

The Carlsberg Foundation's 150th anniversary

25 September 2026 marks exactly 150 years since the Carlsberg Foundation was established by brewer J.C. Jacobsen.

In his own words, the Carlsberg Foundation was to work 'for the benefit of science and for the honour of Denmark'. J.C. Jacobsen placed great value on the flourishing science of his time. By establishing the foundation, he sought to ensure that a share of the profits from his Carlsberg brewery could be returned to Danish society in the form of grants for independent basic research.

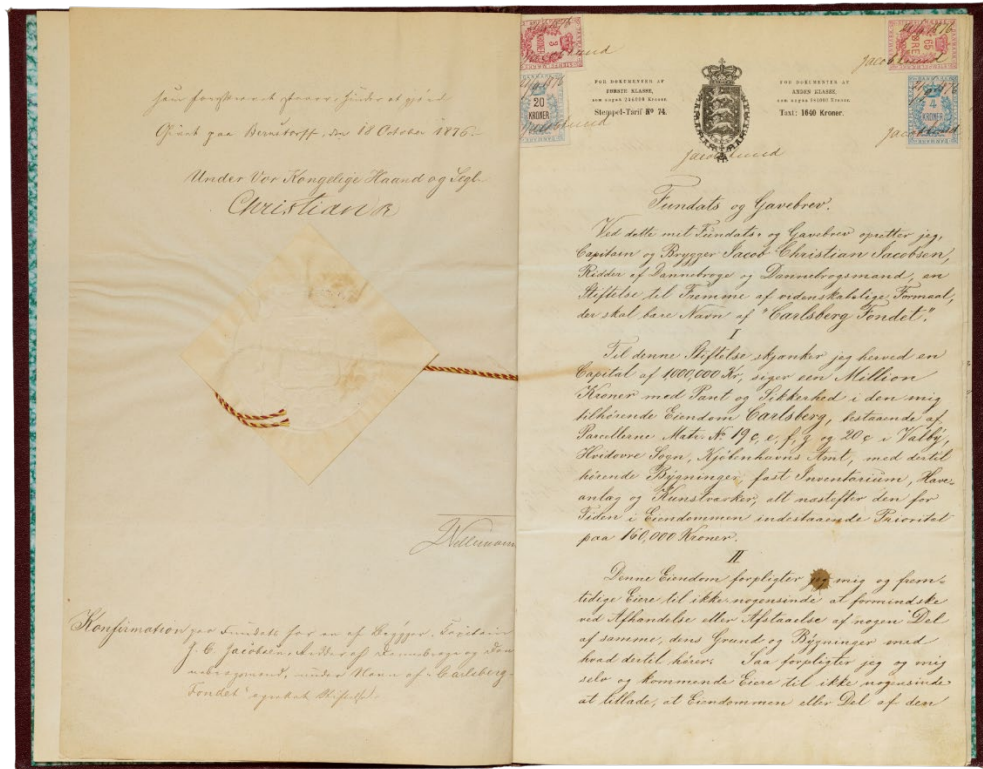
The establishment of the foundation also laid the cornerstone for an entirely new model of engaged ownership: the enterprise foundation, a model that has since become widespread and today plays an important role in Danish society.

For 150 years, we have taken pride in supporting both research and the Danish foundation model for the benefit of Denmark. Throughout 2026, we are celebrating both independent basic research and the Danish foundation model, which was created with the establishment of the Carlsberg Foundation, the world's first enterprise foundation.



Anniversary celebration at Frederiksborg Castle

We will celebrate the anniversary at Frederiksborg Castle on the exact date marking 150 years since brewer J.C. Jacobsen signed the Charter and Deed of Gift by which he established the Carlsberg Foundation.



The museum of National History at Frederiksborg Castle was established in 1878 on the initiative of brewer J.C. Jacobsen when he donated DKK 200,000 towards the restoration of the King's Wing at Frederiksborg Castle after the fire in 1859.

The purpose of the museum was to strengthen the public's historical awareness and cultural understanding. The museum has been a department under the Carlsberg Foundation since 1878.



Three interdisciplinary research centres receive DKK 150 million as the Carlsberg Foundation marks its 150th anniversary

To mark its 150th anniversary, the Carlsberg Foundation is awarding DKK 150 million to three 'Carlsberg Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Centres'.

The centres will address scientific questions such as:

How is artificial intelligence changing human thinking and creativity - and how can we preserve human agency and critical thinking in a future with AI?

How does the design of the landscape affect the recovery of ecosystems and people's management of them - and how can we better predict developments in biodiversity, carbon and water in the future?

How are practices, markets and forms of governance around quantum technology shaped and developed - and how can we best navigate the opportunities and uncertainty that come with it in the future?

All three centres will be established for a six-year period and will jointly be led by several researchers on an equal footing. Each centre will tackle complex issues

that both shape our times and call for in-depth, interdisciplinary exploration with a view to the future.

The three research centres will be recognized as part of the anniversary celebrations at Frederiksborg Castle.

Read more about 'Carlsberg Foundation Interdisciplinary Research Centres':

<https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/en/news/carlsberg-foundation-celebrates-150-years-with-dkk-150-million-for-three-interdisciplinary-research-centres/>



The history of the Carlsberg Foundation

On 25 September 1876, J.C. Jacobsen formally set out the statutes for the Carlsberg Foundation, thereby creating the basis for Denmark's first enterprise foundation. At the same time, he asked the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters, which at that time served, as it does today, as a meeting-place for outstanding Danish researchers, to appoint "five professors from its midst" to form the foundation's board of directors.

Six years later - in 1882 - J.C. Jacobsen instructed in his will that, following his death, all his property, including the Old Carlsberg brewery, should pass to the Carlsberg Foundation.

The foundation took over the brewery on 1 October 1888, the brewer having died in the previous year on a trip to Rome. Thus was the Carlsberg Foundation born as an enterprise foundation, and ever since then brewing, social engagement and support for science in Denmark have gone hand in hand.

Who was brewer and founder of the Carlsberg Foundation J.C. Jacobsen?

The founder of the Carlsberg Foundation, Jacob Christian Jacobsen – better known as J.C. Jacobsen – was born in Brolæggerstræde in Copenhagen. His father, Christen, was an independent brewer, and J.C. Jacobsen's childhood and youth were shaped by schooling alongside work in his father's brewery. He took over his father's small beer brewery in 1835, when the father died. 11 years later in 1846, he was granted royal permission to build the Carlsberg Brewery, which was completed in 1847.

In 1875 he established the Carlsberg Research Laboratory on part of his property with the aim of developing a scientific approach to brewing in order to ensure higher and more consistent beer quality. To this day, the purpose of the laboratory is to generate new knowledge for the benefit of Carlsberg and to contribute to society through research.

In 1876 he established the Carlsberg Foundation through his 'Charter and Deed of Gift' and endowed the foundation with DKK 1 million. The purpose of the foundation was to support research in the natural sciences, mathematics, philosophy, history and linguistics, as well as the Carlsberg Research Laboratory, which the foundation also assumed responsibility for operating. J.C. Jacobsen stipulated that the foundation's board was to consist of five members elected from among the Danish members of the Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and Letters. Today, the Carlsberg Foundation continues to support basic research across the natural sciences, the humanities and the social sciences, as well as the Carlsberg Research Laboratory.



Read more about the anniversary, the celebration at Frederiksborg Castle, J.C. Jacobsen and the Carlsberg Foundation

<https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/en/news/science-for-denmark-since-1876-the-carlsberg-foundation-celebrates-150th-anniversary/>

<https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/en/news/carlsberg-foundation-celebrates-150th-anniversary-in-the-great-hall-at-frederiksborg-castle/>

<https://carlsbergfondet.dk/en/about-the-foundation/our-history/timeline-of-the-foundation-s-history/>

<https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/en/about-the-foundation/our-history/the-history-about-the-carlsberg-foundation/>

<https://www.carlsbergfondet.dk/en/about-the-foundation/our-purposes/>