



Research in the humanities

A necessity



Research in the humanities must generate knowledge, know-how and insight as a foundation for society, for the cultural, ethical and political choices to be made, and in order to develop our creative capabilities. Research in the humanities must be conducted for the benefit and enjoyment of citizens and hence contribute to the society, culture and economy of the future.



A handwritten signature of Poul Holm in cursive script, written in dark ink on a light background.

Poul Holm, Chairman of SHF

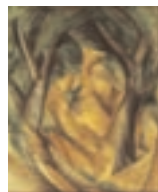
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Georges Braque: The Trees. 1908.
Royal Museum of Fine Arts

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Objectives for humanities research

Danish research in the humanities must operate at a high international level in order to safeguard Danish competence within the entire academic discipline of the humanities. New fields of research should be cultivated in order to endow areas central to society with a humanistic dimension. Danish research in the humanities has a special obligation as regards research into Danish cultural heritage and culture generation. The quality of research must be promoted by means of international cooperation. Knowledge of Danish research and relevant Danish experience abroad must be improved by having the Research Council support conferences and foreign-language publications. That research must exploit the potential offered by information technology. The Danish language must be guaranteed vitality in all relevant domains, including the sciences. Research must be conducted to the benefit of society, one means being to provide graduates with academic and scientific training, and by making research accessible and applicable to society.

Challenges for research in the humanities

The threshold to the 21st century sees the challenges facing research in the humanities come, in particular, from globalisation, from readjustment from an industrial to



The inclusive society

Is equality between the sexes a necessity for the future? The relationship between the sexes, their roles, power and earnings has been an important part of the agenda in the democracy of the 20th century. Research is needed into the way our knowledge of gender, and our concept of what gender is, will be challenged in the 21st century.

Globalisation

Old harbour fronts have been made into attractive residential and commercial districts. Perhaps greater use needs to be made of our coastlines and forests for settlement. Teleworking provides fresh hope for villages and islands. What does this development mean for the cultural environment, in positive and negative terms? Research can highlight solutions that take account of the old and the new.



a knowledge-based society, and from the rapid changes in population composition and culture base.

In a knowledge-based society the humanities are central to output, to the life of the community and to the political debate. Economic growth is dependent on human resources, learning skills, the ability to communicate, cultural understanding and creative development, which are directly linked to pure research in the humanities and to the universities' production of graduates. The humanities are part of the actual foundation of the knowledge economy.

In politics and economics alike, socially sustainable solutions are the order of the day, i.e. solutions tenable not merely in technical and economic terms, but also ethically and socially. Information technology, biotechnology and social development challenge our very concept of the human being and our basic standards of the good life and democratic society on which European civilisation is built. Themes central to the humanities, such as education, breeding, culture and gender, are being debated in society. This debate asks questions of research in the humanities, in the hope of shedding light on man's identity, basic values, communications, society and history. There is therefore a need to safeguard pure research in the humanities and to develop the dialogue between researchers and society.

Research in the humanities is instrumental in not only understanding but also transforming society. One of the ways in which this is achieved is in pioneering new forms of interdisciplinary cooperation that have evolved within recent years. Humanities researchers are collaborating with IT, medical, natural science and social science researchers in ways that were once inconceivable. In particular, collaboration has been developed in fields of research such as the environment, food, health

II Humanities are a global provider of linguistic and cultural understanding

and welfare. New scope has been generated for innovation through so-called art-science technology, including multimedia technology, the threshold of which we are still just teetering on, but which offers great potential for the industry of the future.

The research plan required will

- continue and develop "free basic research" in the humanities
- inject funding into new fields of research central to the development of the knowledge society
- safeguard the change-over from generation to generation
- ensure dissemination of the research to society
- promote interaction between the research and its end-users

Three important themes

With this strategy plan, SHF points out three themes which the Council considers to be of great social import and which call for research across the entire breadth of the humanities:

- globalisation
- the inclusive society
- knowledge in society.



Globalisation

The world has been miniaturised – and our understanding and teaching of Danish cultural heritage, Danish history and the history of Danish literature must incorporate the nation and the world alike. It will be important to research into our national self-knowledge and global development.



Globalisation

China is predicted to become the second-largest economy in the world in five years. Since the attacks on New York and Washington on 11 September 2001, the global political agenda has changed. What consequences will these developments have for our perception of the Western world's past and future? Understanding history, religion, language and mentality are themes central to research in humanities—and are altogether indispensable to the politics and society of the future.

Globalisation

Globalisation is often used as a term for the dramatic expansion in world trade and global communications that has taken place in the past decades. The term is also used as the antithesis of internationalisation, which characterises a system of enterprises or states that may well be trading and dealing with one another to an increasing extent but which each emanate fundamentally from their own national framework. Globalisation describes a process that transforms and challenges national and international structures, in that it promotes the free mobility of capital and jobs. Globalisation is thus a process that set in with particular vigour from the end of the 1960s, in which nation states and international organisations, including multinational corporations, were overlaid and transformed by information and political networks of a global economic nature. This process has taken place at varying speed in various sectors and with vastly different regional consequences.

Globalisation is perceived by some people as subversive and detrimental to culture, while others view it as an emancipation from local and mental ties. The globalising process is therefore offset by trends towards localisation and reterritorialisation, i.e. local response and often also resistance to the global challenges. Financial, political and social conflicts have arisen between the forces of globalisation and local powers of resistance, which attempt to preserve and redefine a perceived local community. By the same token, national cultural and social institutions are being challenged to redefine their sphere of activity.

II Humanities research into health and food has great potential

Everyday life

Globalisation is not merely associated with general processes of change but has impinged on the everyday lives of ordinary people. Today industrially manufactured foodstuffs, items of clothing and electronic products are obtainable all over the world. Mass media bring music, film and news even to the areas apparently most isolated. Social movements disseminate new ideas, moral concepts and forms of organisation to people, cutting across social, cultural, linguistic or religious frontiers. Outsiders like refugees, migrants, tourists and employees in global companies make up increasingly large segments of the population in most societies. The cultural processes of change that can be catalysed by this globalisation have been a central theme in the public debate. In particular, the view has been expressed that globalisation can threaten local established social, cultural and linguistic communities that build on tradition, time-honoured collective values and social conventions. This concern is being challenged by more recent research, which stresses that such communities are created and negotiated in the social and cultural processes of day-to-day life and are therefore subject to constant change, irrespective of whether or not they are exposed to global influences. Thus there is a need to describe and critically analyse the way in which globalisation engages with these processes of change. How is the global perceived (e.g. material goods, popular culture, extraneous individuals or social movements), and how does the global dovetail with local cultural practice? What forms of social differentiation arise in the context of this practice? What significance do people ascribe to the global in demarcating local affiliations and affinities, whether defined in terms of the local community, regions or nation states? In this connection there is also a need for comparative studies able to view "domestic" conditions from a wider angle.

Globalisation

We are what we eat. Our food is no longer produced in the back garden and in the field, but is transported to the table over long distances, passing through many hands. Every link in the chain presupposes choice. The challenge for the food industry of the future is to understand the consumers' and the growers' background and choices. Research in humanities can help create a basis for a competitive and sustainable future food industry.





The inclusive society

Is art part of reality? Is it possible to comprehend how modern reality has come about without comprehending how art has been instrumental in creating it? Research into the history of art and culture is indispensable to an insight into the way our lives and our outlook on life have changed. And through research into modern culture and art, we can obtain knowledge as to how art continues to provoke and inspire modern society.

Extract by Braque: The Trees. Royal Museum of Fine Arts, Denmark.

Values

High-level language qualifications, analytical skills, historical knowledge and intercultural understanding are necessary preconditions for gaining insight into the process that adds impetus to cultural identities and values in the globalisation process, and promotes their inclusion under the political, economic and social aspects.

Globalisation is interlinked with a dramatic increase in the use of information and communication technology. It is important to investigate how the media are being both concentrated and decentralised, how different kinds of media are being blended, and the impact this is having on media politics and media use. The history of the individual media should be systematically charted, analysing both how the individual media products are being produced, disseminated and received, and what effect the media are having on society and culture.

Towns and cities and the way we arrange them physically are undergoing rapid change. The interaction between global and local forces is assuming tangible architectural, social and cultural expression. These comprehensive transformations of the urban space are taking place subject to a greater or lesser degree of public planning. The domain requires systematic and interdisciplinary exploration in order to underpin both private and public investments. At the same time, pressure on the open countryside has increased in modern society. Archaeological and historical cultural relics in the landscape require exploration in order to allow us to acknowledge, cherish and exploit them in the future.

Today, thanks to the invention of the phonograph, music has been emancipated from time and space. Together with increasing technologically based noise, music

|| What kind of musicscapes and soundscapes surround us?

forms the soundscape that surrounds us everywhere. We know far too little about the soundscapes that exist, as well as what they mean and do to us, so it is difficult to decide how we as a society and as individuals want them to be.

The actual globalisation phenomenon challenges the basis for certain of the nationally oriented disciplines, such as Danish and history. We need more research into what interaction, intertrading and intermingling among nations and cultures did and does mean. New models of comparative research in world history are already on the drawing board—what will they entail for the school subjects of the future?

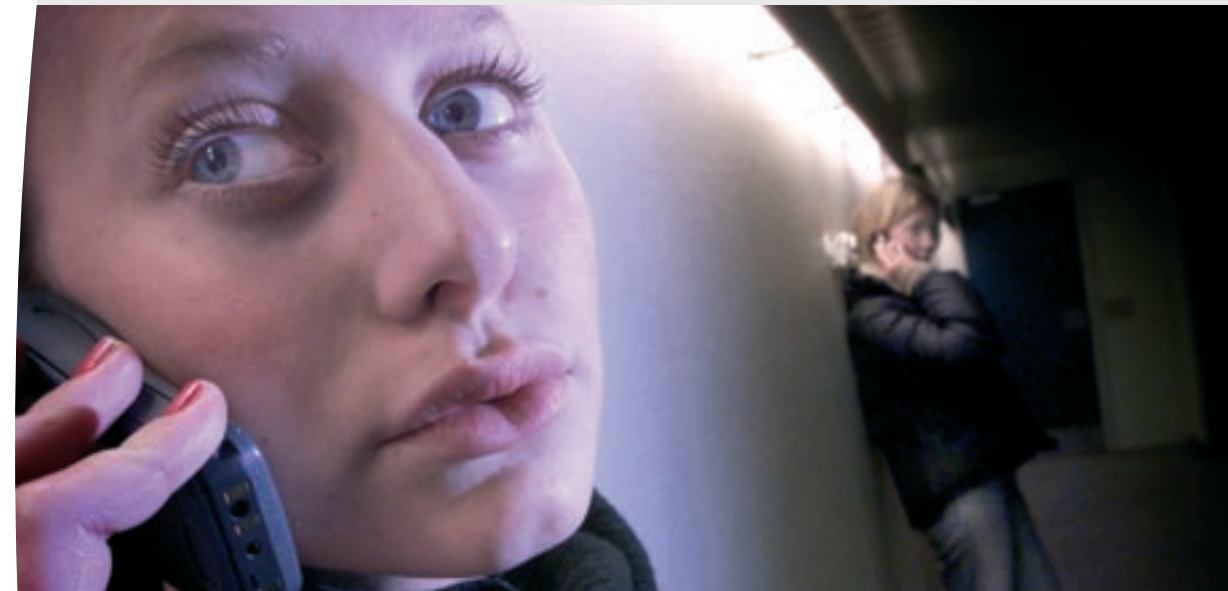
The inclusive society

The inclusive society is at once a vision and a problem for the society of the present and the future. The view of society as monocultural has now been superseded by a concept of a culturally complex society in which cultural encounters, integration, dynamics and conflict are the key trends. There are rapid changes afoot in the population mix with regard to cultural base, language, religion, age distribution, social class and ethnic origin. Society is also characterised by the ever greater role being played by the individual. Women's changing station in society is one of the most striking social and cultural changes over the past 100 years, which has also had a bearing on day-to-day life, family life and children.

Our concepts of culture and civilisation have changed. Cultural pluralism is increasingly leaving its mark on European societies, including Danish society. On the one hand, linguistic and social practice is subject to constant change. On the other hand, humankind is seeking continuity and stability in a changeable world and continually construing its identity and cultural tradition in the process. It is important,

The inclusive society

New technology has crucially altered the forms of communication used by the Danes. We are chatting, sending SMS's and exchanging e-mails as never before. In all private, public, political and business-related settings, communication is an altogether essential instrument. Humanities researchers can supply qualified answers to how such new forms of communication can be taken on board in the modern knowledge society and in giving a fresh lease of life to political democracy.



The inclusive society

The children of the inclusive society make up the raw material of the future. They have extremely different ethnic and social backgrounds. How do we train them as best possible to meet the great challenges of the Denmark of the future? Humanists are researching into cultural diversity, learning mechanisms and Danish as a foreign language—the knowledge needed to attune our educational system to the future in a fully functional, inclusive society.



therefore, to explore correlations between linguistic practice and identity in complex cultural processes, in both a contemporary and a historical perspective. There is also a need for linguistically grounded research into the intercultural processes through which our own cultural heritage and tradition are construed under the influence of foreign cultures. How do people reach an understanding of ways of viewing the world other than their own, and how does society in all its complexity understand itself in the encounter with strange and alien ways of life? The answers are partly to be found by researching into the significance of science and art for society's deliberations on itself, historically and interculturality.

In the encounter with a new homeland, migrants develop new forms of transnational identity. Minority rights and equal opportunities between ethnic groups and different religious communities are an increasingly urgent problem, and one which research in the arts and humanities can be conducive to understanding. Throughout Denmark there are schools with bilingual pupils. Research is needed into Danish as a second language, into the conditions and openings for second-language learning, into the relationship between native-language learning and second-language learning, into the relationship between culture, language and didactics, into the description of the Danish language in relation to other languages.

New dividing lines

The rapid change in society is leading to new dividing lines in the population, e.g. between the well educated multilinguals who have embraced the new technologies and international interfaces, and that section of the population geared towards the national and the media, whether in Danish or translated form. There is a lack of

II How is Danish as a foreign language learned?

research into the young generation of cosmopolites who, equipped with mobile phones and the Internet since earliest childhood, have virtual networks extending beyond the local or even the national area, and the slightly older segment of the population for whom physical geography defines the possibilities for communicating and networking. Society needs to devise an educational system that caters for both the changing needs and values of young people and society's continued existence as a democratic knowledge and welfare society. That is why research must be done into the interaction between society's needs for knowledge and education and the new youth identity. Language as a medium and an expression of the cultural encounter is a field central to this research.

The gender aspect is central to understanding the readjustment of society. Equal status and opportunities require a knowledge of a number of different parameters, while at the same time there is a need to commit resources to basic scientific problems. We need greater knowledge of the significance of gender for our understanding of ourselves as people, and for the process of formalising the constructs of culture and the media.

The development of the knowledge society

In the composite, global information society, the relationship between knowledge and society plays a seminal role—in fact, we even speak about the knowledge society. But what is it? What role devolves to knowledge in society? What forms of knowledge and know-how are there, and which ones might we wish to see developed? Can new forms of interaction be created between the humanities, government authorities and private business?



The knowledge society

Can we continue to have general education? Has general education been defined by the reality programmes and quiz shows of the mass media? And will there be any social basis in future for an educational culture?

The knowledge society

Danish is among the 100 most widely spoken languages in the world, but is under severe pressure from English. Does English pose a real threat to Danish? How should language policy best be formulated in order to safeguard the continued vitality of our language? Danish humanities research can contribute the necessary knowledge about language and about language contact as part of globalisation.



Culture production has become an essential socioeconomic factor, not least as a result of the rapid growth of the media. Classical humanities subjects have thus taken on a new and extended dimension in terms of applications within trade and industry. There is a need for research to pinpoint and develop the potential in this field. At the same time, the points at which the humanities interface with other specialist areas are undergoing rapid development as promising new fields of research. Increased research is needed in economic growth areas like mass communication and information technology, where the humanities and technology interact closely. The new art-science technologies can be promoted through new forms of organisation for research, in which the humanities and the private business community engage in cooperation, e.g. on industrial researcher fellowships and experimental laboratories. Images and pictorialisation have taken on new forms in contemporary culture. There is a need to explore the visualisation across specialist traditions with an eye to the relationship between image and language, between the visual and the auditive, between the digital and the analog. The field includes experiential formation, development of visualisation techniques and vision technology, as well as the importance of visuality for the creation, distribution and consumption of knowledge, including development of art-science technology.

In a large number of areas, information and communication technology (ICT) has affected the cognitive basis and forms of knowledge within the humanities. Entirely new vistas now exist for obtaining, storing, analysing and manipulating large data volumes and for propounding models to describe them. However, we know only little about the extent to which the ICT revolution has affected the Danish arts and social sciences. How is ICT making its impact in the arts and social

II Interdisciplinary research to be consolidated

sciences, and what consequences does ICT have for research in the humanities?

Working in unison with the business community

Other, more traditional areas of commerce are also experiencing rapid change as a result of taking advantage of the potential offered by the newly graduated humanities students. The number of humanities graduates with a job in trade and industry has grown exponentially in the past ten to fifteen years. Unfortunately, this growth is only modestly offset by a growth in industry-relevant research in the humanities. There is therefore a need for targeted commitment to collaboration between the research and the business communities.

Recent years have seen the emergence of new interfaces with fields of research like medicine, the environment, food and welfare. Humanities-based health and food research has great, but virtually untapped potential, and welfare research in the humanities has only been developed within certain fields. In the field of environmental history, there is major scope for developing cooperation with the natural sciences, which are increasingly in search of historical information. A specialist area like research into the cultural environment, e.g. into the way farming manages the building relics of the past, is better developed but seems to be in danger of waning away for lack of proper grounding at universities and government research institutes. SHF will promote these fields in association with other relevant research councils.

Barriers to democracy

The development of the so-called knowledge society admits of a number of contrasting factors that fundamentally alter the conditions governing the acquisition of



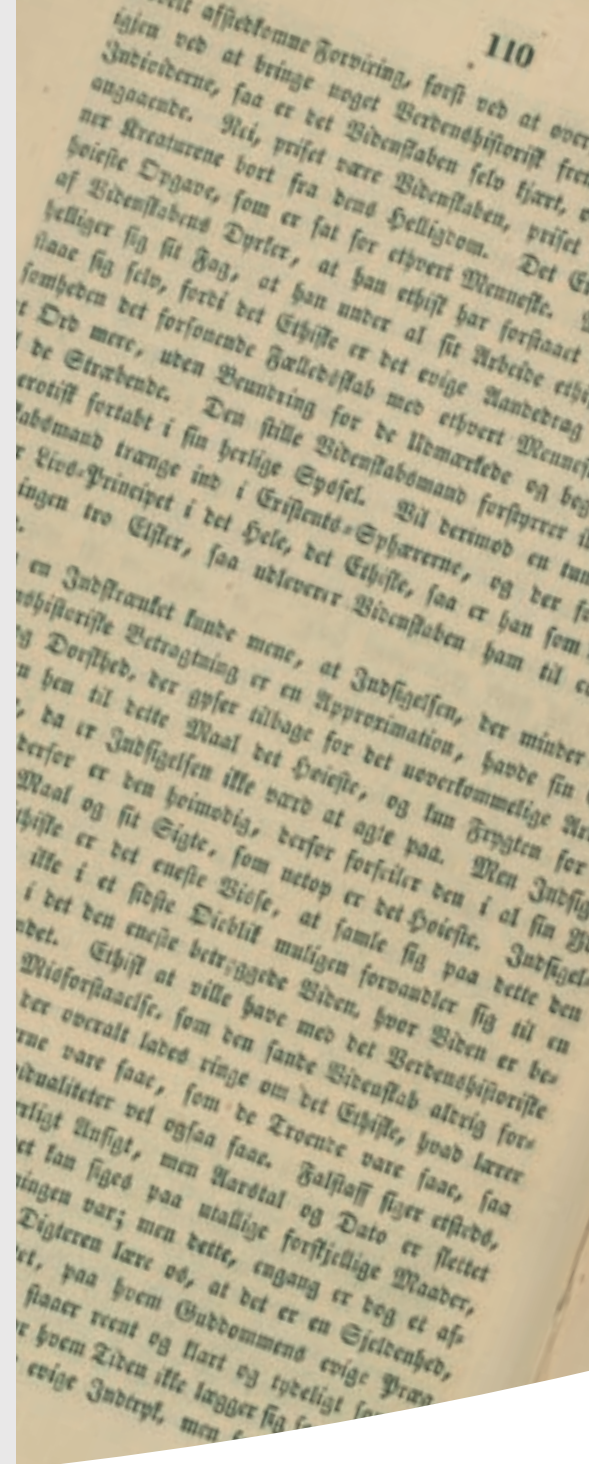
The knowledge society

New farming methods like deep ploughing, subsoiling and panbusting penetrate the soil more deeply than before and are threatening archaeological relics. Future sources of knowledge about our history are at risk of vanishing in the process. Cooperation between researchers, farmers and public authorities does provide renewed hope, though. The intelligent tractor of the future may have to be equipped with a GPS receiver to enable it to ease up the plough when crossing over unexcavated hidden relics.

The knowledge society

"No, praised be Science, praised be just Anyone who shoos the Cattle away from their Shrine. The Ethical is and remains the highest Mission any human Being has been assigned. There are grounds for demanding that the Devotee of Science should also have come to an understanding of himself in ethical terms before devoting himself to his Trade, that throughout his Work he should carry on understanding himself ethically, because the Ethical is the eternal breath and in the midst of solitude the expiatory Community with any Person".

Søren Kierkegaard, *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (Afsluttende uvidenskabelig Efterskrift), 1846.



democratic experience and participation for individuals and groups alike. Democracy presupposes enlightened citizens, and both the formative line of thinking in educational theory and the prevailing (politological) notions of democracy pave the way for the acquisition and evolution of knowledge to take place in the individual. The same applies to the European lifelong learning agenda. In practice, however, knowledge is increasingly being produced in situational contexts and in relation to functions. The criteria for relevant knowledge are continually changing. Paradoxically, that means that the knowledge currently in demand is undermining the scope for general enlightenment. For instance, the individual commands hitherto unseen specialised knowledge in his or her field in working life, whereas knowledge about elementary self-realisation is dwindling and needs to be regenerated individually. And in the educational system, increased requirements are being made of school and education: these are having to superimpose a number of social functions on top of their traditional functions (e.g. in relation to the labour market and internationalisation) while in tandem the importance of schooling and formal education is being relativised by informal learning in everyday and working life. And in working life, qualifications requirements are being differentiated. They are becoming specialised while general qualifications are simultaneously being stipulated in the form of flexibility and mobility.

Whereas individuals are developing competence—in necessary life-long everyday and practice learning—independent new forms of knowledge are being created that represent barriers to democracy.

■ Our very concept of the person is being challenged

Perception of the person

Globalisation and media development promote a mass culture that taps into and influences traditional artistic and aesthetic values. This development increases the need for research into the relationship between mass and fine culture.

In the past decade, in particular, the perception of what the person is has proved to be a fruitful interdisciplinary topic within the humanities (e.g. in the form of intensified studies of consciousness, language, the self and the identity), but also between the humanities and other sciences (e.g. studies of self-reflexivity and cognitive research). During the past year, biotechnological and social developments have challenged the actual concept of the person. Has humankind changed now that its genome has been mapped? The mapping of the human genome, which opens the doors to technology fundamentally capable of changing what a person is, can assume great social, cultural and ethical consequences. As a result, there is a need for cohesive research into the various dimensions of the subject concept. Research in the humanities is required to comprehend these possibilities and to provide the background to the decisions that will have to be made.

The Council's functions and responsibilities

The Danish Research Council for the Humanities (SHF) provides funding, gives advice and fulfils strategic functions for Danish research in the humanities.

The humanities are about man's identity, basic values, communications, society and history. Humanities include aesthetic, philosophical-educational and historical subjects, more particularly musicology and art scholarship, and architectural science, cinematography, film and media studies, comparative literature and theatre studies, linguistics and philology, philosophy and history of ideas, theology and science of religion, history, archaeology, anthropology and ethnology, psychology, educational theory and practice, and educational research.

SHF's need for resources

In order to fulfil the goals and visions SHF is putting forward with this strategy plan, an annual budget is needed of about DKK 142 million. A framework of this kind will enable SHF to take joint responsibility for the work of ensuring renewal, innovation and restyling of the Danish humanities environments.

The desired resources will still mean tough competition for the available funds, but will ensure a more acceptable success rate for those very high-quality projects that are rejected every year simply owing to a lack of funding.

Instrument/mechanism DKKm	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Anticipated financing in 2002
PhD fellowships	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	22.0
Post-doc. fellowships	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	25.0	15.0
General grants	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	35.0	25.0
SHF centres	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	43.0	18.0
Research networks	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	4.0
Research in residence abroad	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.8
START funds	3.0	1.5	0.5	0.5	2.0	0.0
Publishing & translation programme	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	4.1
Conferences	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
International cooperation	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3
Total requirement	144.5	143.0	142.0	142.0	143.5	93.2

All amounts are in 2002 prices

Instruments and mechanisms

SHF subsidises researchers' wages, travel, technical-administrative assistance, publication, and participation in and holding of conferences. Subsidies are granted through a number of different instruments, which are reviewed below.

PhD and post-doctoral fellowships. SHF regards it as a central task to give promising graduates and young researchers the chance to do research. As grantor, SHF can be instrumental in ensuring the necessary mobility between the educational institutions and making sure that the future generation of researchers has an opportunity to be part of the restructuring process amid which the humanities find themselves.

General grants. In using this instrument, one of SHF's wishes is to create scope for senior researchers to have an opportunity to conduct research at a high international level, as well as to give larger groups the possibility of interdisciplinary research.

SHF centres. SHF wants to promote the formation of large-scale research centres, with and without walls, by financing PhD and post-doctoral fellowships attached to the centres. SHF centres want to foster the ability of the humanities to engage in major interdisciplinary research consortia.

Research networks. The purpose of SHF's networks is to create settings within which geographically scattered specialist environments are given an opportunity to meet, and to develop and consolidate their infrastructure. Experience shows that these networks often develop into established collaborative ventures across institutions to the benefit of research.

Research in residence abroad. It is important that Danish researchers are given an opportunity to travel for research in residence at universities, museums, archives, libraries and excavations around the world in connection with their research projects.

START funds. START funds are instrumental in enhancing humanities environments' scope for applying for funding from the EU's framework programmes and in building international collaborative constellations.

Publishing and translation programme. SHF views it as an important mission to ensure that essential research in the humanities is published. In addition, SHF intends to introduce a translation programme guaranteeing publication of the most essential Danish research in both Danish and one of the principal languages.

Conferences. With a view to giving researchers the possibility of disseminating and discussing the latest research, SHF subsidises the arrangement of conferences.

International cooperation. SHF takes part in a number of collaborative projects with the other Nordic countries as well as the European Science Foundation (ESF), as the Council considers it important to participate in overarching international discussions about the position of research in the humanities in international terms.

Danish Research Council for the Humanities

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