

19.2.2024

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHER POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU GRADUATE SCHOOL, DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN LAW**

The [Doctoral Programme in Law](#) is responsible for the doctoral education in law as part of the University of Turku Graduate School (UTUGS). All fields of law are represented in the programme. The programme gives qualification for multidisciplinary doctoral dissertation research.

### **Application period and what can be applied for**

During the application period 28 February–28 March 2024 the Doctoral Programme in Law invites applications for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku. The study right begins on 1 August, 2024.

### **The right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Humanities, University of Turku 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), may apply for the right to pursue the doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law, University of Turku. The general prerequisite for the right to complete postgraduate studies is a Master's degree or an equivalent higher university degree. Applicants must hold an applicable higher university degree or must have completed an applicable education abroad, which in the country in question, qualifies the student for postgraduate studies equivalent to those offered at the University of Turku, or must be able to otherwise demonstrate the knowledge and readiness needed for scientific postgraduate studies. A degree or other form of education will be considered relevant if the work is of a high standard, includes advanced studies (or equivalent), and is in a field that adequately prepares the candidate for conducting the research proposed in the dissertation plan/preliminary research plan.

The applicant must fulfil [the University of Turku language skill requirements](#).

### **Applying**

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 applications documents are listed in the end of this call.

The form will be accessible as the **application period begins on 28 February 2024 and closes at 3 pm (local time in Finland) on 28 March 2024.**

During one application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of three 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. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.



A person applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree must find a supervisor for their thesis before submitting their application. At least one supervisor must be employed by the Faculty of Law at the University of Turku. The applicant must contact a potential supervisor directly in order to arrange the supervision. The applicant should acquaint themselves with the research profiles of the teaching staff of the faculty and consider if their research plan fits adequately the research profile of a staff member. The contact information of the staff can be found on the web site of the faculty: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-law/contact>

### Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will assess the applications that meet the eligibility criteria for the right to study for a doctoral degree.

The steering committee will take into consideration the following criteria:

- the quality and feasibility of the research plan,
- the connection of the research project to the research focus areas of the faculty,
- previous legal studies, their content and level of studies in the cases where the applicant has completed a university degree other than a higher law degree,
- possible publications,
- the merits and grade of the written thesis of a higher university degree and possible postgraduate degree

The applicant must name in his/her application at least one supervisor who has given his/her consent and meets the qualification requirements of the faculty.

### Decisions

The Dean decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree based on the proposal of the Steering Committee of the doctoral programme. The admission decisions are made by the end of May 2024. All applicants will be personally informed about the decision.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (Finnish time) on 14 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, 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 6 September 2024 at the



19.2.2024

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.](#)

### Other information

In spring 2024, the Faculty will be updating its curricula and the guidelines and regulations for doctoral studies, which may result in changes to the regulations for doctoral studies and doctoral dissertation form 1 August 2024. An approved applicant will complete their studies in accordance with the regulations that will come into force on 1 August 2024, and instructions for updating the personal study plan will be provided separately.

### Further information

Coordinator Kirsi Tuohela ([lawpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:lawpostgraduate@utu.fi) tel. +358 50 329 0514)

## APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

The application consists of an electronic form and required documents. Applicants should prepare the following documents and attach them to the electronic application form as PDF files. Please read the list carefully and see instructions on the required documents at: <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/doctoral-programme-in-law/admission> > Description of the application documents

1. **A research plan** for a doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the Faculty of Law. The maximum length of a research plan should not be exceeded. By attaching the research plan to the application form, the applicant gives permission to check the research plan with Turnitin OriginalityCheck software (a system for electronic plagiarism detection). The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be indicated in the research plan.
2. **A résumé (CV)** in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK) <https://tenk.fi/en/advice-and-materials/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>. The CV should include the list of publications.
3. **An agreement from the person or persons proposed to act as a supervisor to the applicant.**

The supervisor should send the agreement directly to the doctoral programme at [lawpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:lawpostgraduate@utu.fi)

### 4. Postgraduate study plan

The applicant must make a preliminary plan about the studies included in the doctoral degree and the schedule. The study plan is updated continuously during the doctoral studies.

### 5. Degree certificates and the 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:
- 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.

## 6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. [See the language requirements on 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. Reasons for transferring from another doctoral programme

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 Education of the University of Turku. 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.