



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (DPCR)

1. Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research

The Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (DPCR) promotes high quality clinical research and supports doctoral training in clinical medicine and other closely related research areas focusing on the etiology, diagnostics and treatment of diseases including the translational medicine and studies on health service systems. A basic degree in medical science is not compulsory. Other degrees are acceptable too, if the research topic of the applicant relates to questions or methods relevant in clinical medicine. The doctoral researchers of DPCR pursue a doctoral degree in either the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Technology or Turku School of Economics. Turku Brain and Mind is a subprogramme of DPCR. Parallel doctoral and clinical specialist training is supported by the doctoral programme.

2. Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 28 October – 8 November, 4 pm (local time in Finland) 2024, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the at the University of Turku in the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Technology or Turku School of Economics from 1 January 2025 onwards.

3. Who may apply

- You are required to have completed a relevant higher university degree 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 and the faculty in question for granting a right to study. This information is available on the webpage of each faculty:
 - [Faculty of Medicine](#)
 - [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)
 - [Faculty of Science](#)
 - [Faculty of Technology](#)
 - [Turku School of Economics](#)

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 (in the motivation letter) for changing over to the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research. A doctoral researcher may hold only one doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

4. How to apply

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. **The application documents are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1).**

A link to the electronic application form and the guide with instructions will be published [on the webpage of the doctoral programme](#). The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 October and closes at 4 pm (local time in Finland) on 8 November.

During one application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of 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.



The application form and the enclosures must be submitted by the application deadline. Applications that have not arrived by the deadline will not be processed. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

5. Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the DPCR will review the applications. The applications may also be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers. 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.

In the selection process, the following factors are emphasized: quality and feasibility of the research plan, applicant's merits and completed studies as well as 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.

For the right to study for a doctoral degree, the eligibility criteria of the applicant and the selection criteria of the Faculty (see 3 above) are considered in addition to the criteria mentioned above.

6. Decisions

The Dean/Vice Dean of research affairs 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. Additional information on the decision process on the webpages of each faculty. All applicants will be personally informed about the admission decisions by 4 December 2024.

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 June 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, 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.](#)

7. Appeal for rectification

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection (right to study for a doctoral degree), he/she has the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Faculty in question within 14 days of the official publishing of the results.

8. Further instructions

Doctoral Programme Coordinator Mikko Tähtö-Pakkanen [mijuri\[at\]utu.fi](mailto:mijuri[at]utu.fi), [the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research](#), [Faculty of Medicine](#), [Faculty of Science](#), [Faculty of Technology](#), [Turku School of Economics](#) and [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)

Appendix begins on the next page.



Appendix 1: The list of application documents

For the application the applicant must prepare:

- a summary of the research plan (max 1000 characters) and
- the following documents must be in **pdf-format**:

It is requested that the application documents are written in English or Finnish.

1. Research plan

- Note [the model of the DPCR](#) (incl. the funding plan, updated 2024)
- Note [instructions on how to describe the statistical methods](#).

When applying for the Turku School of Economics, the research plan should be maximum of 10 pages, for more instructions see [Applying to Doctoral Studies at Turku School of Economics | University of Turku \(utu.fi\)](#)

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 the list of publications (e.g. [Template for researcher's curriculum vitae](#))

3. CV from one supervisor including their publication list 2022-2023 (max 2 pages)

4. Motivation letter (max 1 page)

The motivation letter is a one page long freeform document, which includes the reasons for applying for the doctoral studies in the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (DPCR). Please describe your motivation for completing a doctoral degree and how you think the doctoral degree will affect your career.

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 DPCR. A student may hold only one doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

If you are applying to the Turku School of Economics, please also follow [the instructions of the School](#):

- A one-page letter of motivation. In the letter, the applicants must state reasons why they are applying specifically to the University of Turku and to the chosen major subject. The applicants must also express the novelty value the intended research would bring to the scientific field. The letter must also include the applicant's reflections on their professional aspirations.

5. Signed supervision plan including the study plan (a mandatory attachment, use template)

- Faculty of Medicine [supervision and study plan](#)
 - Please read the [instructions on supervision and the follow-up committee on the Faculty of Medicine webpage](#) (updated 2024) before making your application. Two follow-up committee members must come from outside the doctoral researcher's own research group.
 - Faculty of Medicine [Subjects in doctoral training and heads of subjects](#)



- Faculty of Science [supervision and study plan](#)
- Faculty of Technology [supervision and study plan](#)
- Faculty of Social Sciences commitment by a supervisor (file or copy of 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 applicant's dissertation project). No template for study plan.
- Turku School of Economics [supervision plan](#) or a commitment letter by supervisors. [Study plan template](#)
- **When preparing a study plan, please use [the study guide](#).**

NB! At least one of the supervisors should have access to UTU IT-systems (utu user account).

- 6. A copy of the degree certificates and the transcript of study records** (for additional information please see the section [Degree giving the eligibility](#))
- 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)
 - c. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. Letter of support for the collaboration provided by the representative of the research organisation/principal investigator, *if* the data is mainly collected outside the University of Turku or the Varha collaborate area. Attach as "other attachment" in the Studyinfo application form.

10. Supervisor's comment on the funding, *if* the thesis work is a main job for the applicant (not required for the Turku School of Economics). Attach as "other attachment" in the Studyinfo application form.

11. A justified application for the approval of a supervisor, when proposing only one supervisor. One supervisor can be appointed only in special and justified situations. (Only when applied for to the Faculty of Medicine. In other Faculties two supervisors are required).

When applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the [Faculty of Social Sciences](#), [Faculty of Science](#), [Faculty of Technology](#) or [Turku School of Economics](#) the required attachments may vary from the above-mentioned. Please check and follow the detailed instructions on the [www-pages](#) of the faculty in question.

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