



20 June, 2024

**Call for applications for a Doctoral Researcher Position  
at the University of Turku Graduate School,  
the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences**

[The Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences \(DPSoc\)](#) is a wide-ranging doctoral programme of the University of Turku Graduate School. The disciplines of the doctoral programme are contemporary history, East Asian studies, economic sociology, speech-language pathology, philosophy, political science, psychology, social policy, social work and sociology.

**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 at the University of Turku, Faculty of Social Sciences from 1 January 2025 onwards, at the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences**
- 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 intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research and postgraduate 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 departmental duties including teaching.

When determining the length of the employment contract, prior funding granted for pursuing a doctoral degree, planned schedule and current phase of the research are 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 working in Finland. The doctoral researcher works in the department of the Faculty of Social Sciences to which his or her main subject belongs. The place of work is Turku. The University of Turku has flexible opportunities for remote work.

The salaries are determined in accordance with the University salary system for teaching and research personnel. 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, depending the progress of the doctoral project. The personal performance component, added on top of the task-specific base salary is also paid. For a doctoral researcher, the salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience



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and will be approximately 2400 to 3300 €/month, depending on the progress of the doctoral project and the person's experience and skills. The position has a probationary period of six months.

**c) Both of the above (a and b)**

**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§).

If the degree that gives you the eligibility for doctoral studies has not been completed by the closing date of this call, you can still apply to this call. However, you must complete your degree and submit scanned copies of your degree certificates by 31 October 2024 to the Faculty (email to [socpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:socpostgraduate@utu.fi)). Until then, the selection is conditional.

- You must fulfil the University of Turku language skill requirements. [Link to language requirements in the web page of the university's graduate school.](#)
- You are required to fulfil the prerequisites set by the Faculty for granting a right to study. For more information, see: [The prerequisites for the right to pursue doctoral studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences](#)

**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 Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences.
- If you have not yet been granted a right to study in the above-mentioned doctoral programme, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences by filling in an electronic form in My Studyinfo service (for details, please, see section "How to apply the right to study for a doctoral degree"). 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;
- You have not previously been granted a full-time four-year funding for pursuing a doctoral degree.

**How to apply**

**Please note, that when applying for both the right to study and a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you will need to fill in the application with the required attachments to the separate online systems (see more information below).**



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The right to study for a doctoral degree is applied for by filling in an electronic form in the My Studyinfo service and the fixed-term doctoral researcher positions are applied for by filling in an electronic form in the University of Turku recruitment system (TalentAdore). For both applications you will need to attach the required additional documents (in pdf form).

Application documents are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2).

### **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 My Studyinfo service and attaching the required additional documents specified in Appendix 1. The 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. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School web page, where the application form can be found.](#)

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 (for details, please, see section “How to apply the fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract”).

### **How to apply the fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract**

The fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract is applied for by filling in an electronic form in the University of Turku recruitment system (TalentAdore) and attaching the required additional documents specified in Appendix 2. The 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.

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. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School web page, where the application form can be found.](#) 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.

A person selected for the position is required to have an active right to study in the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc). If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the DPSoc by filling in an electronic form in My Studyinfo service (for details, please, see section “How to apply the right to study for a doctoral degree”).

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## Evaluation of applications

Applications are reviewed by the steering committee of the doctoral programme and representatives of the doctoral programme disciplines after the application deadline. Applications may also be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers. Shortlisted applicants for the fixed-term doctoral researcher position may be interviewed.

### Admission criteria for the right to study a doctoral degree

The programme steering committee reviews the applications and uses representatives of the programme's disciplines and external experts to assess the applications. The evaluation will take into account the following criteria:

- Quality of the research plan (general quality, feasibility, relation to the doctoral programme research profile). 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.
- Success in previous studies (master's thesis, or equivalent, grade and other studies)
- Availability of resources for supervision

In addition, the applicant's research topic must fit the profile of the doctoral programme.

Applicants' previous higher education degrees must include sufficient studies in social sciences or other fields relevant to the doctoral programme. The steering committee of the doctoral programme will assess the adequacy of previous studies in social sciences or the suitability of previous studies for the doctoral programme when evaluating applications.

You must provide in the application a supervisor who meets [the requirements of the faculty](#) and who has approved your research plan and agreed to be the first supervisor of the research.

A maximum of 50 doctoral researchers per academic year are admitted into the faculty. The steering committee of the doctoral programme will make a proposal on granting the study rights to a doctoral degree.

### Evaluation of applications for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract

Particular attention will be paid to the following:

- Quality of the research plan (general quality, feasibility, relation to doctoral programme research profile). 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.
- Success in previous studies, if the applicant has not yet started a doctoral degree at the University of Turku (master's thesis, or equivalent, grade and other studies)
- scientific merit and progress in doctoral studies

The evaluation is carried out as an overall assessment, taking into account the stage of the research career. The doctoral programme steering committee makes a selection proposal for the candidates to be selected



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for the doctoral researcher positions under an employment contract. The selection proposal of the steering committee is based on the evaluation of external experts. The funding needs of applicants in relation to the funding periods available will also be taken into account. The doctoral programme aims to promote all its research fields, which may be taken into consideration when positions are filled.

## Decisions

### Study right decisions

The Dean of the Faculty decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal of the steering committee of the doctoral programme. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 30 November 2024.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 13 December 2024 at 3:00 pm (local time in Finland) 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 (in a paper form) by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Link to instructions on providing original educational documents and country-specific requirements.](#)

### Doctoral researcher positions under employment contract decisions

The steering committee of the doctoral programme makes a proposal to the departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences for the selection of the doctoral researchers. The decision on the appointment is made by the Head of each department. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions. The names of the persons who have been selected for the funded positions will be published on [the website of the Doctoral Programme](#) by 30 November 2024. A selected applicant has to notify their acceptance of the position according to the instructions given in the offer notification.



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### **Additional information**

[Link to DPSoc web pages](#)

Doctoral Education Specialist Kirsi Tammi, [socpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:socpostgraduate@utu.fi)

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Application documents for a study right application

Appendix 2: Application documents for a doctoral researcher position under an employment contract



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## Appendix 1. Application documents for a study right application

### Faculty of Social Sciences

1. **Research plan**, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#), 'Research plan')

The research plans attached to the applications can be checked via the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software, in accordance with the quality assurance system of the University of Turku.

2. **Curriculum vitae (CV)**, max 3 pages. A CV includes a list of publications. Please see the instructions of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity for writing a CV <https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>
3. **Motivation letter** (reasons for applying to study a doctoral degree). Motivation letter is a max two-page-long freeform document, which includes the the motivation for pursuing doctoral studies in DPInvest in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Turku.
4. **Commitment by a supervisor** (a file or a copy of an email message by a professor or a researcher with a doctoral degree working at the University of Turku to confirm that she/he is willing to supervise the applicant's dissertation project. See the disciplines and contact information of the Faculty: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences/units>

**Note:** At least one of the named supervisors need to represent the applicant's discipline (i.e. sociology or psychology) at the University of Turku. (A commitment from one supervisor is sufficient at the application stage.)

### 5. Degree certificates and transcript 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:
  - a. scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
  - b. scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)

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.



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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**

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. [Link to language requirements in the webpage of the university's graduate school.](#)

If you are required to prove your 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. Certificate of right to use the research material**

If you have a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, you must provide reasons in your application for changing over to a doctoral programme in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Turku (give the information on the electronic application form in a specified field, a separate attachment is not needed). If any materials collected during the previous supervision relationship are planned to be used in the dissertation, a consent to the applicant's use of research materials must be submitted.





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## **Appendix 2. Application documents for a doctoral researcher position under an employment contract**

Please fill the electronic application form on TalentAdore and attach the required application documents into it, if not otherwise stated. Please make sure that all attachments are of good quality, are easy to read, full-colour scans or photographs of the complete required document. The application documents should be in pdf-format. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.

Applicants must include with their application:

- **Research plan**, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#), 'Research plan')  
The research plans attached to the applications can be checked via the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software, in accordance with the quality assurance system of the University of Turku.
- **Curriculum vitae (CV)**, max 3 pages. A CV includes a list of publications. Please see the instructions of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity for writing a CV  
<https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>
- **Motivation letter**, max 2 pages
- **Information on completed studies**
  - If you are a Doctoral researcher at DPSoc, UTU: Up-to-date transcript of study records for doctoral studies downloadable from the Peppi system
  - If you don't have a right to study for doctoral degree in DPSoc at the University of Turku: a scanned degree certificate and transcript of records of your previous degree (original scanned documents in English, Finnish or Swedish or an official translation in one of these languages)
- any other documents relevant to the selection