Copenhagen and DTU – Technical University of Denmark were crowned the winners of the Danish National Championship in AI for students.

The winning team secured the first place, 40,000 kr. and a spot on the stage at the D3A conference in October 2024 by wowing the jury with their innovative and precise solutions to the three challenging cases.

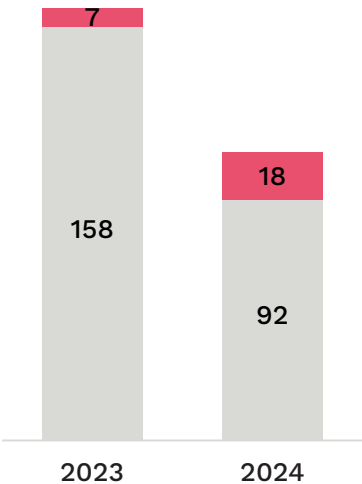
INITIATIVES FOR REACHING MORE OF THE TALENT POOL

For 2025, the competition will undergo several improvements among which will be an increased focus on gender diversity with several initiatives being implemented from communication to the design of the competition. The competition will also offer students ECTS accreditation for their participation in the competition.

A half-day event will be held to teach students about the opportunity to use High-Performance Computing to solve the challenges.

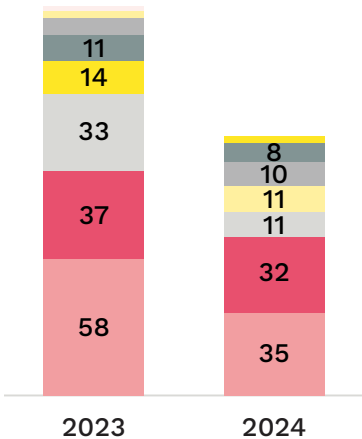
Danish National Championship in AI, participants by gender, 2023-2024
n=165 (2023); n=110 (2024)

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say



Danish National Championship in AI, participants by university, 2023-2024
n=165 (2023); n=110 (2024)

- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University



Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI 2.0 Conference (D3A)

Fostering an inclusive environment with peers and providing ample opportunities to interact and discuss are main goals of the national conference.

The second edition of Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI Conference, also known as D3A, took place on October 22-23, at Hotel Nyborg Strand. The D3A conference represents a collaboration between three Danish organizations – Danish Data Science Academy (DDSA), Pioneer Centre for Artificial Intelligence (P1) and Digital Research Centre Denmark (DIREC). D3A has established itself as an annual event, able to create a dynamic space for knowledge sharing across sub-fields and sectors within Danish research and development. Our goal is to build an essential framework that positions Denmark as a strong international player in AI, deep digital technology, and data science.

The two-day conference featured a broad range of parallel sessions in the fields of AI Ethics and Regulation, Environmental

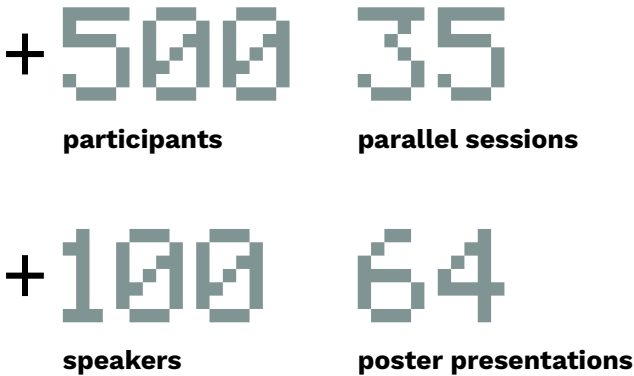
Data Science, AI in Health, Fairness and Explainability for Machine Learning, and much more.

Connect, interact, expand!
One of the primary goals of D3A is to intentionally foster an inclusive environment, providing ample opportunities for the community to connect, interact, and expand. To support this, the program included frequent breaks and designated time for socializing, discussions, and meeting new people.

As preparations begin for D3A 3.0, set for August 26-27, 2025, focus is on building on the strong foundation laid by previous editions. The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are enhancing the scientific depth of the program while fostering an even stronger sense of community. We are also committed to amplifying a bottom-up approach, ensuring that the voices and ideas of researchers and practitioners shape the agenda, drive meaningful discussions, and create collaborations, that push the boundaries of data science and AI in Denmark.

AI 2.0 CONFERENCE (D3A)

D3A 2.0 hosted more than 500 participants and included 35 parallel sessions, more than 100 speakers and 64 poster presentations.



02 **keynote talks by:**

Cecilia Mascolo Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Technology, University of Cambridge
Alfred Spector Visiting Scholar, MIT and Senior Advisor at Blackstone

01 **panel discussion between:**

Serge Belongie Director and Professor, Pioneer Centre for AI
Anja Bechmann Professor, School of Communication and Culture – Media Studies, Aarhus University
F. Aranha Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, Aarhus University



‘While a lot of us are good at working on our own projects, these kinds of engaging events hosted or supported by DDSA are where truly innovative research ideas get discovered and discussed’.

– Community Survey

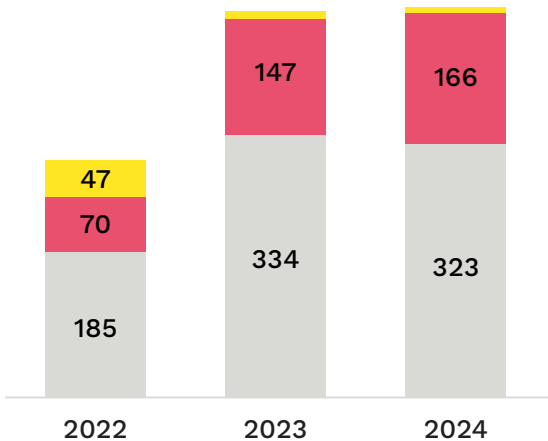


Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI Conference (D3A), participants by gender, 2022-2024

n=302 (2022); n=492 (2023); n=497 (2024)

Note: The 2022 conference was hosted by DDSA alone under the title: Danish Data Science 2022

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

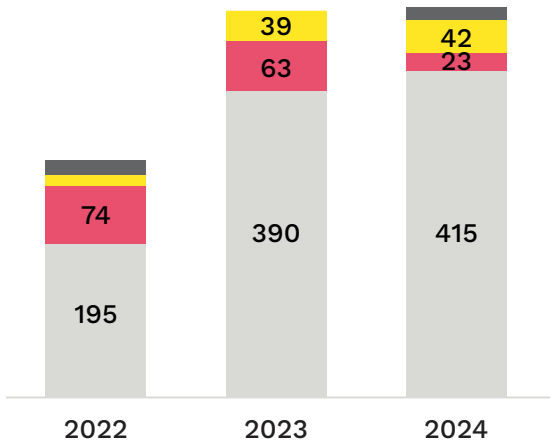


Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI Conference (D3A), participants by sector, 2022-2024

n=302 (2022); n=492 (2023); n=497 (2024)

Note: The 2022 conference was hosted by DDSA alone under the title: Danish Data Science 2022

- Academia
- Private sector
- Public sector
- Other



PARTICIPANTS BY REGION

OTHER COUNTRIES

64

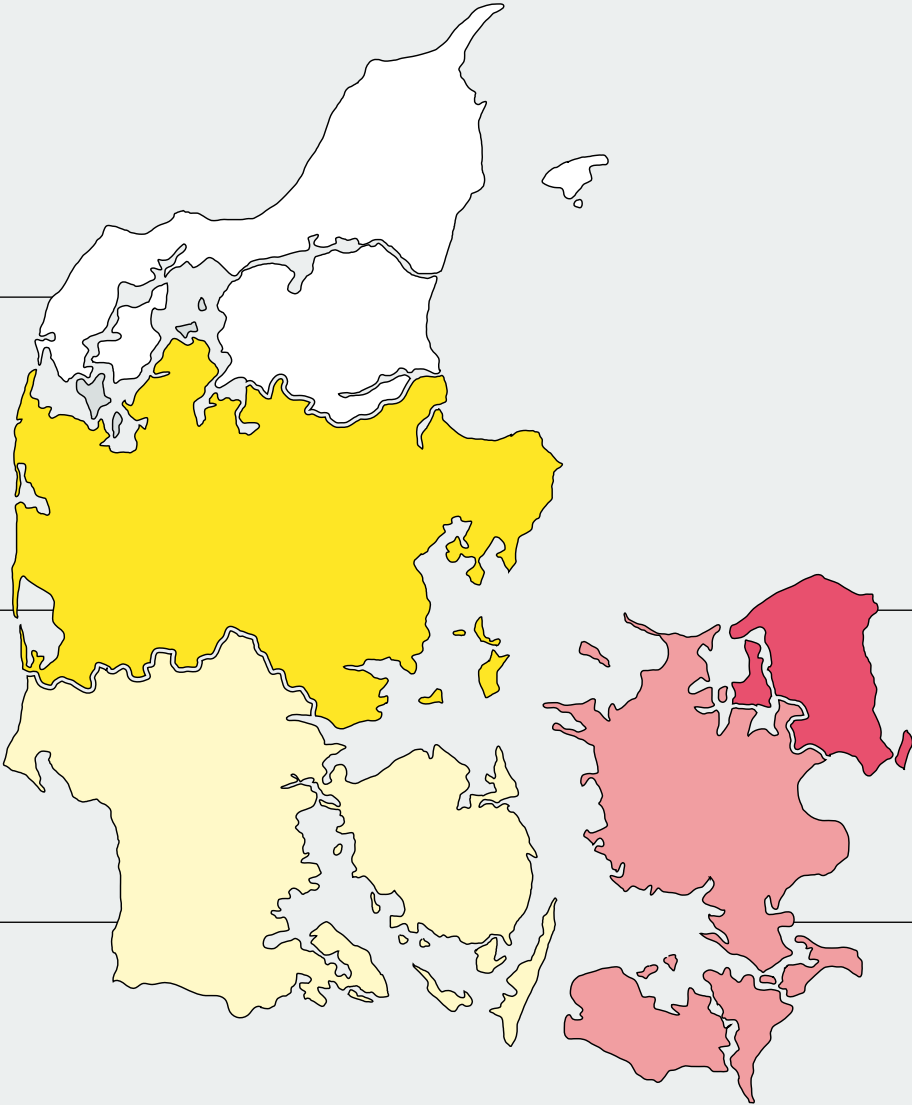
17

83

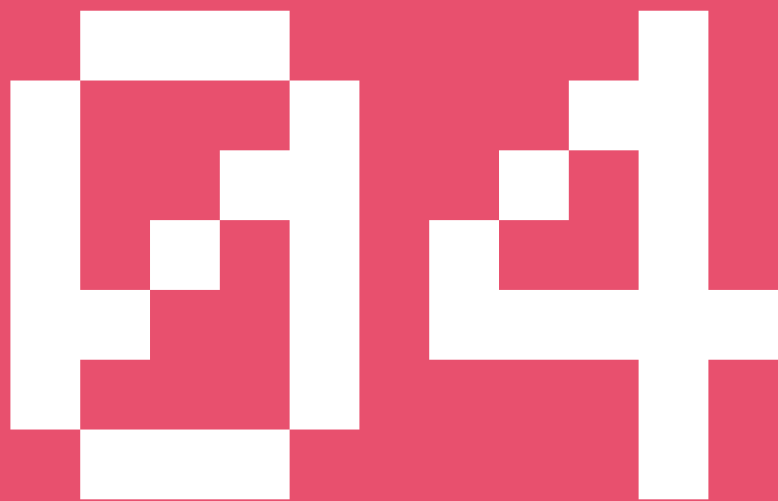
276

51

12



Training and Education



DDSA aims to support a national collaborative network of data science experts across universities, public institutions, and industries, and to inspire and train the next generation of data scientists through educational, interdisciplinary, and collaborative activities.

DDSA Funding of Courses and Events

Since 2021, DDSA has contributed to strengthening and consolidating the Danish data science community through our funding programme for community-driven courses and scientific events. This ‘bottom-up’ approach ensures that DDSA-funded activities meet the community’s professional interests and needs at any given moment, while at the same time adhering to our mission to support community building, education, and knowledge sharing across scientific fields, sectors, and seniority.

The funding programme runs in two tracks, awarding ‘Large’ and ‘Small grants’ through different processes to best cater for a diversity of community initiatives: Large Grants support more comprehensive and costly scientific activities after evaluation and prioritisation by the Education & Networking Committee twice a year, whereas Small Grants are awarded throughout the year to facilitate a fast pace from a new idea to its realisation.

With a total of 37 grants awarded in 2024, DDSA continues to stimulate and facilitate a rich variety of initiatives in the Danish data science ecosystem. Formats and target groups span from large international conferences hosting 500 participants to

highly specialised courses or workshops designed for narrow groups of students or experts. From week-long PhD schools to coding nights for high school and university students, and from series of inspirational afternoon talks to topical knowledge sharing events.

An equally large variation characterises the topics of the funded activities: Some focus on specific research fields such as statistics, image analysis, algorithmic research, probabilistic AI, and generative models. Others aim at strengthening the application of data science methods within other disciplines spanning from physics and genomics to history and musicology, or within educational practices.

Broader societal perspectives like security, trustworthiness, equity, and sustainability have also been recurrent themes in this year’s applications and grants. As has also the ambition to bring a larger audience together across sectors, disciplines, and seniority.

DDSA is committed to securing smooth, transparent and fair application- and evaluation processes, and to supporting applicants and grantees as best we can through each step. Application guidelines including evaluation criteria are available at ddsa.dk.

SMALL COURSES AND EVENTS

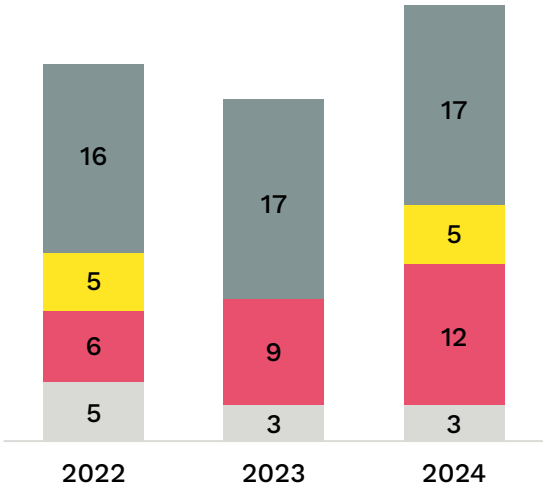
- Apply for up to DKK 50,000
- Total event budget must be below DKK 100,000
- Applications can be submitted throughout the year
- Applications are evaluated by the DDSA Secretariat
- You can expect a decision within 4 weeks from submission

LARGE COURSES AND EVENTS

- Apply for up to DKK 100,000
- Total event budget may be beyond DKK 100,000
- Application deadlines 15 February and 15 September. Call opens approx. one month in advance
- Applications are evaluated by the Education and Networking Committee
- You can expect a decision within 6 weeks from the application deadline

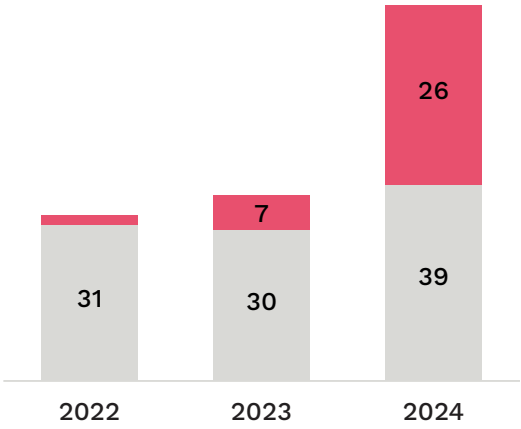
Granted courses and events, 2022-2024
n=32 (2022); n=29 (2023); n=37 (2024)

- Large Courses
- Large Events
- Small Courses
- Small Events



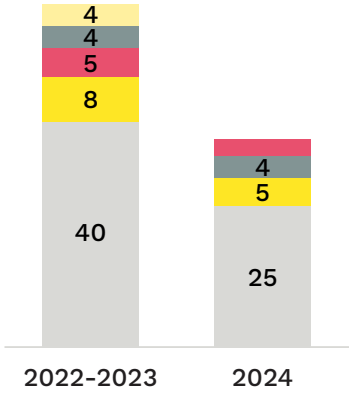
Small and Large Course and Events acceptance rate, 2022-2024
n=34 (2022); n=37 (2023); n=65 (2024)

- Granted
- Rejected



Place of granted courses and events by region, 2023-2024
n=61 (2022-2023); n=37 (2024)

- Capital Region of Denmark
- Central Denmark Region
- North Denmark Region
- Region of Southern Denmark
- Region Zealand
- Other



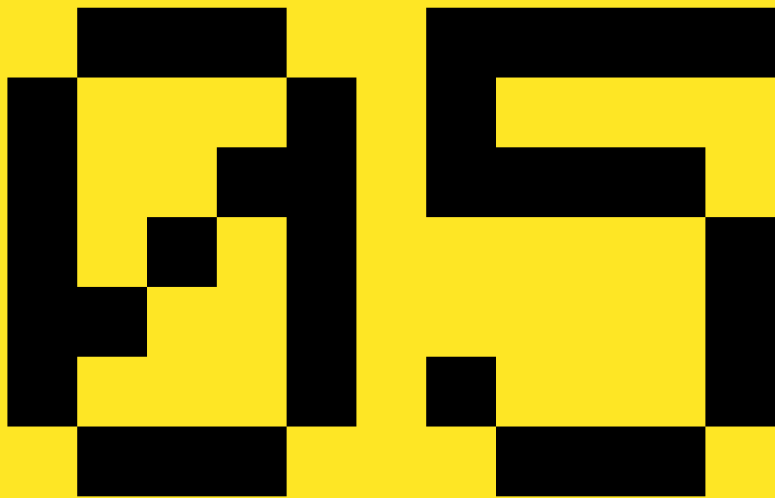
‘DDSA cares about the multidisciplinary aspects of data science, and supports and encourages all skill levels - from beginner to the hardcore statistician’.

– Community Survey

Summer Celebration



Community Resources



DDSA aims to enhance knowledge sharing on a national scale, and will continuously develop new services to the community, e.g., via national aggregation of knowledge about the Danish data science landscape, and to support personal growth and professional development for talented young data scientists. This has resulted in a number of initiatives, which will be expanded and supplemented in the years to come.

Mentoring Programme

Connecting experience and talent in Danish data science is a key focus of the DDSA Mentoring Programme which pairs data science professionals with aspiring data scientists.

The fourth edition of the programme ran in 2024 with 78 pairs of mentors and mentees. In total, the Mentoring Programme has facilitated 216 pairs of mentors and mentees to develop their careers and skills.

The one-day physical “Meetup” events held once per semester offer a chance for the participants to network and exchange knowledge. The agendas are co-created by the participants and facilitated by the DDSA Secretariat. The 2024 meetups focused on development of leadership skills, conflict mitigation, job-market developments, and the day-to-day tasks of a data scientist.

Matchmaking & Kick Off

To create optimal matches between mentors and mentees a combination of a matchmaking algorithm and human oversight is used. This allows balancing various parameters, such as interests, field of study, highest degree, location, background, and motivation, and ensures that everyone benefits fully from the programme. Mentees also have the option of choosing a favourite mentor from the DDSA Meet our Mentors page.

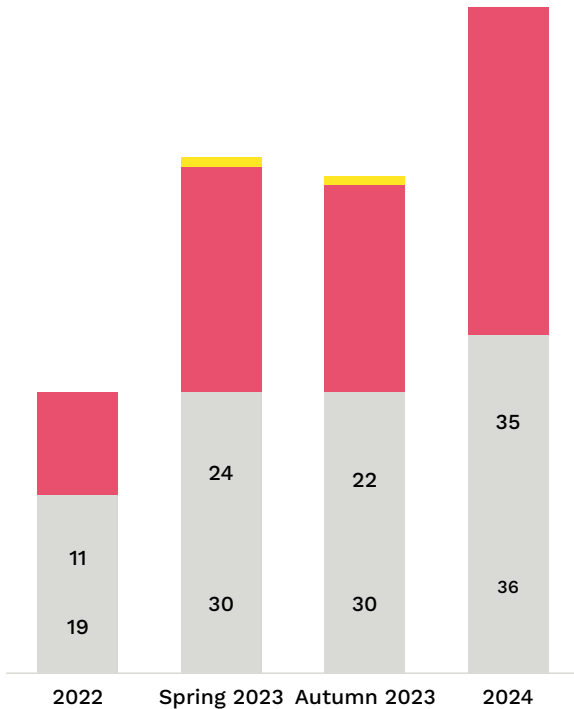
Summer Celebration



Mentoring Programme, mentees by gender, 2022-2024

n=30 (2022); n=55 (Spring 2023) and n=53 (Autumn 2023) n=71 (2024)

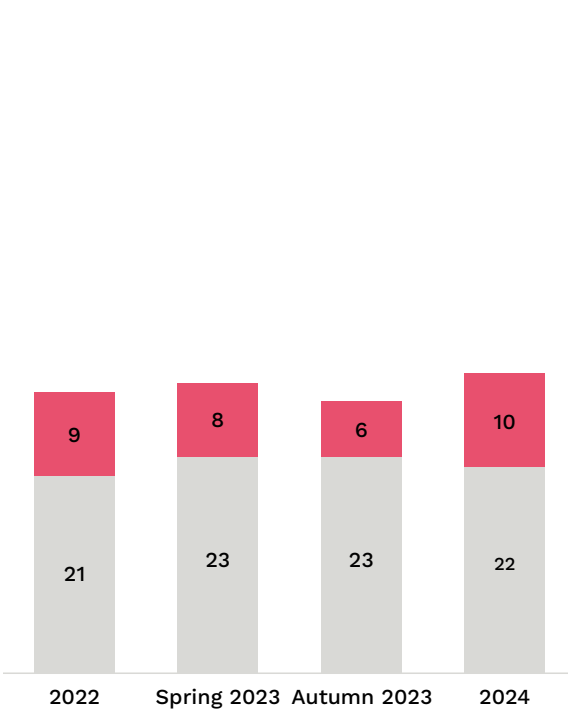
- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say



Mentoring Programme, mentors by gender, 2022-2024

n=30 (2022); n=31 (Spring 2023); n=29 (Autumn 2023); n=32 (2024)

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

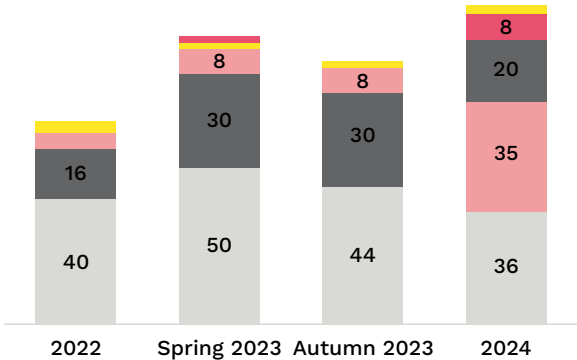


Mentoring Programme, mentees and mentors by affiliation, 2022-2024

n=65 (2022); n=92 (Spring 2023); n=84 (Autumn 2023); n=102 (2024)

Note: More than one affiliation could be chosen.

- Danish University
- Foreign University
- Danish Hospital
- Private Company
- Other



Danish Data Science Calendar

The community-centered calendar on ddsa.dk is intended as the primary hub for everything related to data science in Denmark – from inspiring events and courses to key deadlines, networking opportunities, and more.

This calendar is a living resource, continually shaped and expanded through contributions from across the data science community. DDSA invites anyone with an interest in the field to submit their own events and initiatives, creating a shared platform that reflects the breadth and depth of expertise within the community.

Since its debut, the calendar has attracted over 80 monthly users, highlighting growing engagement and enthusiasm. Close to 200 events have been showcased in 2024 alone, with the majority submitted by community members themselves. This high level of involvement illustrates the calendar's role as a thriving collaborative space where people come together to share and explore the rich landscape of data science in Denmark.

Summer Celebration



‘Ask Me Anything’ Webinar Series

Initiated and facilitated by the DDSA Young Academy Panel the webinar series ‘Ask Me Anything’ dives into candid conversations about data science careers. At each webinar, an invited guest engages in a conversation about their career in diverse fields, giving the audience unfiltered insights into the many facets of data science.

THE LAST THREE WEBINARS FEATURED

Niels Orbæk Chemnitz

With a background in computer science from the IT University of Copenhagen, Niels started a PhD in distributed ML and data governance. He dropped out of the PhD to join the research cooperative Analyse & Tal (Analysis & Numbers), where he works as partner and data scientist. Within Analyse & Tal Niels has developed state-of-the-art models for hate-speech and verbal attack detection in the Scandinavian languages.

Anthea Bott

Anthea manages the R&D Insights and ML Team at GN. Holding a PhD in Audiology from the University of Queensland, her journey with data science and AI first began when she joined GN. Thea is responsible for people management, project management, and setting GN’s strategic direction around leveraging AI to empower operational efficiencies within R&D.

Davide Martizzi

Davide works at Playstation as Senior Data Scientist where he designs and deploys quantitative models for user behavior and content engagement. He previously led a team at Albeado, focusing on model design and implementation for their ML platform, and has held academic roles, including Assistant Professor at the University of Copenhagen.

Summer Celebration



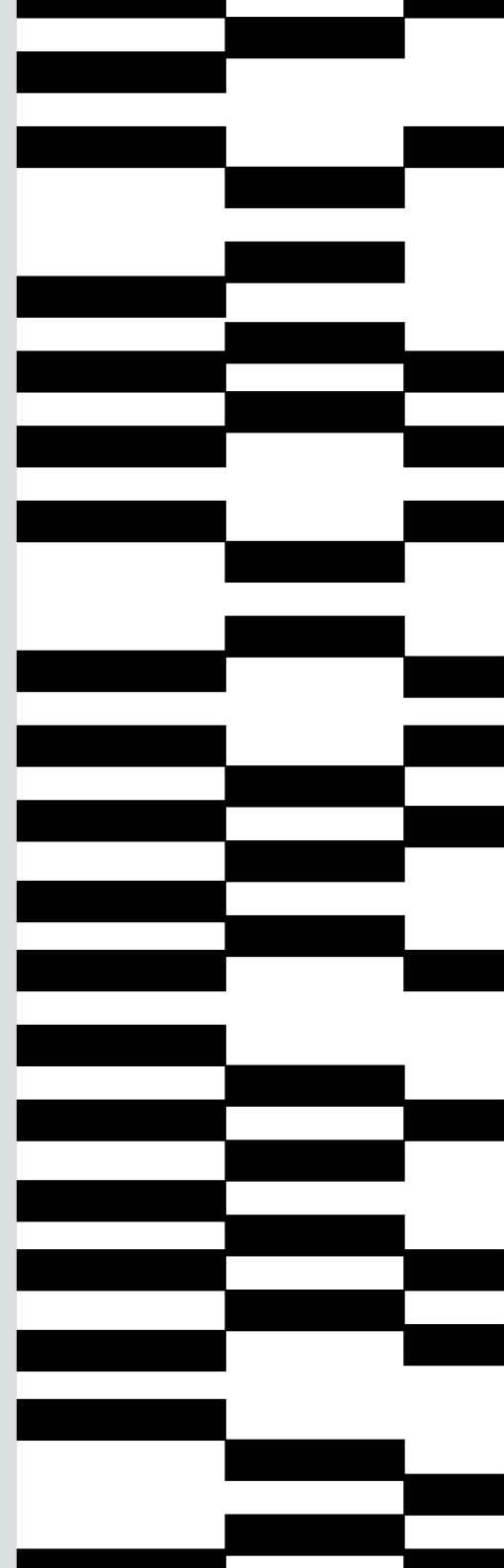
Partnerships and Synergy



DDSA plays a crucial role in providing a strong foundation and support for the constantly evolving field of data science – both as a discipline and as a community. Collaboration with a wide range of well-established actors and newcomers is a key component of our mission. At the same time, DDSA continuously maps the challenges and opportunities that arise in data science, always with a focus on strengthening the data science community and offering the best possible opportunities for individuals, teams, and organisations.

DDSA takes synergy and partnerships seriously making an effort that each organisation's contribution is clear, and we add to the same agenda. Whether it concerns higher education, voluntary organizations, research, or organisations working to strengthen data science, or integrating international actors into the unique Danish community, DDSA is committed to making a meaningful impact.

In 2024, we have strengthened our collaboration with several partners in three key areas: data, AI, and digitalization; education for young researchers from pre-degree to postdoc levels; and engagement with private, public, and voluntary organizations.



Synergies within Data, AI and Digitalization

We collaborate with permanent and new partners in data science to offer individuals and organizations the best possible opportunities to move forward and create collaborations.

01

In 2024 DDSA held the two major conferences D3A 1.0 and D3A 2.0 together with Pioneer Centre for AI and Digital Research Centre Denmark.

02

Together with Pioneer Centre for AI and the private company Ambolt AI DDSA organized the Danish National Championship in AI.

03

DDSA has strengthened Nordic co-operation through dialogue with HIDA, FCAI and NORA, and works in close alignment with the Pioneer Centre for AI on Denmark's contribution to Nordic AIR, a cross-Nordic initiative.

04

DDSA participated with DCAI and the Pioneer Centre for AI in a panel debate on how to strengthen Denmark's position in data science and AI.

Collaboration between Academies and Learning Environments

Through the exchange of knowledge and joint events, DDSA works to strengthen research talent environments in Denmark across domains.

05

DDSA co-funds Cross-Academy PhD grants with Danish Diabetes and Endocrine Academy (DDEA) and Danish Cardiovascular Academy (DCA).

06

Together with BRIDGE Translational Excellence Programme we exchange knowledge on postdoc activities.

07

DDSA shares knowledge and experiences the new Centre for Pharmaceutical Data Science (CPDSE) and the new Danish Advanced Research Academy (DARA).

Reaching Further

DDSA actively promotes learning, innovation and value creation between academic, public and private sectors. In 2024 we have worked with a number of organizations to

broaden and strengthen the Danish data science network and make Denmark an even more attractive data science destination. Key efforts include:



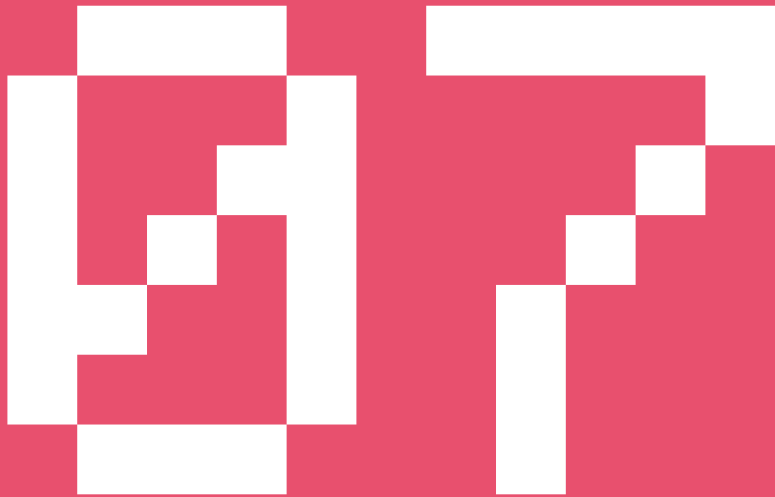
A strengthened collaboration with voluntary organizations such as the Danish Data Science Community, Danish Statistical Society, and Connected Women in AI.



An initiated collaboration with business clusters AI Denmark and Digital Lead.



Organisation



By design DDSA is a bottom-up organisation where those who know the field have a great influence on the activities. Across disciplines, sectors and nationality every member of the organisation help develop and grow data science as an exquisite and recognized professional discipline in Denmark and make it a safe and fun place to practice data science.

DDSA Secretariat

2024 brought major changes to DDSA’s Secretariat. In the Spring, DDSA’s first Managing Director Sofie Castella took up new endeavours, but continues to support DDSA, now as Chair of the Advisory Panel and member of the Board of Directors. In September, we welcomed Marie Helene Andersson as our new Managing Director. Drawing on her extensive experience with data in pharma, Marie Helene now heads the continued development of the academy.

In 2024, we also said goodbye to four other colleagues and welcomed new members to our team.

7 STAFF MEMBERS

Marie Helene Andersson
Managing Director

Marius Laurberg Cortsen
Service Designer

Mette Specht Andersen
Fellowship & Grant Manager

Rebecca Siert
Executive Assistant

Sniff Andersen Nexø
Education & Grant Manager

Shannon Taylor
Data Science Student Assistant

Simone Pasolini
Scientific Event Manager

DDSA Board of Directors



The DDSA Board of Directors is setting the overall strategic direction of Danish Data Science Academy and consists of 8 members from various sectors in Denmark, all with data science as a central component of their current position or education.

8 MEMBERS

Lone Simonsen
Professor, Institute of Science and Environment, RUC, Denmark.

Carsten Utoft Niemann
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen, and Head of CLL Lab, Department of Haematology, Rigshospitalet, Denmark

Claudio Pica
Professor and Head of SDU eScience Centre, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Southern Denmark.

Anders Krogh
Vice-chair, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Head of Center of Health Data Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Lars Kai Hansen
Chair, Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Technical University of Denmark.

Kåre Lehmann Nielsen
Professor, Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, Denmark.

Sofie Castella
Global Director, Scientific Publications Novo Nordisk.

Ira Assent
Professor, Department of Computer Science, Aarhus University, Denmark (Not pictured).

DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee



The DDSA Fellowship Evaluation Committee evaluates and nominates the candidates for the DDSA PhD and Postdoc Fellowships and ensures that the diverse areas and sub-disciplines of data science are adequately represented.

12 MEMBERS

Bissan Ghaddar
Professor, Department of Technology, Management and Economics, Technical University of Denmark.

Barbara Plank
Professor, Center for Information and Language Processing, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany.

Ioannis Caragiannis
Professor, Department of Computer Science, Aarhus University, Denmark.

Kåre Lehmann Nielsen
Chair, professor, Department of Chemistry and Bioscience, Aalborg University, Denmark.

Tugce Karaderi
Associate professor, Center for Health Data Science, University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Anna Korhonen
Professor, Theoretical and Applied Linguistics, Cambridge University, UK. (Not pictured).

Melih Kandemir
Associate Professor, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Southern Denmark. (Not pictured).

Alessandro Cozzi-Lepri Professor, Institute for Global Health, University College London, UK. (Not pictured).

Arno Solin
Assistant professor, Department of Computer Science, Aalto University, Finland. (Not pictured).

Sebastian Weichwald
Assistant professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences University of Copenhagen, Denmark. (Not pictured).

Louis Leiva
Assistant professor, Department of Computer Science, University of Luxemborg, Luxemborg. (Not pictured).

Emilio Carrizosa
Professor, Statistics and Operations Research, University of Seville, Spain. (Not pictured).

DDSA Education & Networking Committee



The DDSA Education and Networking Committee evaluates and prioritises applications for DDSA’s Large Course and Event Grants, monitors and develops DDSA’s event and course grant programmes, and provides strategic input on the need for new DDSA-driven activities. The committee members are also engaged in developing these new activities together with the DDSA Secretariat, e.g. taking part in setting up the scientific programme of our annual conference.

12 MEMBERS

Mikkel Kjærgaard
 Profesor, Faculty of Engineering, University of Southern Denmark.

Jens Ulrik Hansen
 Associate professor, Department of People and Technology, Roskilde University.

Anne Helbye Petersen
 Assistant professor, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen.

Federica Belmonte
 Lead data scientist, Novo Nordisk.

Lisbeth Fajstrup
 Chair, associate professor, Department of Mathematical Sciences, Aalborg University.

Anne Bøgh Fangel
 User experience manager, Omilon A/S.

Hans-Jörg Schulz
 Associate professor, Department of Computer Science, Aarhus University.

Jacob Ramlov Jensen
 Co-founder and leading AI/ ML, Go Autonomous.

Anna Rogers
 Associate Professor, Section for Data Science , IT University of Copenhagen

Jes Frellsen
 Associate Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Technical University of Denmark

Roald Forsberg
 CEO, Raven Biosciences

Roberta Sinatra
 Professor, Center for Social Data Science, University of Copenhagen, and IT University of Copenhagen

DDSA Advisory Panel



The DDSA Advisory Panel provides strategic recommendations to the DDSA Board of Directors for the crucial task of securing renewed funding for Danish Data Science Academy, as the current funding runs until the end of 2026.

12 MEMBERS

Jakob Skou Pedersen
Professor Aarhus University and Aarhus University Hospital.

Malthe Munkøe
Chief consultant, Danish Business Authority.

Dolores Romero Morales Professor, Department of Economics, Copenhagen Business School.

Sofie Castella
Chair, global director, Scientific Publications, Novo Nordisk.

Laust Hvas Mortensen
Chief Consultant, Statistics Denmark, and Professor, Department of Public Health, University of Copenhagen

Ivan Olier-Caparroso
Professor, Faculty of Engineering and Technology Liverpool, John Moores University, UK. (Not pictured).

Sara Mesquita
Lead data scientist, Novonesis. (Not pictured).

Søren Riis
Vice president, Cochlear. (Not pictured).

Rasmus Engholm
Lead data scientist, Grundfos Holding. (Not pictured).

Claudia Plant
Professor, Faculty of Computer Science, Universität Wien, Austria. (Not pictured).

Sisse Ostrowski
Professor, Rigshospitalet/ University of Copenhagen. (Not pictured).

Gelareh Taghizadeh
Head of data Science, Colibri Digital, UK. (Not pictured).

Anna Rogers
Associate Professor, Section for Data Science , IT University of Copenhagen

Jes Frellsen
Associate Professor, Department of Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, Technical University of Denmark

Roald Forsberg
CEO, Raven Biosciences

Roberta Sinatra
Professor, Center for Social Data Science, University of Copenhagen, and IT University of Copenhagen

DDSA Young Academy Panel



15 MEMBERS

- Zoe Ansari**
Senior Data Scientist,
Risk Methods and
Analytics, Danske
Bank.

John Robert Shorter
Assistant Professor,
Department of Science
and Environment,
Roskilde University.

**Anders Gjørbye
Madsen**
PhD Student,
Department of Applied
Mathematics and
Computer Science,
Technical University of
Denmark.

Teresa Dorszewski
PhD Student,
Department of Applied
Mathematics and
Computer Science,
Technical University of
Denmark.
- Patrycja Lebiecka-
Johansen**
Industrial Postdoc,
Department of
Electrial and
Computer Engineering,
Aarhus University, and
T&W Engineering.

Sarah Stougaard
Research Assistant/
Data Scientist,
Department of Clinical
Research, University
of Southern Denmark,
and Department of
Oncology, Odense
University Hospital.

**Jacob Fredegaard
Hansen**
Data Scientist,
Department of
Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology,
University of Southern
Denmark.
- Jonas Friederich**
Manufacturing
Intelligence Engineer,
Novo Nordisk.

**Viktor Stenby
Johansson**
Machine Learning
Engineer, Vipps
Mobilepay.

Anastassia Vybornova
Chair, PhD Student,
Department of
Computer Science,
IT University of
Copenhagen. (Not
pictured).

Yossi Bokor Bleile
Vice Chair, Postdoc,
Department of
Mathematical
Sciences, Aalborg
University. (Not
pictured).
- Elena Dudukina**
Senior Epidemiologist,
Department of
Rare Diseases and
Advanced Therapies,
Novo Nordisk. (Not
pictured).

Kenneth Borup
Senior Machine
Learning Scientist,
Trifork. (Not pictured).

Marianne Helenius
Postdoc, Paediatric
Oncology Research
Laboratory,
Rigshospitalet. (Not
pictured).

Søren Emil Skaarup
Bachelor's Student,
Mathematics, Aarhus
University. (Not
pictured).

DDSA Cross-Academy Committee



The Cross-Academy Committee consists of 5 members with primary competencies within data science and working in the intersection of data science with the fields of diabetes, endocrinology, cardiovascular, or neuroscience across sectors in Denmark.

5 MEMBERS

Melanie Ganz-Benaminsen
Associate professor,
Department of
Computer Science/
Neurobiology Research
Unit, University
of Copenhagen/
Rigshospitalet.

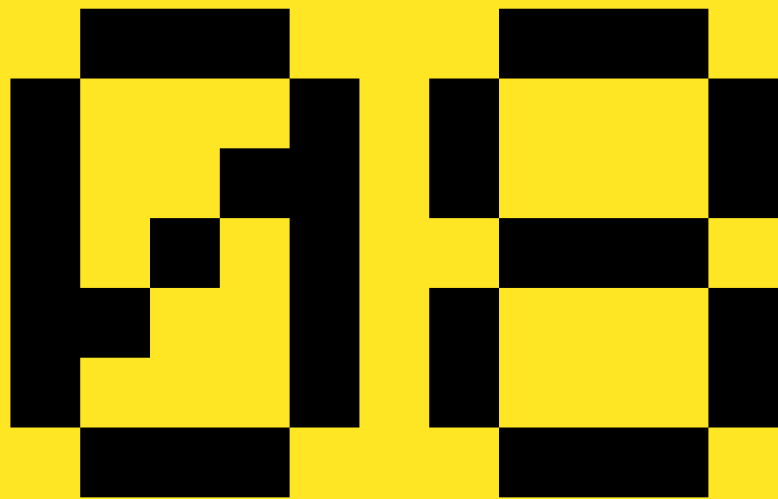
Adam Hulman
Chair, senior data
scientist, Steno
Diabetes Center.

**Josefine Vilsbøll
Sundgaard**
Senior postdoctoral
researcher, Novo
Nordisk/Technical
University of Denmark.
(Not pictured).

Claus Graff
Professor, Department
of Health Science and
Technology, Aalborg
University. (Not
pictured).

Simon Tilma Vistisen
associate professor,
Department of Clinical
Medicine, Aarhus
University. (Not
pictured).

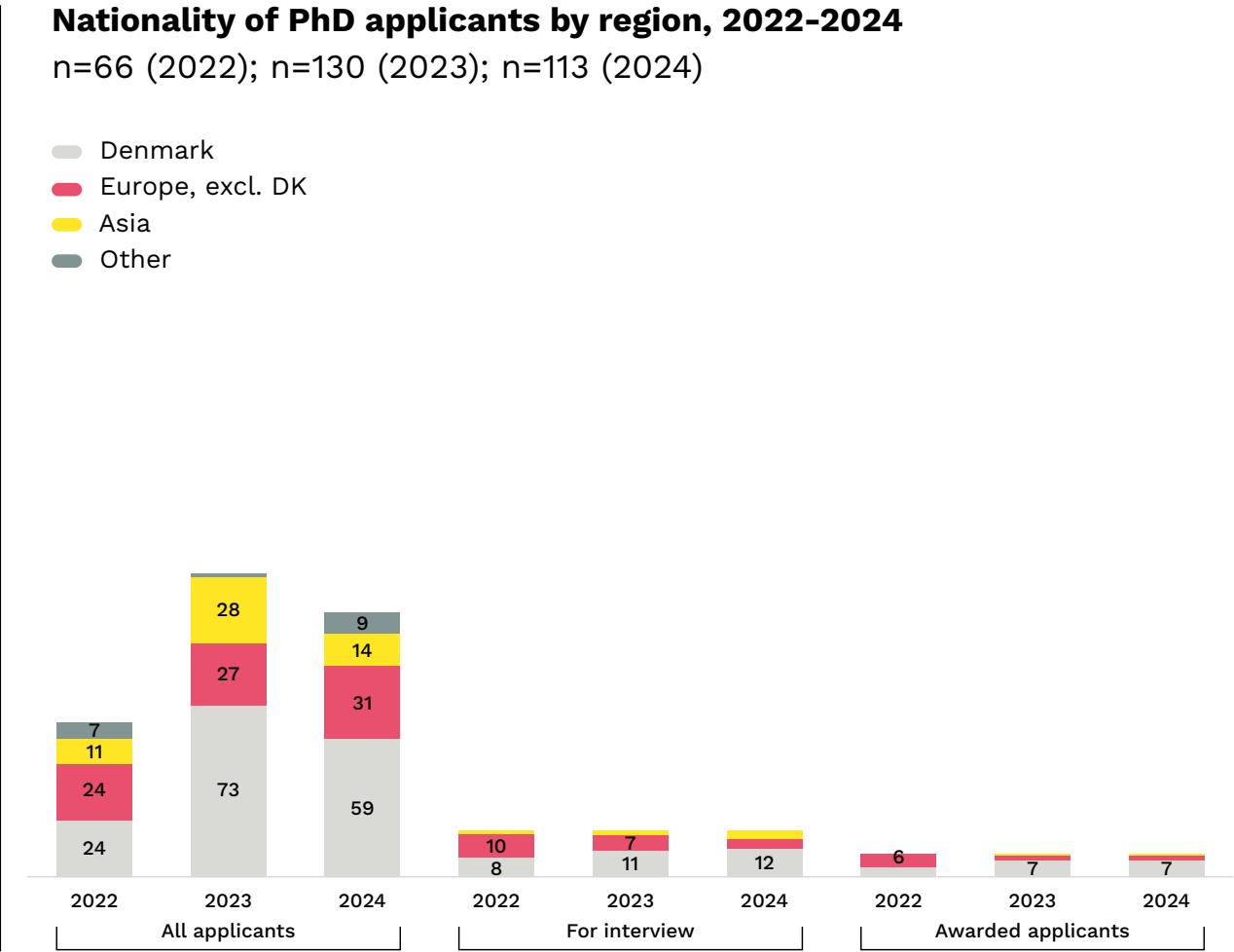
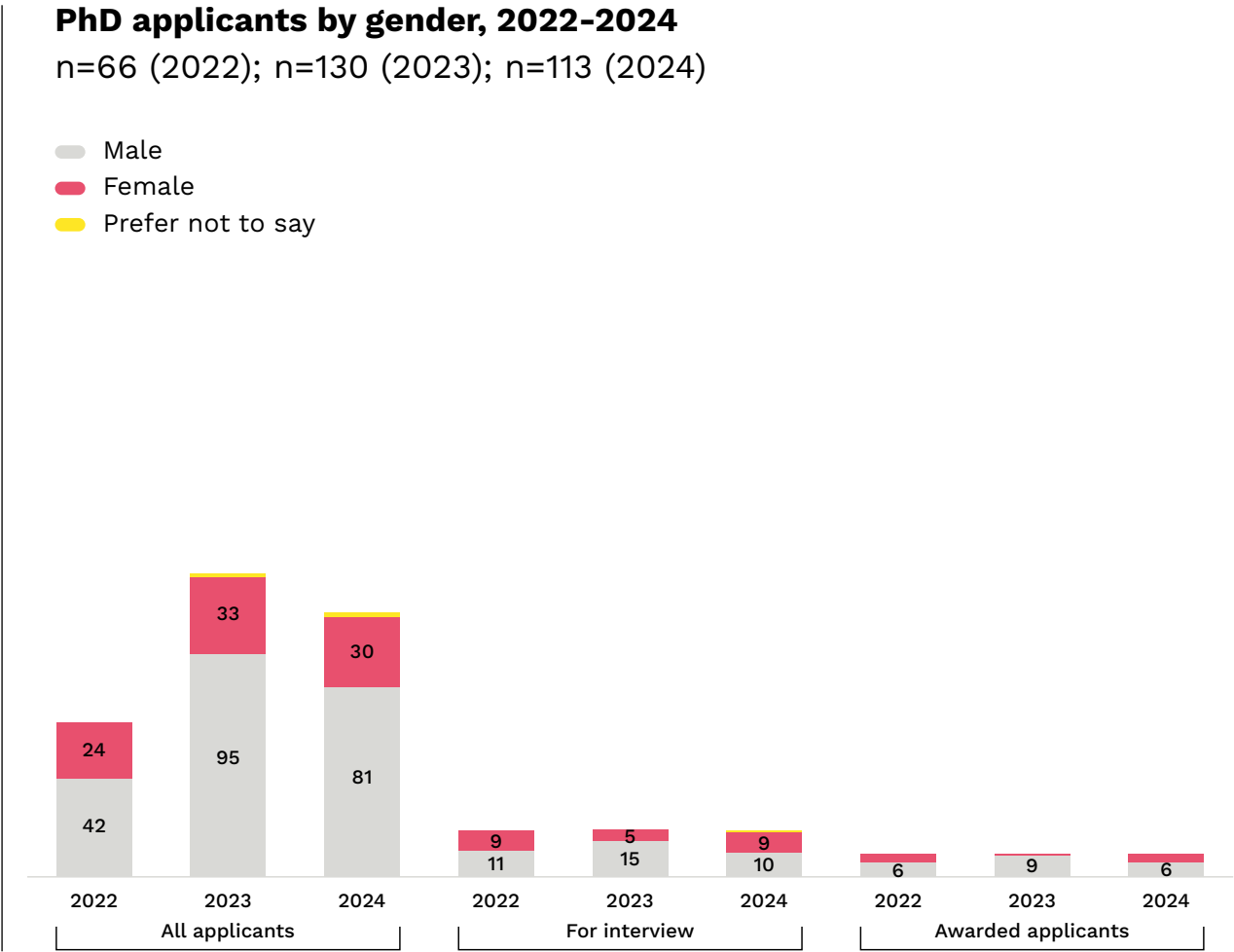
Appendix



Source: Danish Data Science Academy

DDSA PhD Fellowships

DDSA PhD Fellowships



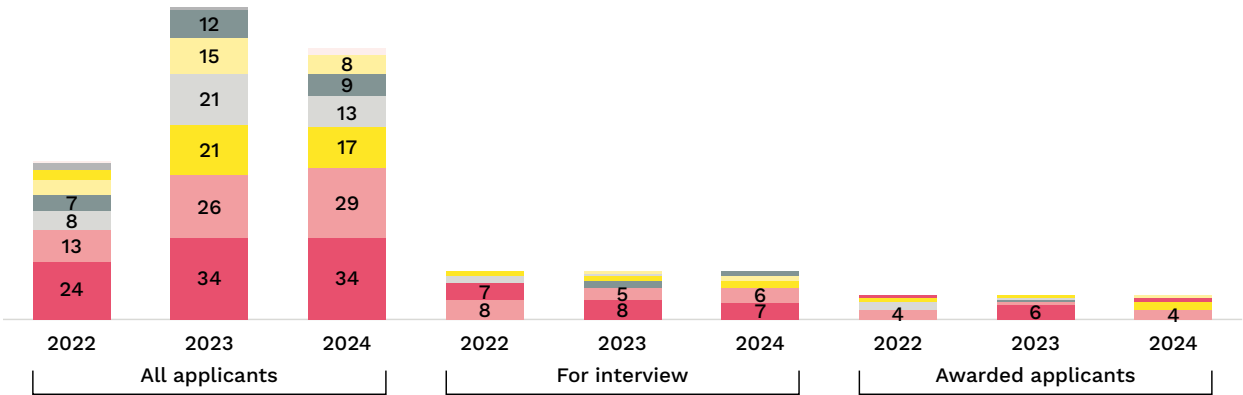
DDSA PhD Fellowships

DDSA Postdoc Fellowships

PhD applicants by hosting institution, 2022-2024

n=66 (2022); n=130 (2023); n=113 (2024)

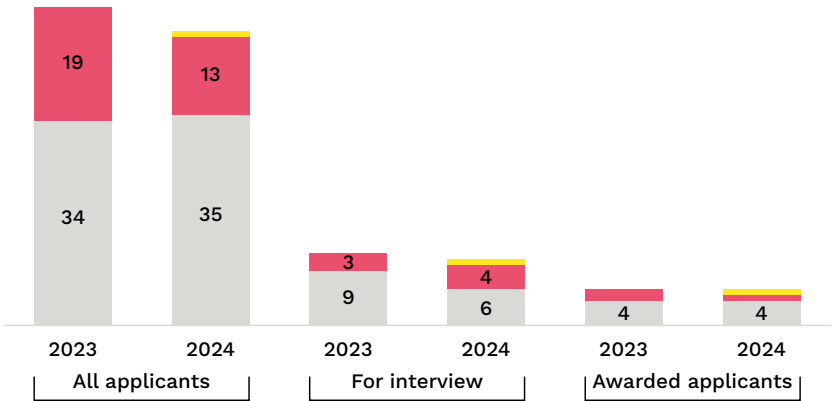
- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University



Postdoc applicants by gender, 2023-2024

n=53 (2023); n=49 (2024)

- Male
- Female
- Prefer not to say

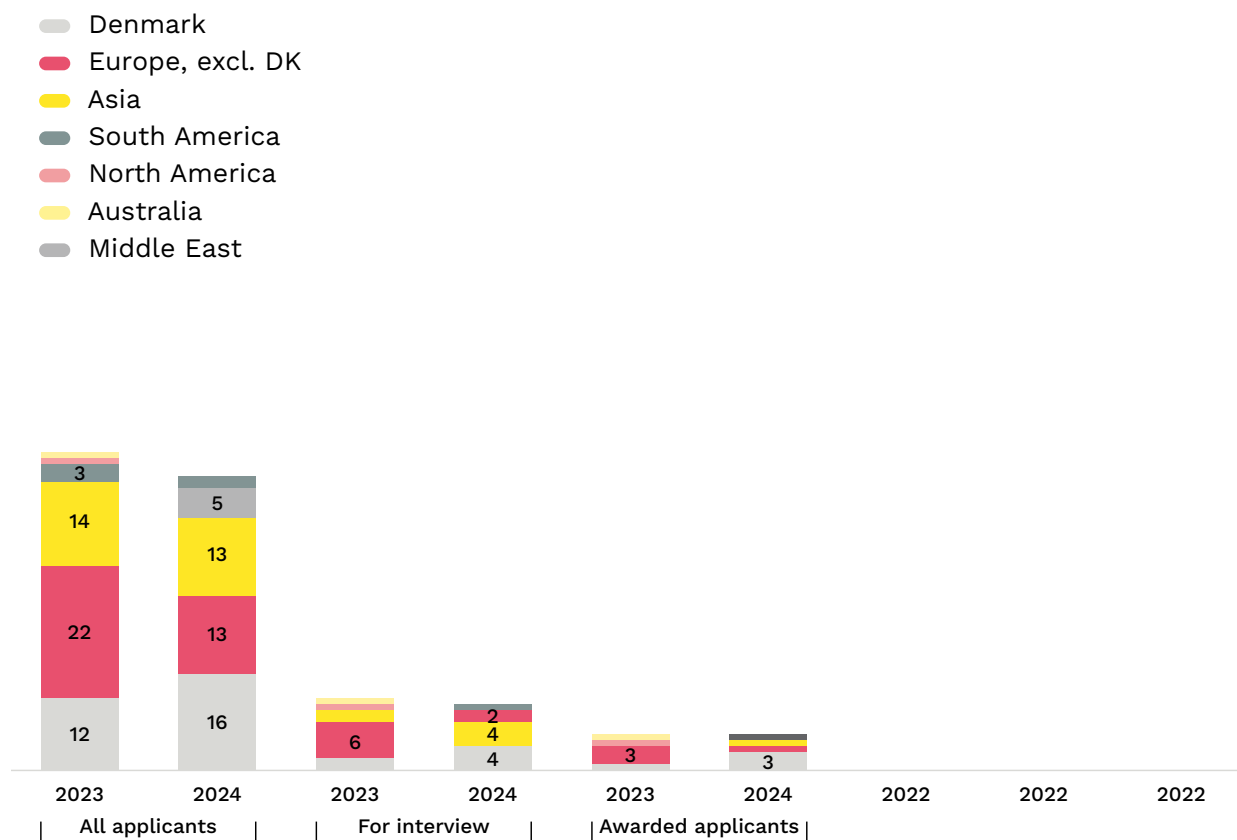


DDSA Postdoc Fellowships

DDSA Postdoc Fellowships

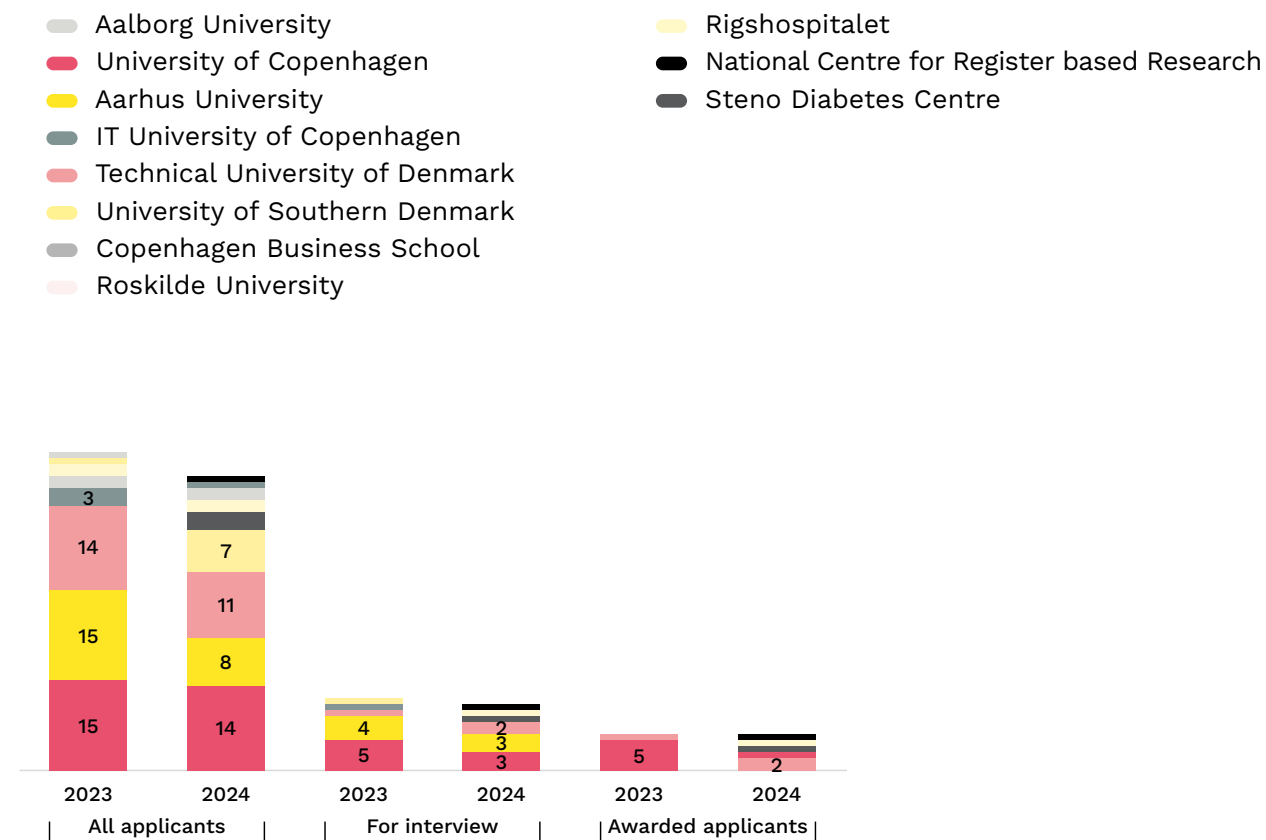
Nationality of Postdoc applicants by region, 2023-2024

n=53 (2023); n=49 (2024)



Postdoc applicants by hosting institution, 2023-2024

n=53 (2023); n=49 (2024)

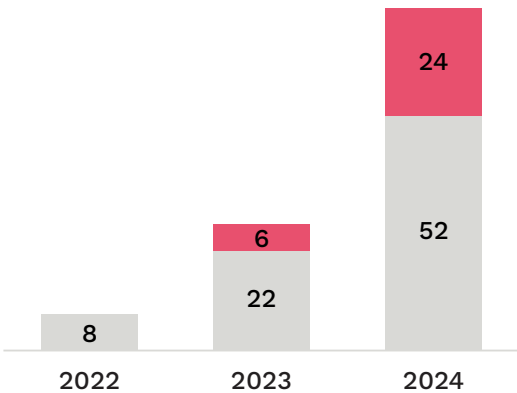


Visit Grants

Visit Grant, award rate, 2022-2024

n=8 (2022); n=28 (2023); n=76 (2024)

- Awarded
- Rejected



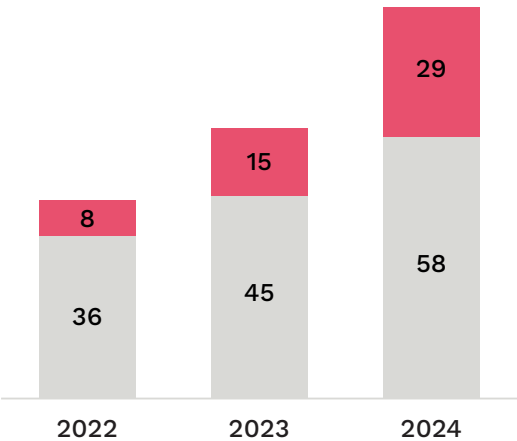
Note: In 2022, the Visit Grant call was only open for 6 months, while all year round in 2023. Rejections were due to applications lacking a supervisor located in Denmark, applications with a supervisor who had already received three visit applicants that year, or applications where the data science component was not sufficiently described or clear enough to merit funding.

Travel Grants

Travel Grant, award rate, 2022-2024

n=44 (2022); n=60 (2023); n=87 (2024)

- Awarded
- Rejected

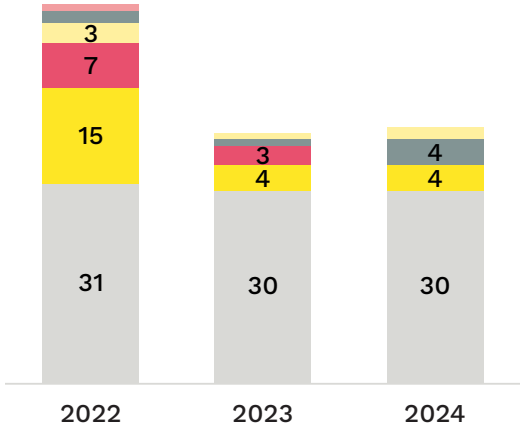


Note: Rejections were due to applications not fulfilling the eligibility criteria, applications for travel activities where data science component was lacking, not sufficiently described or clear enough to merit funding.

Pre-Graduate Retreat

Pre-Graduate Retreat, participants by region, 2023-2024
n=59 (2022); n=39 (2023); n=40 (2024)

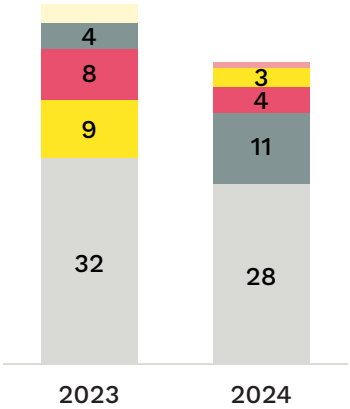
- Capital Region of Denmark
- Central Denmark Region
- North Denmark Region
- Region of Southern Denmark
- Region Zealand
- Other



National Data Science PhD Meetup

PhD Meetup, participants by region, 2023-2024
n=56 (2023); n=50 (2024)

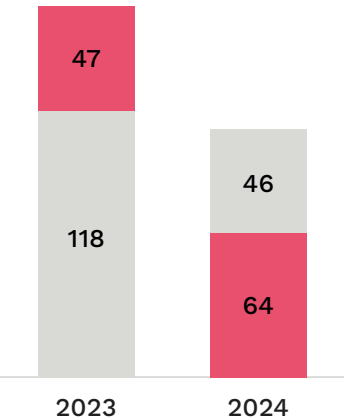
- Capital Region of Denmark
- Central Denmark Region
- North Denmark Region
- Region of Southern Denmark
- Region Zealand
- Other



Danish National Championship in AI

Danish National Championship in AI, participants by student status, 2023-2024
n=165 (2023); n=110 (2024)

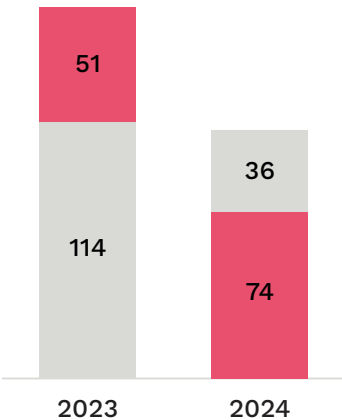
- Bachelor of Science
- Master of Science



Danish National Championship in AI

Danish National Championship in AI, participants by team or individual participation, 2023-2024
n=165 (2023); n=110 (2024)

- Participated individually
- Participated in a team

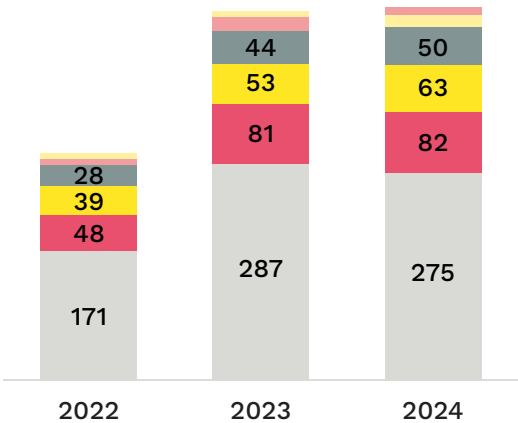


Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI Conference (D3A)

Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI Conference (D3A)

Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI 2.0 Conference (D3A), participants by region, 2022-2024
n=302 (2022); n=492 (2023); n=497 (2024)

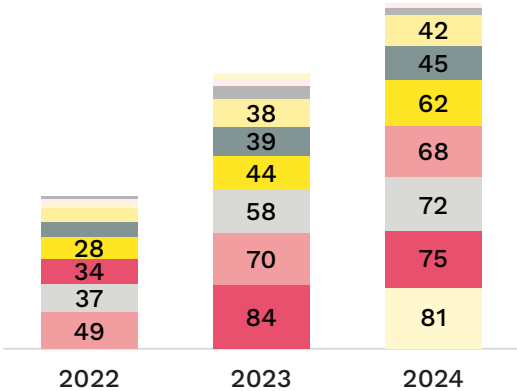
- Capital Region of Denmark
- Central Denmark Region
- North Denmark Region
- Region of Southern Denmark
- Region Zealand
- Other



Note: The 2022 conference was hosted by DDSA alone under the title: Danish Data Science 2022

Danish Digitalization, Data Science, and AI 2.0 Conference (D3A), participants by university, 2022-2024
n=302 (2022); n=492 (2023); n=497 (2024)

- Aalborg University
- University of Copenhagen
- Aarhus University
- IT University of Copenhagen
- Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark
- Copenhagen Business School
- Roskilde University
- Other

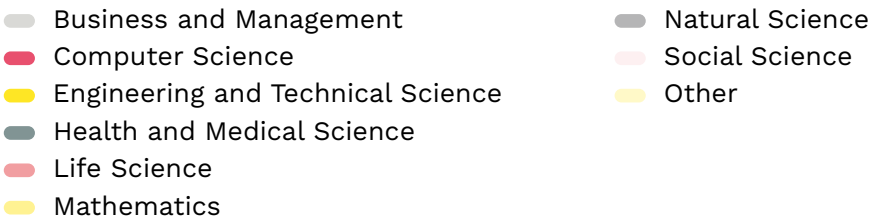


Note: The 2022 conference was hosted by DDSA alone under the title: Danish Data Science 2022

Mentoring Programme

Mentoring Programme, Mentees by field of study, 2022-2024

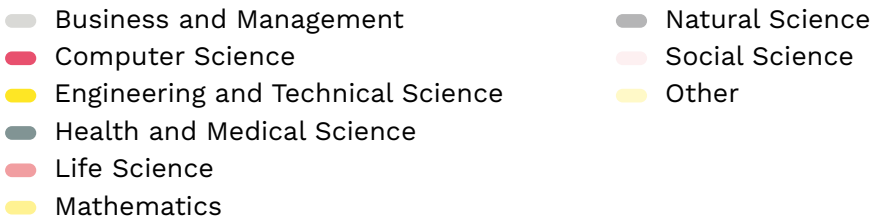
n=33 (2022); n=58 (Spring 2023);
n=87 (Autumn 2023); n=68 (2024)



Mentoring Programme

Mentoring Programme, Mentees by field of study, 2022-2024

n=33 (2022); n=58 (Spring 2023);
n=87 (Autumn 2023); n=31 (2024)



Mentoring Programme

Mentoring Programme, Mentees by affiliation if Danish university, 2022-2024

n=25 (2022); n=35 (Spring 2023);
n=29 (Autumn 2023); n=22 (2024)

- Aalborg University

University of Copenhagen

Aarhus University

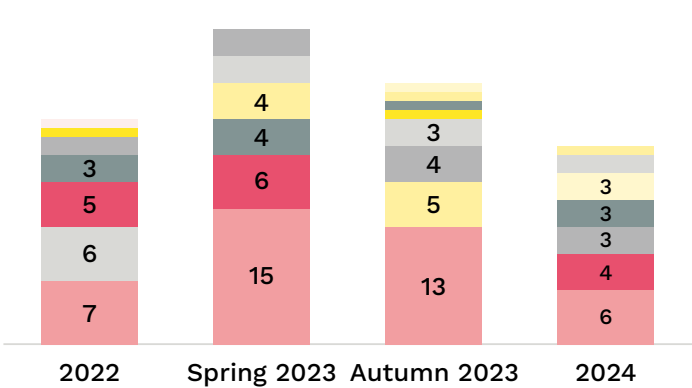
IT University of Copenhagen

Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark

Copenhagen Business School

Roskilde University

Other



Mentoring Programme

Mentoring Programme, Mentors by affiliation if Danish university, 2022-2024

n=15 (2022); n=15 (Spring 2023);
n=15 (Autumn 2023); n=8 (2024)

- Aalborg University

University of Copenhagen

Aarhus University

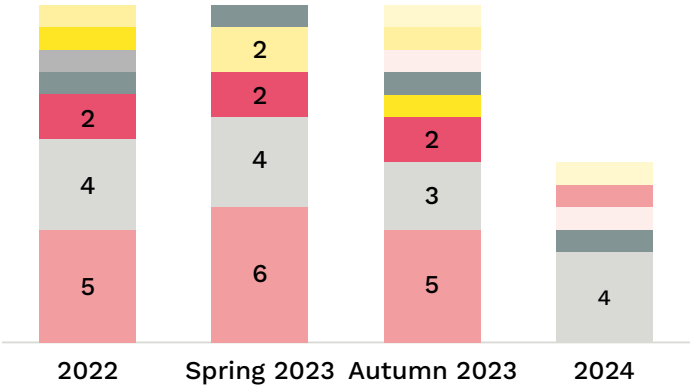
IT University of Copenhagen

Technical University of Denmark
- University of Southern Denmark

Copenhagen Business School

Roskilde University

Other



Summer Celebration



Photo credit

Hanne Kokkegård (p. 4)

DDSA (p. 28)

Rasmus Rørbæk (p. 36)

Rico Feldfoss (p. 39)

Yossi Bleile (p. 55)

Mikal Schlosser (All other photos)

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Danish Data Science Academy

Technical University of Denmark

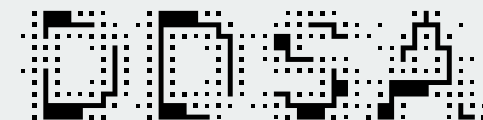
Richard Petersens Plads

Building 324 2800 Kgs. Lyngby Denmark

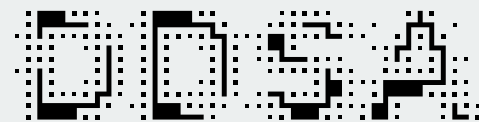
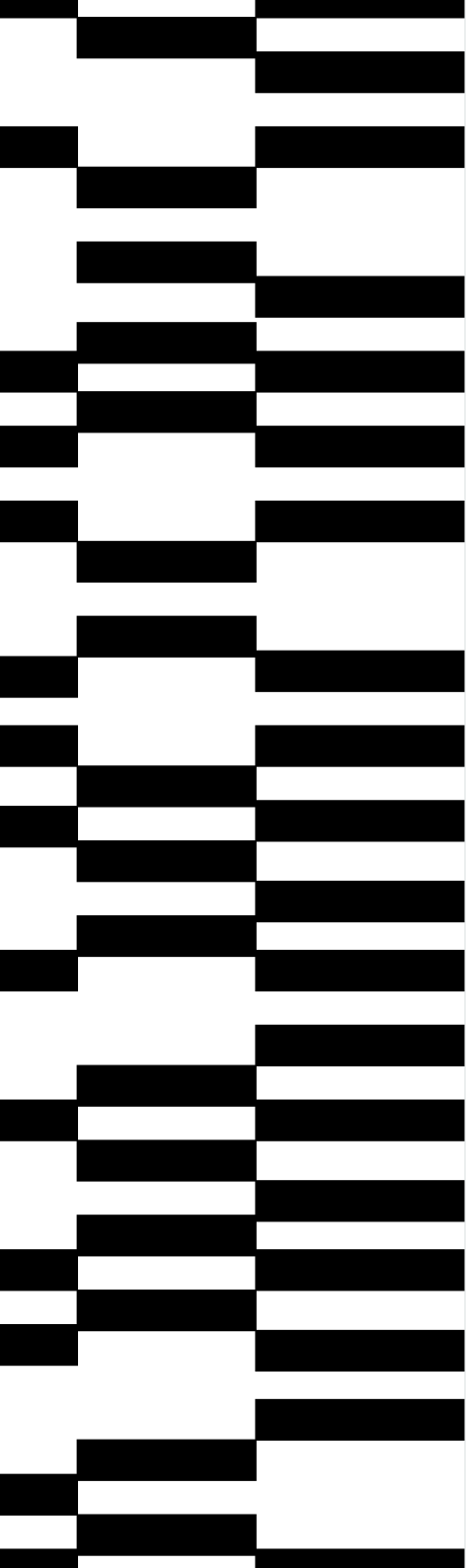
About Danish Data Science Academy

Novo Nordisk Foundation and VILLUM

FONDEN have awarded 184 MDKK to Danish Data Science Academy to support and fund education, networking and collaboration within Danish data science in the years 2021-2026.



Danish
Data Science
Academy



Danish
Data Science
Academy

