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## Call for Applications for Doctoral Researcher Positions 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 \(DPT\)](#) and/or for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract. Please read more specific instructions below and apply on 15 September 2023 at the latest.

### Short description of the doctoral programme

The Doctoral Programme in Technology (DPT) operates in the disciplines of natural sciences (biosciences and computer sciences), 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, molecular biotechnology and diagnostics, molecular plant biology, phonetics, computer science, or industrial engineering and management. 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](http://www.utu.fi/dpt).

### Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period **28 August – 15 September 2023**, you can apply for:

- a) 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 January 2024 onwards.**
- b) A fixed term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract**

The position of a Doctoral Researcher is set to begin on 1 January 2024 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2027). The positions are intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research. Duties other than those related to doctoral dissertation research, such as teaching duties, must be proportioned so as not to compromise the completion of the doctoral dissertation within the planned schedule. As a rule, up to 5% (a maximum of about 80 hrs per academic year) of the annual working time of the Doctoral Researcher can consist of teaching.

When determining the length of the employment contract, prior funding granted for pursuing a doctoral degree is taken into account. The maximum length for a Doctoral Researcher position is four years. A person already awarded with a doctoral degree cannot be chosen as a Doctoral Researcher under an employment contract.

The Doctoral Researcher works at the Department of Computing, Department of Life Technologies, Department of Management and Entrepreneurship, Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering or in Turku Bioscience Centre.

A doctoral researcher position requires residence in Finland.



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The salary is based on the salary system of the university's teaching and research staff. It consists of a task-specific salary component and a personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of a Doctoral Researcher is at level 2–4. The component based on personal performance is 6–50% of the task-specific salary. The task-specific salary component of an entry-level Doctoral Researcher is typically on level 2, in which case the salary range is 2 313 – 3 273 € per month at the beginning of the employment relationship. A probationary period of 6 months applies.

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

Those applicants who are not citizens of an EU/EEA country and who have been granted a right to study for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku in the spring 2023 application round or who are granted a right to study in the autumn 2023 application round may apply for the Finland Fellowship funding for the year 2024. The funding is applied for by checking the corresponding field on the application form. For more information, see <https://www.utu.fi/fi/en/research/utugs/finlandfellowship>.

Doctoral researchers in the fields of immunology, immunology-based drug development and/or diagnostics have the opportunity to apply for and carry out a part of their doctoral studies in the InFLAMES Doctoral Module. See: <https://www.utu.fi/en/yliopisto/tutkimus/inflames/inflames-tohtorimoduuli>.

## What is expected of you

### When applying for a right to study:

- 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, 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 [tech-doc@utu.fi](mailto:tech-doc@utu.fi) by 16 November 2023. 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 15 September 2023.
- 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".

### When applying for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract:

- You are required to have an active right to study in the doctoral studies at the University of Turku in the DPT Doctoral Programme in. If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the DPT Doctoral Programme within this call for applications. A right to study is a prerequisite for an applicant to be chosen for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract.
- You are planning to pursue or pursuing your first doctoral degree.
- You have not previously been granted a full-time four-year funding for pursuing a doctoral degree.



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## How to apply

The right to study for a doctoral degree and/or fixed-term Doctoral Researcher positions are applied for by filling in an electronic form and attaching the required additional documents (documents attached into the electronic application form must be in pdf-format). [A link to the electronic form will be published on the website of the graduate school.](#) The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 August 2023 and closes at 11:59 pm (local time in Finland) on 15 September 2023. 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. Applications which do not contain the mandatory application documents will not be taken into consideration. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

## 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.

## Evaluation of applicants applying the right to pursue a doctoral degree

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 on the possible need for so-called bridging studies.

- If the success of the applicant in the prior studies is not sufficient, a statement of research director is needed as attachment of the application. The statement must take a stand on how the applicant has supplemented their knowledge and skills to achieve the required level: by studies, work experience and/or publications related to the field of doctoral thesis research.
- If the applicant does not hold a previous degree in the field of research they are applying for, a statement of research director is needed as attachment of the application: what is the suitability of the



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previous degree for the applied research field. The statement must take a stand on possible bridge studies, and the justification may take applicant's work experience and knowledge in relation to planned doctoral thesis work into account. There can be maximum 30 ECTS of bridge studies. Bridge studies cannot be included in postgraduate studies of 40 ECTS.

- The research director is same person, who is suggested to be the research director in applicant's doctoral thesis work.
- The research director's statement must be based on the application and its attachments.

**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>

### Evaluation of applicants applying for the fixed-term doctoral researcher position

In addition to the eligibility criteria related to the right to pursue a doctoral degree, criteria used in the selection of doctoral researchers for fixed-term doctoral researcher positions include:

- The quality of the research plan and its feasibility in the planned schedule
- Applicant's motivation;
- Applicant's competence evaluated on the basis of (when relevant) success in the prior studies, work experience, capability to conduct the planned research, international activities, scientific publications, and completed doctoral studies;

The evaluation is carried out as an overall assessment, but the research career ladder step has an impact on the evaluation e.g. completed doctoral studies or scientific publications are not expected of applicants who are at the beginning of their research career. Any other funding received by the applicant for doctoral studies can be taken into consideration when determining the duration of the doctoral researcher position. The Doctoral Programme is multidisciplinary and aims to promote all research fields, which may be taken into consideration when positions are filled.

### Decisions

The steering committee of the Doctoral Programme makes a proposal on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree and funded doctoral researcher positions. The (vice-) dean of research affairs of the faculty decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal. The decision on employing an applicant on a doctoral researcher position is made by the head of that department which the employment contract belongs to.

Applicants will be informed about the decisions personally by the end of November 2023. 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/dpt](http://www.utu.fi/dpt)) by the end of November, unless the applicant especially denies to publish their names. If the applicant does not wish their names to be published on the www-pages, the applicant can notify this in the application form.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 15 December 2023 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.



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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 4 March 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.](#)

## Further instructions

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

Email: [tech-doc@utu.fi](mailto:tech-doc@utu.fi) (Faculty of Technology)  
or [tsedoctoralprogramme@utu.fi](mailto:tsedoctoralprogramme@utu.fi) (Turku School of Economics)

Coordinator Nina Lehtimäki ([nina.lehtimaki@utu.fi](mailto:nina.lehtimaki@utu.fi); +358 50 348 9413), or  
Head of the Programme Eevi Rintamäki (+358 50 430 9491, [eevi.rintamaki@utu.fi](mailto:eevi.rintamaki@utu.fi))

### Contact address of the faculty

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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.

**If the application does not contain the mandatory application documents, it will not be taken into consideration.**

**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 3-7 are mandatory attachments, documents 9-12 are possibly mandatory attachments, and in addition attachments 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 6-7 are mandatory attachments, documents 9-11 are possibly mandatory attachments, and in addition attachments 1-2 are recommended to be submitted.

**c) Application for a funded doctoral researcher position**

In addition to the electronic application form, documents 1, 3-4 and 6-8 are mandatory attachments, and in addition attachment 2 is recommended to be submitted.

**1) Curriculum vitae (*mandatory for funded position applicants*)**

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

**2) List of publication (*needed if you have publications*)**

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 for all applicants*)**

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.



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- 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 for all applicants*)

- 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 student 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 4 March 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.*



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**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 study right applicants at the Faculty of Technology*)**

You must use the supervision plan template found here:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpt/admission>.

**6) Supervisor's statement (*mandatory for all applicants*)**

The supervisor must use the template found here:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpt/admission>. The template includes instructions.

Supervisor must submit the statement directly to [tech-doc@utu.fi](mailto:tech-doc@utu.fi) (subject line should contain "DPT Supervisor Statement").

**7) Motivation letter (*mandatory for all applicants*)**

Motivation letter is maximum 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).

**8) Transcript of study records of completed post-graduate studies (*mandatory for funded position applicants who already have the study right*)**

**9) Verification of language proficiency (*possibly mandatory for study right applicants, check below*)**

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 language requirements on the website of the university's graduate school:

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

**10) Copy of a valid passport (*possibly mandatory for study right applicants, 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.

**11) A statement of continuous commitment by a company/organization (outside UTU) to an employee's doctoral degree (*potentially 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 doctoral education and shows support (e.g. level or type of support, possible resources) for applicant's doctoral degree completion 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 absence of a statement will be interpreted as a lack of commitment by the company/organization to support the applicant's doctoral degree completion.





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**12) Research director's statement (*potentially mandatory for study right applicants at the Faculty of Technology, check below*)**

1. If the success of the applicant in their prior studies has not been sufficient, a statement of research director is needed as attachment of the application. The statement must take a stand on how the applicant has supplemented their knowledge and skills to achieve the required level: by studies, work experience and/or publications related to the field of doctoral thesis research.
2. If the applicant does not hold a previous degree in the field of research (s)he is applying for, a statement of research director is needed as attachment of the application: what is the suitability of the previous degree for the applied research field. The statement must take a stand on possible bridge studies, and the justification may take applicant's work experience and knowledge in relation to planned doctoral thesis work into account. There can be maximum 30 ECTS of bridge studies. Bridge studies cannot be included in postgraduate studies of 40 ECTS.

The research director is the same person, who is suggested to be the research director in applicant's doctoral thesis work. The research director's statement must be based on the application and its attachments, and it must be signed by the research director.

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