UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

Call for Applications
05 February 2026

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHER POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU GRADUATE SCHOOL, UTULING DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

1 Doctoral Programme at the Faculty of Humanities: Utuling

Utuling is the Doctoral programme in Language and Translation Studies in the Faculty of Humanities and a member of the University of Turku Graduate School (UTUGS). Utuling offers postgraduate studies across the disciplines and it brings together different majors and fields of study. The graduate students' areas of research belong to linguistic, translation and literary scholarship, and their approach is often multi- or cross-disciplinary.

2 Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 2 March – 16 March 2026 the Utuling Doctoral Programme invites applications for **the right to study for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku. The study right begins on August 1, 2026.**

Who may apply

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 Humanities, 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 their knowledge and readiness 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.
For more information please visit**:**
https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-humanities/doctoral-training -> Postgraduate Study Guide

3 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 form will be accessible as the application period begins on 2 March 2026 and closes at 4 pm (local time in Finland) on 16 March 2026.

During one application round the applicant may apply to one doctoral programme at the University of Turku. A doctoral researcher 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.

4. Application Documents

The application consists of an electronic form and the required documents. Applicants should prepare the following documents and attach them to the electronic application form as PDF files. Please read the list below carefully. (The recommended lengths of the documents must not be exceeded.)

1. **Research plan** (max. 5 pages, for guidelines see: https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-humanities/doctoral-training/how-to-apply ->Research Plan
   By attaching the research plan to the application form the applicant gives a permission to have the research plan checked with *Turnitin OriginalityCheck* software (a system for electronic plagiarism detection).

2. **Letter of motivation**
   The motivation letter is a one-page freely formatted document which includes the reasons for applying for doctoral studies at the University of Turku.

3. **Degree certificates and transcripts of study records**

   A. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s), which make them eligible for doctoral studies at a university in Finland, the scanned or electronic original 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.

   B. If the applicant has completed former degree(s) that 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 or electronic original degree certificates (in the language in which the degree was completed),
   - scanned or electronic original transcripts of study records (in the language in which the degree was completed),
   - scanned or electronic other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and on which the application is based.

   If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records are not written in English, Finnish or Swedish, official translations into 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.

4. **Postgraduate study plan**

   In addition to the thesis, the doctoral degree includes a postgraduate study module. The application must be accompanied by a preliminary postgraduate study plan in accordance with

the curriculum of the doctoral programme, indicating the content of the postgraduate studies and a provisional timetable for the completion of the studies.

5. **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.

   Applicants that are required to prove language proficiency with a language test must attach a scanned certificate of a completed language test to the application.

6. **Statement of the major subject**

   The applicant must ask for a statement concerning their application from the professor in charge of postgraduate studies at the department (major subject) they wish to join. **A positive statement in which two supervisors are named by the professor in charge of doctoral studies in the major subject is a prerequisite. Without a positive statement and two supervisors, the application will not be taken into consideration**. The professor is asked to send the statement directly to the faculty, humpostgraduate(at)utu.fi, by the end of the application period.
   SUPERVISION
   Well before submitting the application (usually for at least a month before), the applicant must contact the department/major subject that most closely corresponds to their research interests and agree on a preliminary research plan and a study plan as well as on the arrangements concerning the supervision of the future doctoral dissertation.
   The contact persons can be found here: https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/doctoral-programme-in-languages-and-translation-studies/admission (See: Majors and professors in charge of doctoral studies).

7. **Copy of a valid passport**

   Please attach a copy of your valid passport or official identification card with a 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.

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

4 Assessment of applications

Applications which arrive in time and meet the criteria of the Doctoral Programme will be evaluated by the Steering committee of the programme. The evaluation will take into consideration the quality of the research plan, the feasibility of the plan, the applicant's motivation and the statement of the major subject. On the proposal of the Steering Committee the Dean will grant the right to pursue a doctoral degree.

All application documents must be written either in Finnish, Swedish or in English. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.
For the evaluation process of applications for the study right, please see: Admission Criteria in https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-humanities/doctoral-training/how-to-apply

5 Decisions

The admission decisions will be made by 29 May 2026. 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 15 June 2026 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 9 September 2026 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 are available here: https://www.utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/original-documents

6 Appeal for rectification

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection (right to study for a doctoral degree), they have the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Faculty of Humanities within 14 days of the official publishing of the results. Contact and further information: humpostgraduate@utu.fi

Further information:
https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-humanities/doctoral-training -> Postgraduate Study Guide

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