



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE AND/OR FOR FIXED-TERM DOCTORAL RESEARCHER POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU GRADUATE SCHOOL, FACULTY OF MEDICINE, FINDOS-TURKU DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

Finnish Doctoral Programme in Oral Sciences – FINDOS-Turku

FINDOS-Turku is a part of Finnish Doctoral Program in Oral Sciences (FINDOS), which is a national doctoral training network. FINDOS represents all different fields of oral sciences and brings together preclinical and clinical researchers. This encourages the exchange of knowledge and ideas, and improves the possibilities for translational dental research. FINDOS provides systematic, well-supervised and high-standard doctoral training in the field of oral sciences.

FINDOS-Turku doctoral researchers are privileged to participate in an excellent doctoral training programme including basic and advanced research courses in oral science, as well as transferable skills courses offered by the doctoral programme, FINDOS network and UTUGS. The goal in the doctoral programme is to achieve the doctoral degree from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku in a four years net time. In addition to the supervisor, the progress of the doctoral researcher is supported by a carefully selected follow-up group and the doctoral programme.

[More information about FINDOS-Turku.](#)

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 28 August–13 September 2024, you can apply for:

- a) the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Turku from 1 January 2025 onwards**
- b) a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract**

The position of a doctoral researcher is set to begin on 1 January 2025 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2028). The positions are primarily intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research and doctoral studies. Duties other than those related to doctoral dissertation research, such as teaching duties, must be proportioned so as not to compromise the completion of the doctoral dissertation within the planned schedule. As a rule, up to 5% (a maximum of about 80 hrs per academic year) of the annual working time of the doctoral researcher can consist of teaching.

When determining the length of the employment contract, prior funding granted for pursuing a doctoral degree is taken into account. The maximum length for a doctoral researcher position is four years. A person already awarded with a doctoral degree cannot be chosen as a doctoral researcher under an employment contract.

A doctoral researcher position requires living in Finland for the duration of the employment contract.

The salary is based on the salary system of the university's teaching and research staff. It consists of a task-specific salary component and a personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of a doctoral researcher is at level 2–4. The component based on personal performance is 6–50% of the task-specific salary. The task-specific salary component of an entry-level doctoral researcher is typically on level 2, and the salary range is



usually 2 448–2 649 € per month at the beginning of the employment relationship. A probationary period of 6 months applies.

c) both of the above (a and b)

Doctoral researchers with immunology, immunology-based drug development and/or diagnostics as their field of study have the possibility of applying for the [InFLAMES Doctoral Module](#) and of including the studies offered within the module as part of their doctoral studies.

What is expected of you

When applying for a right to study

- You are required to have completed a relevant Master's degree awarded by a university or a university of applied sciences, or a relevant study programme abroad which in the awarding country gives eligibility for the corresponding level of higher education (Universities Act 558/2009, 37§);
- You must fulfil [the University of Turku language skill requirements](#);
- You are required to fulfil the prerequisites set by the doctoral programme for granting a right to study.
- The eligibility criteria and other general guidelines can be found on the web pages of the [Faculty of Medicine](#), and the [FINDOS-Turku Doctoral Programme](#).

When applying for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract

- You are required to have an active right to study in the doctoral studies of the Faculty of Medicine in the University of Turku. If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine within this call for applications. A right to study is a prerequisite for an applicant to be chosen for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract;
- You are planning to pursue or pursuing your first doctoral degree;
- Possible previous funding for pursuing a doctoral degree granted by University of Turku is taken into account when determining the length of the funding period.

How to apply

The right to study for a doctoral degree

The right to study for a doctoral degree is applied for by filling in an electronic form in the My Studyinfo service and attaching the required additional documents (specified below under Attachments to the application). [A link to the electronic form will be published on the website of the graduate school.](#) The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 August 2024 and closes at 4:00 pm on 13 September 2024.

During one application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of two doctoral programmes at the University of Turku. You can only have one valid study right at a time for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku.

Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. When the application period has ended, you cannot change the doctoral programme you are applying for, or any other information.



In My Studyinfo service, you can only apply for right to study a doctoral degree. If you also want to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract, you must apply for that position separately.

The fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract

The fixed-term doctoral researcher position is applied for by filling in an electronic form in the University of Turku recruitment system and attaching the required additional documents specified below. The positions are announced at the beginning of the application period in the [Open Vacancies](#) at the University of Turku website and on the website of the Graduate School. The application form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 August 2024 and closes at 4 pm (local time in Finland) on 13 September 2024.

All of the required attachments must be submitted before the end of the application period. Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Please note that when applying for both the right to study and a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you must fill in the application with the required attachments **separately in both online systems**.

Attachments to the application

If you are applying for a right to pursue a doctoral degree, you are required to submit all of the attachments described below. If you already have a right to study and you are only applying for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract, you are expected to submit attachments 1–3.

For the application the applicant should prepare:

- a summary of the research plan (max 1000 characters) and
 - the following documents must be in **pdf-format**:
- 1. Research plan** (max 5 pages, see [guidelines](#) and [additional points](#))
The research plan should follow the guidelines for the responsible conduct of research (see [Responsible Conduct of Research \(RCR\) | Finnish National Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\)](#)). The research plans can be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be clearly indicated in the research plan.
 - 2. Curriculum Vitae of the applicant**, including a list of publications when applicable.
Please see the [instructions of Finnish National Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\) for writing a CV](#).
 - 3. Motivation letter (max 1 page)**
The motivation letter is one page long freeform document, which includes the reasons for applying for the doctoral studies in the Finnish Doctoral Program in Oral Sciences (FINDOS-Turku). If the applicant has a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, the applicant must provide reasons for changing over to FINDOS-Turku. A student may hold only one doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.



4. **Supervision and study plan** (Fill in electronically, print and sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject) **NB!** At least one of the supervisors should have access to UTU IT-systems (utu user account). Additional information is available at the Faculty of Medicine webpage, under the "[Supervision](#)" section.
5. **Degree certificates and transcripts of study records**
 - a) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a **higher education institution in Finland**, you must attach your scanned original degree certificates, transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the selection to the electronic application form.
 - b) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a **higher education institution abroad (i.e. outside of Finland)**, you must attach the following items to the electronic application form:
 - scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and that you are applying based on.

If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records are not written in English, Finnish or Swedish, official translations to one of these languages must also be submitted. An official translation here refers to a translation of the educational documents issued by the awarding institution and a translation made by an authorised translator. A transcript in English can be replaced by a Diploma Supplement (DS) awarded by a European educational institution, provided that it contains the information about completed courses and other study attainments.

Please make sure that all attachments are good-quality, easy to read, full colour scans or photographs of the complete required document. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.

6. Verification of language proficiency (if needed)

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15 Aug 2019) on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. Please see [language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school](#).

If the applicant is required to prove their language proficiency with a language test, a scanned certificate of a completed language test must be attached to the application.

7. Copy of a valid passport

Attach a copy of your valid passport or official identification card with photo and information on citizenship. If you have a Finnish personal identity code and you have entered it on the application form, you do not need to attach a copy of your passport.

8. When only one supervisor for doctoral training is proposed, the supervisor's justified plea for approval of only one supervisor must be attached to the application.

See Before applying / Doctoral training at the Faculty of Medicine > Supervision at [Faculty of Medicine instructions](#)



The applicant must deliver all required documents by the end of the application period. Late submissions will not be processed.

Assessment of applications

Assessment procedure

The FINDOS-Turku steering committee will process the applications. Applications may also be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers. External evaluators from the national FINDOS network will evaluate the applications for funded doctoral researcher positions. The applicants for the funded positions may be invited for an interview by the evaluation panel. Please note that, due to the tight evaluation schedule, invitations for interviews will be sent on short notice. The research plans attached to the applications may be checked with the *Turnitin OriginalityCheck* plagiarism detection software in accordance with the University of Turku quality assurance system.

Assessment and selection criteria

In the selection of funded doctoral researcher positions, the following factors are emphasized: quality and feasibility of the research plan, applicant's merits and completed studies as well as the applicant's capability and motivation to complete a doctoral degree. The applicant's research topic must fit in with the profile of the Doctoral Programme. Any other funding received by the applicant for doctoral studies is taken into consideration when determining the duration of the doctoral researcher position.

When admitting the right to study for a doctoral degree, the eligibility criteria of the applicant (see What is expected of you) and the selection criteria of the FINDOS-Turku Doctoral Programme, Faculty of Medicine, are considered in addition to criteria mentioned above. A prerequisite for admission is that there is at least one person who has agreed to act as a supervisor and who fulfils [the qualification requirements for supervisors](#).

Decisions

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree (1 January 2025 onwards) based on the proposal of the steering committee of the Doctoral Programme. The Head of the department decides on recruitment of the applicant for the position of a doctoral researcher based on the proposal of the steering committee of the doctoral programme.

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions. The names of the applicants who have been selected for the position of a doctoral researcher will be announced on the website of the doctoral programme by the end of November 2024.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (UTC +2) on 13 December 2024 according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not give the notification by the end of the allotted time period mentioned above, the applicant forfeits the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme only notifies the one educational institution at which they choose to accept the study place. Notification, i.e. accepting a study place, is binding and may not be cancelled or changed later.

According to Finnish university legislation, an applicant may accept only one study place leading to a higher education degree in Finland during one academic term (autumn term 1 Aug – 31 Dec or spring term 1 Jan – 31 Jul). This rule applies to all higher education, i.e. Bachelor's and Master's level degrees awarded by Finnish universities of applied sciences, Bachelor's and Master's degrees awarded by Finnish universities, and Licentiate and Doctoral degrees awarded by Finnish



universities. This regulation is not applied to study rights received in transfer student selections, from the Åland University of Applied Sciences, from the Police University College, and from institutions of higher education outside Finland.

The applicants who have completed their prior degree in a country other than Finland and who are granted a study right in this call, need to deliver either the original degree certificates or certified copies of the original degree certificates and their translations to the University of Turku, as instructed in the admission notification, on 7 March 2025 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

Appeal for rectification

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection (right to study for a doctoral degree), they have the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Faculty of Medicine within 14 days of the official publishing of the results. The demand must be made in writing and must include detailed grounds for the rectification. The demand for rectification must be sent to the Faculty of Medicine and sent to the address: Outi Irjala, Faculty of Medicine, FI-20014 University of Turku, Finland or outi.irjala@utu.fi.

Additional information

[FINDOS-Turku](#)
[Faculty of Medicine](#)

Contacts:

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