



Call for Applications for Doctoral Candidate Position at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences (PCS)

1. Short description of the doctoral programme

The Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences (PCS) is responsible for the doctoral education of physical and chemical sciences at the University of Turku. The research disciplines included in the programme are astronomy, chemistry, materials engineering, materials science, physics and theoretical physics. The supervisors of the doctoral students are mainly from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Department of Chemistry, The Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO or Turku PET Centre. The website of the programme can be found at www.utu.fi/PCS.

2. Application period and what can be applied

During the application period **1 September – 18 September 2020**, the Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences invites applications for:

a) *The right to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Turku at the Faculty of Science and Engineering*

The right to pursue a doctoral degree begins on 1 January 2021.

b) *A fixed term Doctoral Candidate position.*

The doctoral training position begins on 1 January 2021 at the earliest and it can be applied for a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2024). The position is primarily intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research with the aim of completing the doctoral degree in four years. Duties assigned to a doctoral candidate employed on a UTUGS-funded training position, other than those related to doctoral dissertation research, must not compromise the full-time doctoral dissertation research. As a rule, teaching can be at most 5% (maximum about 81 h/ academic year) of the annual working time of the Doctoral Candidate.

The salary is based on the salary system of Finnish universities and it consists of a task-specific salary component and personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of the doctoral candidate is at level 2–4, where the position-specific salary component is 2033.29 – 2535.20 € per month. In addition, there is a component based on personal performance, which is at most 6-50 % of the position-specific salary. The task-specific salary component is typically on the level 2 at the beginning of the doctoral training. The position has probation period of six months.

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

3. Who may apply

3.1. *The right to pursue a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Science and Engineering at University of Turku can be applied 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 eligibility criteria for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the [Faculty of Science and Engineering](http://www.utu.fi/sci).



The degree which grants the applicant the eligibility for the study right for a doctoral degree must be completed within the application period, or after the application deadline on the condition that the applicant graduates and submits a scanned degree certificate and a transcript of study records to the University of Turku email sci-docstudies@utu.fi by 16 November 2020.

3.2. A fixed-term Doctoral Candidate position can be applied for by

- All doctoral candidates who have the right to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Turku in the Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences.
- Persons who have not yet been granted the right to pursue a doctoral degree in PCS Doctoral Programme, but who match the profile of the doctoral programme and meet the eligibility criteria for the right to pursue a doctoral degree (see 3.1). As the right to pursue a doctoral degree is a precondition for accepting a doctoral training position funded by the University, the person must apply for both a right to pursue a doctoral degree and a UTUGS-funded position in this call for applications.
- The duration of the UTUGS-funded doctoral training position is at most four years. In the specification of the length of the funding period of a doctoral student, all her/his previously earned funding for doctoral training is also counted. A student who has earned four years full-time funding for doctoral studies is not entitled to UTUGS-funding.
- A person who already has a doctoral degree is not eligible for a UTUGS-funded doctoral training position.

According to Section 39 of the University of Turku, Rules of Procedure, a person selected for the post of a Doctoral Candidate is required to have a higher university degree and must have an accepted research plan. In addition, when acquiring her or his degree or otherwise, she or he is required to have demonstrated the ability and motivation to undertake postgraduate studies and the capacity to complete a doctoral degree in accordance with the research plan.

4. Applying

Doctoral Candidate position and the right to study for a doctoral degree at the Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences are applied by *filling in an electronic form and attaching the required additional documents (documents attached into the electronic application form must be in pdf-format)*. Application documents are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1).

The link to the application form will be published when the application period starts on 1 September 2020 at <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/how-to-apply/call-for-applications> and instructions for the application will be published on the website of the doctoral programme <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/doctoral-programme-in-physical-and-chemical-sciences/admission>. The application documents should be written in English. The application form opens on 1 September, 2020 and closes on 18 September, 2020, at 23.59 p.m. (local time in Finland). Applications which arrive after the deadline will not be considered. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Right to pursue the doctoral degree

The application procedure for the right to pursue the doctoral degree has two phases. In the first phase, the applicant submits an application (the electronic form) where she/he describes herself/himself and her/his plans regarding the doctoral studies and a dissertation. The doctoral programme evaluates all the applications and checks the eligibility of the applicant, how the applicant's topic of research interests fits the profile of the programme and assesses the merits of the applicants. Moreover, the doctoral programme checks if it can offer a suitable supervisor and research director to the applicant.



The most competitive applicants for whom the programme can offer a supervisor will be invited to the second phase. These applicants will be contacted personally and the programme will appoint supervisors and research directors to them. Together with a supervisor the applicant compiles a second phase application which includes a research plan, a study plan and a financing plan.

5. Assessment of applications

The applications will be assessed by the steering committee of the doctoral programme. If needed the best applicants will be interviewed. 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. Any other funding received by the applicant for doctoral studies is taken into consideration when determining the duration of the Doctoral Candidate position.

6. Assessment and selection criteria

In addition to the eligibility criteria related to the right to pursue a doctoral degree, also the applicant's motivation, merits, completed studies, grade of the master's thesis (or corresponding work) and capability to complete a doctoral degree, as well as the quality and feasibility of the research plan are taken into account in the selection of doctoral candidates. The admitted applicants must have a good knowledge of the English language. A prerequisite for admission is that there is at least one person who has agreed to act as a supervisor and who fulfills the qualification requirements for supervisors. Additionally, the research topic of the Doctoral Candidate must fit the profile of the doctoral programme. The doctoral programme is multidisciplinary and aims to promote all its research fields. This may be taken into consideration when positions are filled.

At the Faculty of Science and Engineering, in order to be accepted as a doctoral candidate, an applicant is required to have completed the advanced studies in the Master's degree (or equivalent) with a "Good" grade or equivalent (Grade 3 in the Finnish grading system). If this is not the case, or if the subject of the Master's degree differs from the field of research of the intended postgraduate studies, candidates will be asked to supplement their knowledge and skills to achieve the required level.

7. Decisions

The steering committee of the Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences makes a proposal on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree and funded doctoral candidate positions. The Vice-Dean of research affairs of the Faculty of Science and Engineering decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal. The decision on employing an applicant on a doctoral candidate position is made by the head of that department which the employment contract belongs to.

Applicants will be informed about the decisions personally no later than on 30 November 2020. In addition, the names of the persons who have been selected for the funded positions will be published on the website of Doctoral programme (www.utu.fi/pcs) by the end of November 2020, unless the applicant especially denies to publish her/his name. If the applicant does not wish her/his name to be published on the www-pages, the applicant can notify this in the application form.



8. Delivering the degree certificates

The University of Turku will check the authenticity of the degree certificates of **admitted study right applicants**. If the previous degree which gives you the eligibility to apply for the study right has been completed in a Finnish higher education institute, then the checking is done from the information system of Finnish universities. Please, inform your Finnish identity code in the application form to ensure that the checking can be done.

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 by 26.2.2021. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline set in the admission notification, she/he forfeits the study right. Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements are available here: <https://www.utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/original-documents>.

9. Acceptance of the study place and registration

An admitted applicant has to inform University of Turku of her/his acceptance of the study place by the 15 December 2020 at 15.00 (local time in Finland) according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not give the notification in the time indicated, she/he shall forfeit the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree has to notify only the degree in which she/he accepts the study place. Notification is binding, it is not possible to cancel or change it later.

According to Finnish legislation, student may accept only one study place leading to a higher education degree in Finland during one academic term (autumn term 1.8.-31.12. or spring term 1.1.-31.7). This rule applies to all higher education. Higher education degrees included in the rule are Bachelor degrees and Master degrees awarded by Finnish universities of applied sciences, Bachelor degrees and Master degrees awarded by Finnish universities and Licentiate and Doctoral degrees awarded by Finnish universities. Only exemptions are Transfer student selections, the Åland Polytechnic and the Police College of Finland.

All students pursuing a doctoral degree must register for each study term as instructed by the University of Turku. Only students who have registered as being present can participate in the teaching and pursue studies at the university.

10. Appeal proceedings

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection (right to study for a doctoral degree), she/he has the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to Faculty of Science and Engineering within 14 days of the official publishing of the results. Well-justified requests must be delivered to the email address: sci-docstudies@utu.fi.



11. Additional information

<http://www.utu.fi/PCS>

Email: sci-docstudies@utu.fi

Coordinator Nina Lehtimäki (nina.lehtimaki@utu.fi, +358 50 358 9413) or

Head of the programme professor Juri Poutanen (puh. +358 40 064 0684, juri.poutanen@utu.fi).

Contact address of the Faculty

sci-docstudies@utu.fi

Chief Academic Officer

Sanna Ranto

Faculty of Science and Engineering

University main building

University hill

FI-20014 University of Turku

Finland.



APPENDIX 1. Description of the application documents

a) *Applying for a right to study for a doctoral degree*

Attach to the electronic application form the documents 1-2 and 4-5, possibly document 6.

b) *Applying for a Doctoral Candidate position*

Attach to the electronic application form the documents 1-4, possibly document 6.

c) **Applying both of the above, i.e. a right to study for a doctoral degree and a Doctoral Candidate position**

Attach to the electronic application form the documents 1-2 and 4-5, possibly document 6.

Application documents

1. Curriculum vitae

Please see the instructions of TENK for writing a CV
<http://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>

2. List of publication

Please see the instructions in the website: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-science-and-engineering/doctoral-training/how-to-apply> (Application documents)

3. Research plan

If an applicant has already the right to study at the Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences, then she/he has to attach a research plan to his/her application. The maximum length of the research plan is 3 pages. Research plan should contain:

- Research topic in the context of the field
- Scientific motivation and goals
- Methods and environment of the research
- Applicants own role and specialization in the study
- Timetable of research
- Current state of doctoral thesis and postgraduate studies.

By attaching the research plan to the application form the applicant gives permission for checking the research plan with Turnitin Originality Check (system for electrical plagiarism detection).

Those applicants who apply for the study right, will write a research plan in the second application phase. The applicant will write the plan together with her/his supervisor.



4. A copy of the degree certificates and the transcript of study records

A. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make him/her eligible for doctoral studies at a University in Finland, the degree certificates, the transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may influence in the student selection must be attached in the electronic application form.

B. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make her/him eligible for doctoral studies at a University abroad (i.e. outside Finland), s/he must attach the following items to the electronic application form:

- Scanned original degree certificates (in the same language as the degree was completed in)
- Scanned original transcripts of study records (in the same language as the degree was completed in)
- Scanned other original educational documents, which may be of relevance in the student selection.
- If the original degree certificates, transcript of study records and other educational documents are not written in English, Finnish or Swedish, official translations of the documents 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 or a translation made by an authorized translator. A transcript in English can be replaced by a Diploma Supplement awarded by a European educational institution if it contains the information about completed courses and other study attainments.

5. Motivation letter (*applicants for a right to study*)

Motivation letter is one page long freeform document, which includes the reasons for applying for the doctoral studies in the Doctoral Programme in Physical and Chemical Sciences.

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. **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.** See the language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/how-to-apply/language>

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some language test centres have been temporarily closed. For this reason, in the application period of autumn 2020, the delivery deadline for the language test result has been extended. **The test result should be available for online verification by 16 November 2020 at the latest.** The applicant also needs to deliver a scanned copy of the result by that day to the email sci-docstudies@utu.fi. If the test result is not available by 16 November 2020, the application is rejected. The acceptable language tests and their minimum requirements are listed on the website (see the link above).

The applicant must deliver all required attachments by the end of the application period. Late applications will not be processed.