



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (DPCR)

The Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (DPCR) promotes high quality clinical research and supports doctoral training in clinical medicine and other closely related research areas focusing on the etiology, diagnostics and treatment of diseases including the translational medicine and studies on health service systems. A basic degree in medical science is not compulsory. Other degrees are acceptable too, if the research topic of the applicant relates to questions or methods relevant in clinical medicine. The doctoral candidates of DPCR pursue a doctoral degree in either the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Technology or Turku School of Economics. Turku Brain and Mind is a subprogramme of DPCR. Parallel doctoral and clinical specialist training is supported by the doctoral programme.

1. Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 1 March – 18 March 2022 the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research invites applications for **the right to study for a doctoral degree** at the University of Turku at the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Technology or Turku School of Economics (starting 1 August 2028).

NB: During spring 2022, a process of updating the study curricula as well as instructions and regulations concerning doctoral training is taking place at the Faculty of Medicine. Therefore, the regulations concerning e.g. postgraduate studies and doctoral theses may change from 1 August 2022 onwards. Accepted applicants will conduct their doctoral degree according to the regulations that come into effect on 1 August 2022. If the personal study plan for postgraduate studies needs updating to comply with the new regulations, instructions for this will be provided accordingly.

2. Who may apply

The right to study for a doctoral degree at the 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) as well as the eligibility criteria set by the faculty in question. This information is available on the [www-page](#) of each faculty:

- [Faculty of Medicine](#)
- [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)
- [Faculty of Science](#)
- [Faculty of Technology](#)
- [Turku School of Economics](#)

If the applicant has a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, the applicant must provide reasons for changing over to the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research. A doctoral candidate may hold only one doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

3. Applying

The application consists of an electronic form and attached documents (in pdf format). These are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1).

A link to the electronic application form and the guide with instructions will be published [on the www-page of the doctoral programme](#). The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 1 March 2022 and closes at 11:59 pm (UTC +2) on 18 March 2022. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

4. Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the DPCR will process the applications. The applications may be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers. 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 the selection, the following factors are emphasized: quality and feasibility of the research plan, applicant's research merits and completed studies. Additionally, applicant's capability and motivation to complete a doctoral degree are evaluated. The applicant's research topic must fit in with the profile of the Doctoral Programme.

When admitting the right to study for a doctoral degree, the eligibility criteria (see section 2) and the selection criteria of the Faculty in question are considered in addition to the criteria mentioned above.

5. Decision

The steering committee of the DPCR will make a proposal of accepted applicants to the Faculty. Additional information on the decision process is available on the www-pages of each faculty. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 31 May 2022 at the latest.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of his/her acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (UTC +3) on 15 June 2022 according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not give the notification by the end of the allotted period of time mentioned above, he/she forfeits the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme only notifies the one educational institution at which he/she accepts 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, a student 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 and Master level degrees awarded by Finnish universities of applied sciences, Bachelor and Master 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 by 15 September 2022 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline set in the admission notification, he/she forfeits the study right. [Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements](#).

6. The appeal process

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection (right to study for a doctoral degree), he/she has the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Faculty in question within 14 days of the official publishing of the results.

7. Information

Coordinator: Tiia Forsström, [tfors\[a\]utu.fi](mailto:tfors[a]utu.fi), [the doctoral programme in clinical research](#)

[Faculty of Medicine](#), [Faculty of Science](#), [Faculty of Technology](#), [Turku School of Economics](#) and [Faculty of Social Sciences](#)



Appendix 1: The list of application documents

The applicant must prepare

- a summary of the research plan (max 1000 characters) and
- the following documents for the application:

1. Research plan

- Note [the template of the DPCR](#) (incl. the funding plan)
- For your information some [instructions on how to describe the statistical methods](#).

When applying for the Turku School of Economics, the research plan should be maximum of 10 pages, for more instructions see [Applying to Doctoral Studies at Turku School of Economics | University of Turku \(utu.fi\)](#)

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).

2. CV of the applicant including the list of publications (e.g. [Template for researcher's curriculum vitae](#))

3. CV from one supervisor (max 2 pages) and the list of publications 2019-2021

4. Postgraduate study plan (use template)

- Faculty of Medicine [template](#)
- Faculty of Science template in supervision plan
- Faculty of Technology template in supervision plan
- Faculty of Social Sciences, no template
- Not required when applying for the Turku School of Economics
- Use [study guide](#)

5. Signed supervision plan (a mandatory attachment)

- Faculty of Medicine [supervision plan](#)
- Faculty of Medicine [Subjects in doctoral training and heads of subjects](#)
- Faculty of Science [supervision plan](#)
- Faculty of Technology [supervision plan](#)
- Faculty of Social Sciences commitment by a supervisor (file or copy of email message by a professor or a researcher with a doctoral degree working at the University of Turku to confirm that she/he is willing to supervise applicant's dissertation project)
- Turku School of Economics [supervision plan](#) or a commitment letter by supervisors.

NB! At least one of the supervisors should have access to UTU IT-systems (utu user account).

6. A copy of the degree certificates and the transcript of study records (for additional information please see the section [Degree giving the eligibility](#))

A. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make him/her eligible for doctoral studies at the [University of Turku](#) or has a right to pursue specialization training at the University of Turku, doctoral degree certificate is not needed as an application enclosure. (NB! Only for those applying for the Faculty of Medicine. When applying for the other Faculties please follow instructions B.)



B. 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 be of relevance in the student selection must be attached to the electronic application form.

C. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make him/her 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 and other educational documents 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, a translation made by an authorized translator, or a certified copy of a translation issued by the awarding institution or 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 as instructed in the admission notification by 15 September 2022 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, he/she forfeits the study right. [Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

NB! Please keep your original degree certificates and other relevant educational documents at hand during the application process.

7. Verification of language proficiency (if needed)

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15 Aug 2019) on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. Please see [language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school](#).

- 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

8. Letter of support for the collaboration provided by the representative of the research organisation/ principal investigator, *if* the data is mainly collected outside the University of Turku or TYKS Expert Responsibility Area.

9. Supervisor's comment on the funding, *if* the thesis work is a main job for the applicant (not required when applying for the Turku School of Economics).

10. Letter of motivation, only when applying for the Turku School of Economics.

A one-page letter of motivation. In the letter, the applicants must state reasons why they are applying specifically to the University of Turku and to the chosen major subject. The applicants must also express the novelty value the intended research would bring to the scientific field. The letter must also include the applicant's reflections on their professional aspirations.

11. A justified application for the approval of a supervisor, when proposing only one supervisor. (Only when applying for to the Faculty of Medicine. In other, Faculties two supervisors are required).



When applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Technology or Turku School of Economics, the required attachments may vary from the above-mentioned. Please check and follow the detailed instructions on the www-pages of the faculty in question.

The applicant must deliver all required documents by the end of the application period. Any late submissions will not be processed.