

Faculty of Medicine**Call for applications for the right to study for doctoral degree and also for fixed-term doctoral researcher positions at the University of Turku Graduate School, at the Faculty of Medicine or the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Technology in the Doctoral Programme on Drug Research and Diagnostics (DRD)****Doctoral Programme on Drug Research and Diagnostics (DRD)**

Doctoral Programme on Drug Research and Diagnostics (DRD) is a postgraduate programme in Drug Discovery and Development at the University of Turku. The training provides a comprehensive overview of the drug development process, spanning from molecular and mechanistic levels to preclinical and clinical drug research, pharmaceutical development, and pharmacoepidemiology. Similarly, comprehensive training is provided to those who focus on research towards diagnostic methods and their applications.

The research is conducted in active groups at the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Science, or the Faculty of Technology. Applicants interested in joining are encouraged to contact the principal investigators directly to agree upon supervision.

Industrial PhD (iPhD) training in DRD

DRD offers an industrial doctorate track (iPhD) conducted in collaboration with industrial partners. Doctoral researchers on the iPhD track can conduct their research primarily in an industrial environment or close collaboration between the industrial partner and the University of Turku, and are supervised by both industrial and academic supervisors. The academic training consists of academic secondments and postgraduate education courses at the University. The research is conducted within a collaborative research project, as outlined in the research and financial plans that have been agreed upon between the partners. Additionally, if needed, separate agreements are made regarding confidentiality, Intellectual Property Rights, and the publication plan.

Applicants interested in this track are requested to select the iPhD track option in the application process. Applicants need to inform in their Supervision plan that they apply to the iPhD track: When applying at the Faculty of Medicine, place the information under the section 4 "Other details/aspects"; When applying at *the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Technology*, place the information under "*Other things agreed*". In general, the iPhD track adheres to all the rules and regulations of the faculty in question and the DRD, in terms of both research input and educational and curriculum responsibilities of a Doctoral Researcher of the University of Turku and the DRD.

Application periods and what can be applied for

The degree requirements for the doctoral researchers are stated in the Academic Postgraduate Study Guide for 2024-2027 of each Faculty separately. In addition, the doctoral

studies in DRD are guided by a doctoral programme specific study guide
[Faculty of Medicine](#) or
[Faculty of Science](#) or
[Faculty of Technology](#)

During the application period 29 August–12 September 2025, you can apply for:

- a) ***the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Technology at the University of Turku from 1 January 2026 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 2026 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2029). The positions are intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research and doctoral studies. 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.

A doctoral researcher position requires working in Finland. The place of work is Turku. The University of Turku has flexible opportunities for remote work.

The salary is based on the salary system of university teaching and research staff. It consists of a task-specific salary component and personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of a Doctoral researcher is at level 2–4. The salary of a doctoral researcher is approximately 2400- 3300 € per month at the beginning of the employment relationship. A probationary period of 6 months applies.

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

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§) as well as the eligibility criteria for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine or at Faculty of Science or Faculty of Technology.
- You must fulfil [the University of Turku language skill requirements](#).
- You are required to fulfil the prerequisites set by the doctoral programme and the

Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Science or Faculty of Technology for granting a right to study. Information on the webpages of the faculties:

[Faculty of Medicine](#)

[Faculty of Science](#)

[Faculty of Technology](#)

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 DRD doctoral programme. In addition, you must demonstrate the ability to undertake doctoral studies and complete a doctoral degree in accordance with the research plan (University of Turku Rules of Procedure 16.1.2022). If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the DRD doctoral programme. 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.

How to apply

Please note, that when applying for both the right to study and a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you will need to fill in the application with the required attachments to the separate online systems (see more information below). The right to study for a doctoral degree is applied for by filling in an electronic form in the My Studyinfo service and the fixed-term doctoral researcher positions are applied for by filling in an electronic form in the University of Turku recruitment system (TalentAdore). For both applications you will need to attach the required additional documents (in pdf form). Application documents are specified below in the section "*The application should include the following attachments*". It is requested that application documents are written in English.

Eligible applicants with a research topic fitting the scope of DRD can apply. The motivation to apply to DRD is presented in the motivation letter. Each applicant should have two supervisors* with at least one supervisor affiliated with University of Turku and holding an UTU -account to use the UGIS system. To plan the theoretical studies, applicants should take into account the Learning outcomes of DRD, their research project and individual career plans.

*At the Faculty of Medicine: When only one supervisor for doctoral training is proposed, the supervisor's justified plea for approval of only one supervisor must be attached to the application.

How to apply the right to study for a doctoral degree:

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 specified below in the

section “*The application should include the following attachments*”. The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 29 August 2025 and closes at 4 pm (local time in Finland) on 12 September 2025. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School web page, where the application form can be found.](#)

During one application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of two 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.

Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. When the application period has ended, you cannot change the doctoral programme you are applying for, or any other information.

In My Studyinfo service, you can only apply for right to study a doctoral degree. If you also want to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract, you must apply for that position separately (for details, please, see section “*How to apply the fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract*”).

How to apply the fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract

The fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract is applied for by filling in an electronic form in the University of Turku recruitment system (TalentAdore) and attaching the required additional documents specified below in the section “*The application should include the following attachments*”. The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 29 August 2025 and closes at 4 pm (local time in Finland) on 12 September 2025.

The positions are announced at the beginning of the application period in the Open Vacancies at the University of Turku website and on the website of the Graduate School. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School web page, where the application form can be found.](#)

Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. When the application period has ended, you cannot change the doctoral programme you are applying for, or any other information.

A person selected for the position is required to have an active right to study in the DRD doctoral programme (called DRDP until 31.7.2025). If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to pursue a doctoral degree in the DRD (called DRDP until 31.7.2025) doctoral programme by filling in an electronic form in My Studyinfo service (for details, please, see section “*How to apply the right to study for a doctoral degree*”).

The application should include the following attachments (*The application documents will not be returned to the sender*):

At Faculty of Medicine

If you are applying for a right to study for a doctoral degree, you are required to attach the documents described below.

If you are applying for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you are required to attach documents 1-3. The degree certificate and transcript of records (document 5) from your previous degree must also be attached to the application for technical reasons, even though they will not be taken into account in the selection process.

- 1. Motivation letter** (Max 1 page)
- 2. CV** of the applicant (it is mandatory to use this attached [CV model](#))
- 3. Structured research plan** approved by the supervisor (max 5 pages).

The plan should consist of: abstract, background, aims and hypotheses, significance, how will the plan be carried out in practice, research environment, timetable and funding plan.

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 the research plan to be checked with the *Turnitin OriginalityCheck* plagiarism detection software. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be clearly indicated in the research plan.

- 4. Supervision and study plan** – [Supervision and study plan](#) (Fill in electronically, print and sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject)
See: [Subjects in doctoral training and heads of doctoral subject](#)

Applicants to the iPhD track select the iPhD track in their application. The applicants to the iPhD track add to **Supervision plan** to the place for item 4 “**Other details / aspects**” that they apply to iPhD track.

5. Degree certificates and transcripts of study records

- a) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a higher education institution in Finland, you must attach your scanned original degree certificates, transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the selection to the electronic application form.
- b) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a higher education institution abroad (i.e., outside of Finland), you must attach the following items to the electronic application form:

- a. scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
- b. scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)
- c. scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection (e.g. studies you have completed outside the degree that are related to the right to study you are applying for).

If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records 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 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.

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. See the language requirements on the [webpage of the university's graduate school](#).

If you are required to prove your language proficiency with a language test, a scanned certificate of a completed language test must be attached to the application.

7. Copy of valid passport

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.

8. The supervisor's justified plea for approval of only one supervisor

Only when one supervisor for doctoral training is proposed. See [Before applying / Doctoral training at the Faculty of Medicine](#) under section Supervision.

At Faculty of Science and Faculty of Technology

If you are applying for a right to study for a doctoral degree, you are required to attach the documents described below.

If you are applying for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you are required to attach documents 1-3. The degree certificate and transcript of records from your

previous degree (document 5) must also be attached to the application for technical reasons, even though they will not be taken into account in the selection process.

1. **Motivation letter** (Max 1 page)
2. **CV** of the applicant (it is mandatory to use attached [CV model](#))
3. **Structured research plan** approved by the supervisor (max 5 pages).

The plan should consist of: abstract, background, aims and hypotheses, significance, how will the plan be carried out in practice, research environment, timetable and funding plan.

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 the research plan to be checked with the *Turnitin OriginalityCheck* plagiarism detection software. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be clearly indicated in the research plan.

4. Supervision plan – Postgraduate study plan

Use this [Supervision plan](#) at Faculty of Science and

this [Supervision plan](#) at Faculty of Technology

The applicants to the iPhD track add to **Supervision plan** to the place for “**Other things agreed**” that they apply to iPhD track.

5. Degree certificates and transcripts of study records

a. If you have completed the former degree(s), which make you 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.

b. If you have completed the former degree(s), which make you eligible for doctoral studies at a university abroad (i.e. outside Finland), you 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 (e.g. studies you have completed outside the degree that are related to the right to study you are applying for).

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 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.

- 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.

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. See the 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

7. Copy of a valid passport

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.

Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will assess the applications with the help of outside experts, when needed. The applicant's motivation, merits, previous studies, and the ability to complete a doctoral degree, as well as the quality and feasibility of the research plan and supervisor and financial arrangements are taken into consideration when selecting doctoral researchers. Selection process is stepwise and applicants will be invited to interview after preliminary selection. The invitation will be sent by email. Interview will be evaluated together with the preliminary assessment of the application for final decision. Research proposals may be checked by using Turnitin Originality Check (system for electrical plagiarism detection) before the selection.

Any other funding received by the applicant for doctoral studies may be taken into consideration when determining the duration of the doctoral researcher position. DRD is multidisciplinary and aims to promote all research fields, which may be taken into consideration when positions are filled. When applying for a right to study the eligibility criteria of the applicant and the selection criteria of the Faculty (see section "What is expected of you") are considered in addition to the criteria mentioned above.

Assessment criteria

- **Research plan:** Innovativeness and novelty of the research and its realistic implementation within the timeframe of 4 years (1-5)
- **CV and motivation letter:** Progress of research training, content of formal postgraduate training and its relevance to the area of the doctoral program, merits (awards and own funding), completion plan of the dissertation, future career plans (1-5)
- **Interview:** Logical presentation of the planned research, language and presentation skills, expertise in the field of planned research, and proficiency in discussion, motivation, and commitment (1-5)
- **Field of research:** Relevant research topic to the DRD (preclinical or clinical drug research, or research related to diagnostic applications), the proposed research and training in the field of drug research and/or diagnostics are supported by the close environment (1-3)
- **Supervision arrangements:** Competence of supervisors in the field of drug- or diagnostic-related research, merits of the supervisors and their competence in supervising doctoral candidates, participation of the supervisors in organizing postgraduate training and courses (1-3)

Decisions

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine or Faculty of Science or Faculty of Technology decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree (1 January 2026 onwards) based on the proposals of the steering committee of the Doctoral Programme. The Head of the department decides on recruitment of the applicant for the position of a Doctoral researcher based on the proposal of the steering committee of the doctoral programme. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 28 November 2025 at the latest.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (local time in Finland) on 15 December 2025 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, they forfeit the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme only notifies the one educational institution at which they 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, 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, on 6 March 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.](#)

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 Medicine or the Faculty of Science or Faculty of Technology within 14 days of the official publishing of the results.

Additional information

Faculty of Medicine:
Chief Academic Officer Anni Halonen
anni.halonen(at)utu.fi

Faculty of Science:
Chief Academic Officer Sanna Ranto
sci-docstudies(at)utu.fi

Faculty of Technology:
tech-doc(at)utu.fi

Additional DRD information

DRD director, professor Matti Poutanen, matti.poutanen(at)utu.fi (iPhD)
DRD coordinator PhD Marja Peura, marja.peura(at)utu.fi

[DRD webpage](#), [Faculty of Medicine](#), [Faculty of Science](#), [Faculty of Technology](#)