

Notice for Undervisningsprisen 2026

The Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science awards Undervisningsprisen for inspirational and engaging teaching within further and higher education in Denmark. Prizes are awarded to teachers who in, an exceptional manner, help cultivate good teaching and a positive teaching environment. Each prizewinner is awarded DKK 500,000.

All seven Undervisningspriser are awarded teachers teaching at, variously:

- Universities
- University colleges
- Business academies
- Higher education within the fine arts
- Maritime educational institutions

1. Purpose

The Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science wishes to recognise how very important inspirational and engaging teachers are for students and for the teaching environment at the above mentioned educational institutions. As such, Undervisningsprisen is intended to contribute to raising awareness of the role of the teacher and serve as inspiration by showcasing examples of excellent teaching within higher education.

Each of the seven Undervisningspriser comprises a merit award of DKK 200,000 awarded to the prizewinner personally, together with a further DKK 300,000 to be used to fund development activities which support a good and engaging teaching environment at higher education institutions (for instance to fund skills development, field trips, infrastructure, technology or other educational resources). It is only possible to nominate individual teachers. The prize of DKK 300,000 constitutes a conditional grant which must be used within two years of the awarding of the prize. This conditional grant is administered by the prizewinner's employer and includes overhead.

2. Assessment criteria

When assessing prospective candidates for the prizes, the following criteria will form the basis of the decision:

- How does the teacher contribute in an exceptional manner to bring about a high level of engagement, critical reflection and a high academic standard on the part of students?
- How does the teacher teach challenging subjects in an inspirational manner and provide their students with constructive feedback?
- How does the teacher play a key role in revamping and improving the quality of teaching, e.g. by introducing new teaching methods, new technology or by incorporating new research-based knowledge which benefits students?
- How does the teacher actively consult and share their experiences with colleagues, and incorporate feedback from students in the preparation of their own teaching?

Oktober 2025

**Uddannelses- og
Forskningsstyrelsen**
Center for Videregående
Uddannelser

Haraldsgade 53
2100 København Ø
Tel. 7231 7800

www.ufm.dk

CVR-nr. 3404 2012

Sagsbehandler
Lasse Pedersen
Tel. 72 31 95 06
lapd@ufm.dk

Ref.-nr.
1061821

- How does the teacher promote relevant teaching, e.g. by making use of practical experience and inspiration from external parties?

In addition to this, the various conferences of rectors may decide to add an additional criterion of particular relevance to their own category of teaching.

3. Number of prizes awarded to the various categories of institution

The seven Undervisningspriser are awarded as follows:

- The universities: Two prizewinners
- The university colleges: Two prizewinners
- The business academies: One prizewinner
- The higher education within the fine arts: One prizewinner
- The maritime educational institutions: One prizewinner

In cases where the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science receives nominations for two prizewinners, we encourage the nomination of both a woman and a man. The conferences of rectors are also encouraged to secure balance in terms of gender and teaching fields in the nominations over a five-year period.

4. Nomination procedure

Who may be considered for nomination?

The prize is awarded to teachers who teach courses of education under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science who in an exceptional manner have helped cultivate engaging and inspirational teaching at their educational institution, cf. the assessment criteria set out in Item 2.

Prizewinners from all educational institutions under the auspices of the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science may be considered for nomination. The nominated candidates must be currently employed by one of these educational institutions. It is only possible to nominate individual teachers.

The award of the prize will be marked by an award ceremony held in fall 2026, which the prizewinners will be expected to attend. As such, prior to nominating a prizewinner must obtain permission from the nominated candidate or candidates.

Who is allowed to submit a nomination?

The management of each educational institution will determine the specific procedure for nominating candidates from that institution and reach a decision on which of the proposed candidates will be nominated as prizewinner. The students at the institution in question shall also be given their say in the nomination process. Candidates are not permitted to propose their own nomination.

The management's chosen nomination is then submitted to the conference of rectors of the organization to which the particular institution is affiliated. The five conferences of rectors will decide upon and announce a deadline etc. for submission of nominations by the institutions which fall under their respective auspices. You can find further information concerning the nomination processes employed by the various conferences of rectors on the Danish Ministry of Higher Education

and Science's website: <https://ufm.dk/uddannelse/videregaende-uddannelse/undervisningsprisen/opslag-og-indstilling> (in Danish).

The various conferences of rectors have the task of assessing the nominations submitted by the educational institutions which fall under their respective auspices, and on this basis nominate a prizewinner from these institutions for consideration by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. A student perspective from the educational institutions in question must be taken into consideration when the conferences of rectors make their assessment. Nominations submitted to the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science must be submitted via the Ministry's self-service portal for e-grants at <https://www.e-grant.dk/> Two supporting documents must be submitted together with the nomination:

- 1) The candidate's CV, which may not exceed two pages in length
- 2) The conference of rectors' nomination, which may not exceed one page in length. The nomination must include the following:
 - A short preface (1-2 lines in length) introducing the nominated candidate
 - Professional justification (25-30 lines in length), taking as its point of departure the five stipulated criteria and, where applicable, the additional category-specific criterion
 - A short biography of the nominated candidate (4-6 lines in length)
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5. Procedure and deadline for nominations

The deadline for submission of nominations of prizewinners is 12 noon on Friday 6th of February 2026. The Ministry's processing of the prizewinner nominations will be concluded in spring 2026, after which the prizewinners and their institutions will be notified. The prizewinners will be publicly announced as part of an awards ceremony taking place in fall 2026. Prior to this announcement media initiatives will be put in place which will serve to raise the profile of the prizewinners and the importance of good teaching.

6. Storage of personal data

The conferences of rectors must ensure that they have obtained the consent of each of the prizewinners to process personal data prior to nominating candidates for consideration by the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science. The conferences of rectors must furthermore observe a duty of disclosure pursuant to General Data Protection Regulations, including informing the nominee that their data will be passed on to the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science for the purpose of processing the candidates' nominations.

Documents containing personal data will be logged in accordance with the Access to Public Administration Files Act, and will be deposited with the state archival authorities pursuant to archival legislation regulations (for a period of approximately 5 years). Once these documents have been deposited with the state archival authorities the Ministry will retain a copy for a period of approximately 5 years, depending on the precise archiving period, after which the data will be deleted by the Ministry.