

Call for Applications to Pursue a Doctoral Degree at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme in Technology (DPT)

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Technology or at the Turku School of Economics of the University of Turku [Doctoral Programme in Technology \(DPT\)](#). Please read more specific instructions below and apply on 28 March 2024 at the latest.

Short description of the doctoral programme

The Doctoral Programme in Technology (DPT) operates in the disciplines of natural sciences (biosciences, computer sciences, and industrial engineering and management), technology (biotechnology, information and communication technology, materials engineering, mechanical engineering, and industrial engineering and management), and humanities (phonetics). A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree can be completed in following major subjects: biochemistry, food chemistry, industrial engineering and management, molecular biotechnology and diagnostics, molecular plant biology, phonetics, or computer science. A Doctor of Science in Technology (DSc (Tech)) degree can be completed in following major subjects: biotechnology, food development, sustainable biotechnological processes, information and communication technology, materials engineering, mechanical engineering, or industrial engineering and management. A degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or Doctor of Science in Economics and Business Administration (DSc (Econ & Bus Admin)) can be completed in the major subject of information systems science. More detailed description of the doctoral programme can be found at www.utu.fi/dpt.

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period **28 February – 28 March 2024**, you can apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Turku at the Faculty of Technology or at the Turku School of Economics (Information Systems Science as field of research) at the Doctoral Programme in Technology **from 1 August 2024 onwards**.

What is expected of you

- 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§). **At the Faculty of Technology:** If the degree which 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 a scanned degree certificate and a transcript of study records to the Faculty email tech-doc@utu.fi by 31 July 2024. Until then, the selection is conditional. When applying for Information Systems Science at the Turku School of Economics, the degree that gives eligibility for the study right for a doctoral degree must be completed at the latest on 28 March 2024.
- You must fulfil the [University of Turku language skill requirements](#).
- You are required to fulfil the prerequisites set by [the Faculty of Technology](#), or [the Turku School of Economics](#) for granting a right to study. For more information, see the section "Assessment of applications".

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 (documents attached into the electronic application form must be in pdf-format). The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 February 2024 and closes on 28 March 2024 at 3 pm (local time in Finland). Application documents are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1) and on the website of the doctoral programme. [A link to the website where the instructions for the application will be published.](#) It is recommended that application documents are written in English. All of the required attachments must be submitted before the end of the application period. Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. The application documents will not be returned to the sender. 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.

Assessment of applications

The applications will be assessed by the DPT doctoral programme. Also external experts from outside the University of Turku may be consulted. If needed, the applicants can 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.

In addition to the eligibility criteria related to the right to pursue a doctoral degree, also the educational and research-related merits, the quality of the research plan and its feasibility in the planned schedule, and the research potential based on the application documents are used in the evaluation and selection of doctoral researchers. In the selection process e.g. applicant's motivation, merits and completed studies will be taken into account. The admitted applicants must have a good knowledge of the English language. The research topic of the doctoral researcher must fit the profile of the doctoral programme.

In the Faculty of Technology, new doctoral researchers have to agree on the supervision arrangements (research director, at least two qualified supervisor) with the department in question before submitting the application (Supervision plan form). According to the Rector's decision each doctoral researcher must have **at least two supervisors**. One supervisor acts as the main supervisor. The faculty may appoint only one supervisor for a doctoral researcher based on application and for a valid reason. A supervisor must have completed a doctoral degree, and at least one of a doctoral researcher's supervisors must be a professor (professor, associate professor or assistant professor) or an adjunct professor. In the Faculty of Technology, one of the doctoral researcher's supervisors has to be employed by the University of Turku or be docent (adjunct professor) of the University of Turku.

At the Faculty of Technology, in order to be accepted as a doctoral researcher, applicants are required to have been successful in their prior studies. If the field of the Master's degree (or equivalent) differs from the field of research of postgraduate studies or there are other shortcomings in prior studies, knowledge and skills may be required to be supplemented to achieve a sufficient level. The appointed research director of a postgraduate student gives a statement in the supervision plan on the possible need for so-called bridging studies.

- If the success of the applicant in the prior studies is not sufficient, a research director must take a stand in the supervision plan if bridge studies are needed.
- If the applicant does not hold a previous degree in the field of research they are applying for, a research director must take a stand in the supervision plan on possible bridge studies.
- There can be maximum 30 ECTS of bridge studies. Bridge studies cannot be included in postgraduate studies of 40 ECTS.



NOTE: The selection criteria for postgraduate studies at Turku School of Economics are used in the selection for applications to the right to pursue a doctoral degree in Information Systems Science.

See the selection criteria, including requirements for the research plan from

<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/turku-school-of-economics/research/doctoral-training/applying>

Decisions

The steering committee of the Doctoral Programme makes a proposal on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree. The (vice-) dean of research affairs of the faculty decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal.

Applicants will be informed about the decisions personally by the end of May 2024.

In the Faculty of Technology, the decision is conditional for those who were not graduated before the end of application time and who has not graduated and delivered the degree certificate to the faculty before the decision. If applicant does not graduate and deliver the certificate at the latest on 31 July 2024, the right to study will be cancelled.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 14 June 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 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.

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 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 instructions

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

Email: tech-doc@utu.fi (Faculty of Technology)
or tsedoctoralprogramme@utu.fi (Turku School of Economics)
Coordinator Nina Lehtimäki (nina.lehtimaki@utu.fi; +358 50 348 9413), or
Head of the Programme Eevi Rintamäki (+358 50 430 9491, eevi.rintamaki@utu.fi)

Contact address of the faculty

Faculty of Technology

tech-doc@utu.fi

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Coordinator Jenni Heervä

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Appendix 1. Application documents

Please fill the electronic application form and attach the required application documents with it, if not otherwise stated. The application documents must be in pdf-format.

a) Application for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Technology of the University of Turku

In addition to the electronic application form, documents 3-6 and possibly documents 7-9 must be submitted. In addition, documents 1-2 are recommended to be submitted.

b) Application for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the Turku School of Economics of the University of Turku (Information Systems Science as field of research)

In addition to the electronic application form, documents 3-4 and 6 and possibly documents 7-9 must be submitted. In addition, documents 1-2 are recommended to be submitted.

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 (Application documents):

<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-technology/doctoral-training/how-to-apply>

3) Dissertation research plan (*in English*) (*mandatory*)

In the Faculty of Technology, **the maximum length of the research plan in all is 5 pages** (Times New Roman 12pt or equivalent; line spacing 1). Research plan should contain:

- Name of the applicant
- Planned title of the doctoral dissertation
- Description of research topic and scientific goals
- Research methods, experimental design and research environment
- Placement of the dissertation research in a possible wider research context of the group
- Timetable of research
- Current state of doctoral thesis and postgraduate studies.
- List of references

For applicants in Information Systems Science the maximum length of research plan is 10 pages, and cover and list of references. See more information from the selection criteria for postgraduate studies at TSE: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/turku-school-of-economics/research/doctoral-training/applying>

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](#)). 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). The use of artificial intelligence (AI)

to assist in the preparation of the research plan in a wider role than checking grammar or generating short expressions should be clearly indicated in the research plan.

4) A copy of the degree certificates and the transcript of study records (*mandatory*)

- A. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make them 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 selection must be attached in the electronic application form.
- B. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make them eligible for doctoral studies at a University abroad (i.e. outside Finland), they 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.

Those applicants who have been granted a right to study and who have completed their prior degree abroad have to submit either the original degree certificates or certified copies of the degree certificates and other educational documents and the official translations of the documents to the University of Turku at the latest in 6 September 2024. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline set in the admission notification, they forfeit the study right. [Link to the instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

- C. **In the Faculty of Technology**, if the degree that gives eligibility for the study right for a doctoral degree is not completed by the deadline of application time, an up-to-date transcript of study records must be attached to the application.

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.

If you have completed the former degree(s) which make you eligible for doctoral studies at a university abroad (i.e. outside Finland), please make sure to have original degree certificates and other relevant educational documents ready at hand if you are granted a right to study. Instructions will be given in the admission notification.

5) Applicants applying for a study right from the Faculty of Technology: Supervision plan signed by supervisor(s), a research director and the applicant (*mandatory for applicants at the Faculty of Technology*)

In the Faculty of Technology, a supervision plan is a mandatory attachment of the application. Please find the supervision plan form in the website: <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpt/admission>.



6) Motivation letter (*mandatory*)

Motivation letter is one page long freeform document, which includes the reasons for performing a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in Technology, and also your career plans after graduation (e.g. with regards to academic career / in Finland or elsewhere).

7) Verification of language proficiency (*possibly mandatory, check below*)

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision 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 language requirements on the website of the university's graduate school:

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

8) Copy of a valid passport (*possibly mandatory, check below*)

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) Continuous company / organization (other than University of Turku) commitment to employee's post-graduate studies (*possibly needed, check below*)

A freeform document, in which a company / organization (representative of a company / organization, e.g. superior) express of being aware of the applicant's post-graduate studies and shows support (e.g. level or type of support, possible resources) for applicant's studies while the applicant works at the same time at the company / organization. The commitment should express also the impact of the thesis work for the company / organization.

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