

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE AT THE
FACULTY OF MEDICINE or THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE or THE FACULTY OF TECHNOLOGY IN
DRUG RESEARCH DOCTORAL PROGRAMME (DRDP)**

1 Drug Research Doctoral Programme (DRDP)

The doctoral candidates of Drug Research Doctoral Programme (DRDP) carry out their doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine or at the Faculty of Science or at the Faculty of Technology. The degree requirements for the doctoral candidates are stated in the Academic Post-graduate Study Guide for 2022-2024 of each Faculty. In addition, the doctoral studies in DRDP are guided by a doctoral programme specific study guide ([Faculty of Medicine](#) or [Faculty of Science](#) or [Faculty of Technology](#)).

Doctoral candidates of DRDP will carry out their doctoral studies in research groups with high scientific standards at the University and in companies. Each doctoral candidate focuses on a specific topic relevant for drug development, according to a research plan prepared with their supervisor(s) for their application. DRDP doctoral candidates work on target identification and validation, drug design, synthesis and preclinical testing of novel drug molecules, clinical drug research, pharmacoepidemiology, and development of methods and diagnostics supporting drug research. DRDP serves as a postgraduate programme for graduates of the Master's Degree Programme in Drug Discovery and Development at the University of Turku, but it is open to all applicants with a suitable M.Sc. level education and an interest in drug research.

DRDP training prepares for work in wide and demanding expert and development tasks in the field of drug development and research internationally. The graduates work in academic and commercial institutes, the health care sector, and as regulatory authorities. DRDP training provides a general view of the drug development process, starting from molecular and mechanistic levels and continuing to preclinical and clinical drug research, pharmaceutical development, and pharmacoepidemiology, as well as transferable skills relevant to drug development. In addition, the training provides networking opportunities locally, nationally and internationally, and supports career planning in the field of drug research. DRDP is part of the strong national FinPharmaNet network of drug research programmes in Finland.

DRDP began industrial doctorate training (iPhD) in 2019, in collaboration with industrial partners. The aim of industrial doctorate training is to train doctors with strong scientific thinking in combination with applied research expertise, and capabilities to work in both academic and industrial research environments as well as in their interface. Doctoral candidates on the iPhD track will carry out their research primarily (>75 % of total 4 years) in an industrial environment, and are supervised by both industrial and academic supervisors. The academic training is composed of academic secondments (akateeminen työskentelyjakso, max 25 %), and post-graduate education courses at the UTU. Applicants to the iPhD track select the iPhD track in their application, and attach the special **iPhD Supervision plan** as an appendix.

At the Faculty of Science or the 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.

2 Application period and what can be applied for

General guidelines for postgraduate studies in doctoral programme specific study guide

[Faculty of Medicine](#) and
[Faculty of Science](#) and
[Faculty of Technology](#)

Call for applications 1 March – 17 March 2023.

**One can apply for for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku begins on
August 1, 2023.**



3 Who may apply

- 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 for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine or at Faculty of Science or Faculty of Technology.

Eligible for studies leading to an academic postgraduate degree is a person who has completed

1. an applicable higher university degree in Finland
2. an applicable higher polytechnic degree in Finland; or
3. an applicable degree completed outside Finland, which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.

Degree specific prerequisites for pursuing a doctoral degree are written in the [Study Guide 2022-2024](#) of the doctoral programmes of the **Faculty of Medicine**.

-> Go to the study guide of the doctoral programme of your choice -> Faculty of Medicine -> Show description

4 Applying

Eligible applicants with a research topic fitting the scope of DRDP can apply. The motivation to apply to DRDP 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. One member in the follow-up committee should be familiar with the practicalities of doctoral training in the Faculty and in DRDP. To plan the theoretical studies, applicants should take into account the Learning outcomes of DRDP, 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.

4.1 Application documents

The application should contain

- 1) electronic application form (A link to the application form will be made available at <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/how-to-apply/call-for-applications> . The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 1 March 2023 and closes at 11:59 pm (local time in Finland) on 17 March 2023.)
- 2) Pdf files

The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

The application should include the following:

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.

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).

4. Supervision and study plan – [the Faculty's form](#) (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](#)

5. A university degree certificate, if applicant has attained the higher university degree somewhere else than in the University of Turku and in addition, a transcript of studies if the degree has been completed outside Finland.

- If needed - please see [the instructions: Degree giving the eligibility](#)

Those applicants who have been granted the right to study and who have completed their studies at a University abroad have to submit officially certified copies of the degree certificates, other educational documents and the official translations of the documents to the University of Turku according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not submit the degree documents in time as indicated in the admission notification, they shall forfeit the study place.

6. If applicant has to pass a language test, the copy of the language test result must be attached to the application

- If needed - please see [the instructions: Language proficiency](#)

At Faculty of Science and Faculty of Technology

- 1. Motivation letter** (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 plans attached to the application may be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software in accordance with the University of Turku quality assurance system.

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

B. 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), 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 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.

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

- 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

4.2 Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will evaluate 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 (drug research) are taken into consideration when selecting doctoral candidates. Selection process is stepwise and applicants will be invited to interview after preliminary selection. The invitation will be sent by email. Research proposals may be checked by using Turnitin Originality Check (system for electrical plagiarism detection) before the selection.

5 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 2022 onwards) based on the proposals of the steering committees of the Doctoral Programmes. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 31 May 2023 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 2023 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,



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Faculty of Medicine

they 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 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 2023 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](#)

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

7 Additional information

Faculty of Medicine:
Chief Academic Officer Outi Irjala

Faculty of Science and Faculty of Technology:
Chief Academic Officer Sanna Ranto

8 Additional DRDP information:

DRDP director, professor Ullamari Pesonen, ullamari.pesonen@utu.fi
DRDP coordinator PhD Eeva Valve, eeva.valve@utu.fi