

Standard operating procedure: NordicAST grants

Background

The objectives of NordicAST include supporting studies on antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) to ensure high quality evidence to inform AST practices.

NordicAST has for many years supported [NordicAST projects](#) which are primarily initiated and led by a NordicAST committee member as the project leader.

In addition, in 2026 NordicAST launches **NordicAST grants** to support studies initiated and conducted by employees in Nordic clinical microbiology laboratories which are not initiated or led by NordicAST committee members. NordicAST provides both scientific and financial support for these studies.

Application process

- Applications are accepted twice a year with deadlines **January 15th** and **August 15th**.
- NordicAST can provide funding of up to 100.000 DDK per year and maximum 50.000 DKK per study.
- Funding can cover expenses for reagents and consumables related to the study. Staff costs, incl. travel costs, are not covered.

Step 1 – initial application

- A brief study proposal is submitted to the [NordicAST chairperson](#) by email. The application should include the information described in Attachment 1.
- The study proposal is then reviewed by the NordicAST grant application group, which includes committee representatives from all Nordic countries.
- The proposal is then presented at the next NordicAST meeting, where committee members will prioritize based on scientific quality, relevance for the Nordic countries, and feasibility.

Step 2 – detailed study protocol

- If NordicAST approves the initial study proposal, a detailed study protocol must be developed in accordance with Attachment 2.
- The study protocol should be submitted within three months and will be reviewed by the NordicAST grant application group. The review process may result in a request to modify the protocol, followed by a resubmission.
- The grant will only be awarded after the final version of the study protocol is approved by the NordicAST grant application group. In case of disagreement, the group may consult the NordicAST committee aiming at consensus. In any case, the final protocol will be shared with the NordicAST committee.
- The project will be listed on the NordicAST homepage.

Project process after approval

- The approved amount is transferred to the study account.
- The grant must be utilised within two years of receipt.
- A brief annual project status update is required.
- An economic report along with a 500 word report to the NordicAST committee and a 50-100 word summary for publication on the NordicAST homepage, must be submitted to the NordicAST chairperson within 6 months after the end of conduction of the study or within 2,5 years after receiving the grant, whatever comes first.

Presentation and publication of results

- The results of any study supported by NordicAST should be presented at a NordicAST workshop. The participation fee will be waived for the presenting author.
- All studies should aim at publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals and authorship must adhere to ICMJE rules (icmje.org). Any NordicAST members meeting the authorship criteria should be included in the manuscript writing and reviewing process. The authors should state that NordicAST has partly funded the study.

Version history

Version	Changes
26 June 2026	New document

Attachment 1: NordicAST grant application: Presentation of study proposal

Study title:

Project leader (Name, title and affiliation):

Other project group members (Names, titles and affiliations):

Short description of the study (max. 200 words)

Study aim:

Study design, materials and methods:

Date and place:

Attachment 2: NordicAST grant application: Full application and study protocol

The following documents and information have to be included:

Study title

Project leader (Name, title, affiliation and 1-page CV)

Other project group members (Names, titles and affiliations)

Project protocol (maximum 5 pages), including:

- Background
- Study aim
- Study design and materials and methods, including timeline
- Budget
- Plan for presentation of results
- References

Date and place: