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(TIAS)

www.utu.fi/tias

TIAS Call Information

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TIAS

- Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Turku
- Established in 2008 to promote high quality interdisciplinary research, internationalisation and enhance the University's research reputation
- Covers the Faculties of Education, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences and Turku School of Economics
- Mixture of postdoctoral (within 5 years of PhD) and collegium (mid career, maximum 12 years from PhD) Research Fellows
- New programme from 2023 – Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES – 8 years from PhD) funded by EU MSCA
- All Fellows funded for three years with salary and research allowance (3 600 € per annum in 2024)
- Concentrate on one research project (max 5% teaching)
- TIES Fellows undertake secondments outside of Higher Education

Funding

- Initially mainly internally funded
- Project funding from Academy of Finland PROFI 5 (500 000 € over 5 years):
- Kone Foundation: Scholars at Risk work – 470 000 €
- MSCA: TIES: 1.14M €
- NOS-HS: Beyond Advanced Studies – 43 000 €
- Fulbright Visiting Expert – ca 10 000 €
- Encourage Fellows to apply for funding – 3 of 6 successful applicants from UTU for Research Council of Finland Academy Research Fellowships in 2023 came from TIAS

TIAS 2024

- 14 Collegium Fellows
- 14 Postdoctoral
- 8 Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES) Fellows
- Director, Coordinator, Controller, Ethics Expert, Visiting Professor of Mentoring, 2 Visiting Professors, Professor of Practice, three Research Assistants – see <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/research-collegia/tias/staff>

Our work

- Emphasis on inter- and cross-disciplinary work
- Activities:
 - Monthly meetings for Fellows, social events, joint projects, publications
 - Symposia, seminars, workshops, etc. for wider community
 - Outreach activities including public lecture series in Turku Main Library and [Turku Research Collegia blog](#)
- Career development focus including personal mentors and the unique Visiting Professor of Mentoring : Ulrika Maude (University of Bristol)
- Social media: Just under 1900 followers on X @TIAS_UTU – please follow!
- Annual Reports online (www.utu.fi/tias)

TIAS Calls

- Generally make annual Calls for new Fellows
- Application via research proposal appraised by reviewers, based on Research Council of Finland (Suomen Akatemia) processes and best practice
- 2021: Call i: 218 applications for 3 postdoctoral positions, 116 for 4 Collegium. Success rate under 2% and under 4%
- 2021: Call ii: 172 applications for 4 postdoctoral and 65 for 4 Collegium
- 2023-24: 287 applications for 6 postdoctoral and 101 for 3 Collegium
- *‘only exceptionally strong candidates are likely to be successful’*

Current Call

- [Instructions for applicants on the TIAS website](#)
- Deadline: 8 January 2025
- Start for appointees: 1 September 2025

What makes a good application?

- Read the Instructions to Applicants *extremely* carefully and follow them! They are *instructions* – not choices
- Ensure eligibility:
 - Postdoctoral – 5 years since PhD
 - Collegium - 12 years since PhD and not tenured Professors (i.e. with the title of Professor)
 - Career breaks allowed – outline in CV
- Address all issues point by point – in order!
- *Do what it says*
- Failure to do so means you are out

What are we looking for?

- Looking for people to do excellent research – *in Turku!*
- No quotas (faculties, international, gender etc)
- Research excellence is criteria throughout
- Extremely competitive – what is your USP? Why should we want *you*? Why is your proposal *fantastic*?
- Clear links to UTU and its strategic research priorities an advantage
- Fully understand *where* you are applying to and *why*

Sections of Application

- Research plan abstract (1 page; max 2 500 characters, plus spaces)
- Research plan (maximum 25 000 characters, plus spaces)
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- List of publications (maximum 2 pages; please indicate the five most important)
- Letter of Motivation (maximum 2 pages)
- ***NB:** All parts have maximum limits and we have the right to exclude candidates who break limits*
- Plus Doctoral Certificate (with English translation if necessary)
- *Extensive details on website – please read them*

Location

- Successful applicants are managed within departments which need to have the ability to supervise them – hence the need to link your work to Turku
- TIAS has some accommodation of its own, other Fellows are physically located in departments
- ‘In their motivation letter, applicants should state how their work supplements existing work at the University, identifying the department within which they wish to be located’
- No need to contact departments or individuals but *do* ‘outline how their work relates to one or more of the multidisciplinary themes and areas of strength of the University of the University of Turku’

Review Process

- Eligibility check
- Long listing (closer check of viability)
- Shortlisting in consultation with faculties
- TIAS Board agrees shortlist
- External Review (2/3 of reviewers international)
- TIAS Board makes final decision
- Reviews sent to all *shortlisted* candidates

What reviewers look at

- Reviewers asked to consider *equally*:
 - Candidates' previous achievements *relative to career stage*
 - Quality and feasibility of research project
 - Project's theoretical and methodological framework
 - Proposed publications and outputs
 - Overall ranking (not simply an average)
- Ethics are addressed but not ranked. 'In addition to committing to the (Finnish) Code, applicants should briefly identify the elements of their research plan which may raise ethical issues and how they intend to deal with these'
- Each ranked category is marked 1-6 (so maximum 30 per reviewer x 3 = 90 total – in line with Research Council of Finland procedures)

Dates

- 15 November – 8 January: Call Open
- No late submissions
- Note that deadline is 16.00 *EET not CET*
- January-February: Eligibility, longlisting, shortlisting
- March-May: External review
- Early June: Decisions announced on TIAS website



Thank you

and....

Good Luck!

Questions?

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