



Doctoral Education Network DENSE of SAFER2028

JARMO ALA-HEIKKILÄ, AALTO UNIVERSITY
COORDINATOR OF DENSE

What is DENSE?

1. New doctoral student salary funding instrument in SAFER2028
2. Operational funding for scientific activities and mobility

Purpose: networking of doctoral students – among themselves, between universities and with industry

DENSE Salary Funding

DENSE salary funding for doctoral students:

- Full-time doctoral students at universities (4 years)
- Thesis finalization (4–6 months) of part-time doctoral students
- Model: excellence projects with multiyear funding
- Full cost model, typical funding level 70%
- Evaluation by SG-DENSE (SG5)
- Funding decisions by SAFER MG

Footnote:

General project funding like in KYT and SAFIR still available:

- Mainly applicable for part-time doctoral students

Selection Process for Salary Funding

- Stronger weight on scientific level as a quality criterion
 - The mindset of the SAFIR/KYT programmes has been a challenge for universities: emphasis on practical applicability, not fundamental research
- Relevance for SAFER programme also requested
- Diversity of topics and disciplines within DENSE is an evaluation criterion
- SG-DENSE has members from universities and research organizations in addition to stakeholders
 - Outside experts may be consulted
 - Multidisciplinary SG supports multidisciplinary projects (if proposed)

DENSE Operations and Networking

Activities of **all DENSE network members** to be funded through coordination project:

1. Networking events, such as **annual seminars** where students and members of the professional community meet and present
2. Research exchanges and visits (mobility) of both short (1–2 weeks) and long duration (up to 6 months), including infrastructure use-related costs
3. Participation in conferences, workshops and summer schools
4. Research publication-related costs

Application procedures and selection criteria to be defined by DENSE Steering Group in early 2023

- Probably 2-4 calls per year
- Announced to [DENSE mailing list](#) (to sign up, contact jarmo.ala-heikkila@aalto.fi)

DENSE Steering Group 2023

| | |
|--------|----------------------------|
| STUK | Jarkko Kyllönen |
| Posiva | Antti Poteri |
| TVO | Nina Paaso |
| Fortum | Jyrki Kohopää (vice chair) |
| UEF | Jarkko Akkanen |
| HU | Gareth Law (chair) |
| LUT | Juhani Hyvärinen |
| VTT | Jaakko Leppänen |
| VTT | Elina Huttunen-Saarivirta |
| Aalto | Andrea Sand |
| UTU | Pietari Skyttä |

Interested? Contact jarmo.ala-heikkila@aalto.fi
and sign up to DENSE mailing list!

<https://safer2028.fi/dense/>

To be announced:
DENSE Annual Seminar!