



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR THE A DOCTORAL DEGREE AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IN TURKU DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE (TUDMM)

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the [Faculty of Medicine](#) of [the University of Turku](#), Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine (TuDMM) Please read the more specific instructions below and apply on 8 November 2024 at the latest.

[Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine \(TuDMM\)](#) is a doctoral programme established in the Faculty of Medicine. The programme offers diverse and high-standard doctoral training in the broad field of molecular medicine. The traditionally strong research areas of bio- and clinical medicine at the Turku Campus, such as cancer research, endocrinology and metabolism, immunology, microbiology, and connective tissue research, are all represented among the research groups affiliated to our programme. TuDMM works together with the other local doctoral programmes operating in biosciences and will also participate in the national networks of doctoral programmes in the area of life sciences.

Application period and what can be applied for

General guidelines for postgraduate studies in the [Faculty of Medicine](#).

During the application period 28 October–8 November 2024, you can apply for:

The right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Turku, in Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine, from 1 January 2025 onwards.

What is expected of you?

The right to study for doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine can be applied for by persons who meet the eligibility criteria for pursuing a doctoral degree, as stipulated in the Universities Act (558/2009, Section 37), as well as the set prerequisites for pursuing a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine and the doctoral programme.

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 [Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine](#).

How to apply

Link to the electronic application form and a guide with instruction will be published on the [web page of the doctoral programme](#). Application documents are requested to be written in English.



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). The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 October 2024 and closes at 4:00 pm (local time in Finland) on 8 November 2024. [A link to the electronic form will be published on the website of the graduate school.](#)

During this application round, the applicant may apply to one doctoral programme 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. The application documents will not be returned to the sender. When the application period has ended, you cannot change the doctoral programme you are applying for, or any other information. All required attachments must be submitted by the end of the application period as instructed in Opintopolku.

Attachments to the application

When applying for a right to pursue a doctoral degree, you are required to submit attachments 1-5 and if needed also the attachments 6-8.

For the application form, the applicant must prepare:

- a summary of the research plan (max 1000 characters) in addition to answering to the other questions in the application form, and
- the following documents in **PDF format** for the application:

Please note that all the attachments to the application should be made in English.

1. **Motivation letter** (max 1 page) The motivation to apply to TuDMM is presented in the Motivation letter. Please describe your motivation for completing a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine. The motivation letter is a one page long freeform PDF-document.
2. **CV** of the applicant, **including a list of publications when applicable** (max 2 pages, it is mandatory to use this attached [CV model](#))
3. **Research plan** (max 3 pages excluding references, Arial, font 12). The plan should consist of: abstract, background and significance, aims and hypotheses, how will the plan be carried out in practice, research environment, timetable and funding plan.

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.

4. **Supervision and study plan** – [the Faculty's form](#) (Fill in electronically, print and sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject, see: [Subjects in doctoral training and heads of doctoral subject](#))



- The applicant should have two supervisors with at least one supervisor affiliated with University of Turku and holding the UTU -account to use the UGIS system (UGIS-supervisor).
- One member in the follow-up committee should be well familiar with the practicalities of doctoral training in the faculty and TuDMM.
- To plan the theoretical studies, take into account the Learning outcomes of TuDMM and your career plans.

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.

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.](#)

NB! Please keep your original degree certificates and other relevant educational documents at hand during the application process.

If needed - please see [the instructions: Degree giving the eligibility](#)



6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15 Aug 2019) on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. Please see the [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

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. Otherwise, attach a copy of your valid passport or official identification card with photo and information on citizenship.

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](#)

Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will evaluate the applications and use outside experts, when needed. The applicant's motivation, merits, previous studies, the ability to complete a doctoral degree, and the quality and feasibility of the research are taken into consideration when selecting doctoral researchers. 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. The selection process is step wise and applicants may be invited for an interview after the preliminary selection. The invitation to interview will be sent by email on the second half of November.

For the right to study for a doctoral degree, the eligibility criteria of the applicant and the selection criteria of the faculty (see section *What is expected of you* above) are considered in addition to the criteria mentioned above.

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.

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by forth of December 2024 at the latest.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (local time in Finland) 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 period of time mentioned above, they forfeit the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme only notifies the one educational institution at which they 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, a student 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 and Master level degrees awarded by Finnish universities of applied sciences, Bachelor and Master 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, 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. Contact information: med-doctoral@utu.fi.

Additional information

Faculty of Medicine: Chief Academic Officer Outi Irjala, outi.irjala@utu.fi

Additional TuDMM information

tudmm@utu.fi

TuDMM coordinator Verna Louhivuori, verna.louhivuori@utu.fi

TuDMM director Noora Kotaja, nookot@utu.fi