

Faculty of Medicine**Call for applications for the right to study for doctoral degree 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 2 March–16 March 2026 at 4pm (local time in Finland), you can apply for:

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 August 2026 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§) 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](#)

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 (in pdf form) specified below in the section "*The application should include the following attachments*". It is requested that application documents are written in English. 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. [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 one doctoral programme 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.

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. DRD doctoral researchers in the Faculty of Science or the Faculty of Technology are required to include at least 5 credits of doctoral programme specific training by DRD in their postgraduate studies. Same is recommended to the DRD doctoral researchers in the Faculty of Medicine. It is strongly recommended that every doctoral researcher actively participates in the annual meetings of the DRD and the annual meetings of FinPharmaNet and gives an oral presentation at least once during their doctoral studies at one of the events.

Follow-up committee is an important part of the PhD studies in DRD. The role and tasks of the follow-up committee are listed in detail in [the study guide](#). DRD follow-up committee comprises of supervisors and 2-3 other researchers familiar with the research topic, two of whom must be from outside the doctoral researcher's own group according to the rules of the Faculty of Medicine. At least one of the external members should be affiliated with University of Turku and be familiar with the practicalities of doctoral training in the Faculty and in DRD. The follow-up committee ensures progress of the doctoral researcher's thesis work and studies, provides an external perspective on the research, and supports both researcher and supervisor(s). The applicant negotiates with their supervisor(s) to assemble the follow-up committee and agrees with the members of the committee on annual monitoring practices.

**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.*

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

At Faculty of Medicine

The application should include the following:

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:
- scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that 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 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

The application should include the following:

1. **Motivation letter** (Max 1 page, why do you wish to perform doctoral studies in this doctoral programme)
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.

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- 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

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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.

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 here.

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 August 2026 onwards) based on the proposals of the steering committee of the Doctoral Programme. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 29 May 2026 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 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 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 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.](#)

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 Outi Irjala
outi.irjala(at)utu.fi

Faculty of Science:
Chief Academic Officer Sanna Nordman
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](#)