UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

Call for Applications
2 November 2026

Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences (EXACTUS)

Call for Applications for Doctoral Researcher Positions at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences (EXACTUS)

In this call for applications, you may apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree within the University of Turku Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences (EXACTUS) at the Faculty of Science and/or for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position funded by the University of Turku Graduate School (UTUGS).

In the Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences (EXACTUS) the following academic disciplines are represented: applied mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, learning analytics, materials science, mathematics, physics, statistics and theoretical physics. The supervisors of the doctoral researchers are mainly from the Department of Physics and Astronomy, Department of Chemistry, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, the Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO, the Turku PET Centre or the Turku Research Institute for Learning Analytics. The website of the doctoral programme can be found at www.utu.fi/EXACTUS.

Application period and what you may apply for

During the application period 1 – 15 December 2027 at 23:59 (local time in Finland) you may apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree in the University of Turku Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences at the Faculty of Science from 1 April 2027 onwards.

Requirements for applicants

- 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§). The degree that gives eligibility for admission must be completed by the application deadline, or after the application deadline on the condition that the applicant graduates and submits a scanned degree certificate and a transcript of study records to the University of Turku email address sci-docstudies@utu.fi by 31 March 2027. Until then, the selection is conditional.

- You must meet the University of Turku language proficiency requirements. Link to the Graduate School's web page on language requirements;

- You must meet the faculty and doctoral programme requirements for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree. Carefully read the application guidelines of the Faculty of Science and the requirements of the EXACTUS Doctoral Programme. More information is provided under "Criteria for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree".

How to apply

Apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree by filling the electronic Studyinfo form and submitting the required attachments (see Appendix 1). The Studyinfo form opens at the begin of the application period on 1 December 2026 and closes on 15 December 2026 at 23:59 (local time in Finland). A link to the Graduate School web pages where the links to the application forms will be published.

In this application round, you may apply for admission to only one doctoral programme at the University of Turku. You may only have one valid doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

Late applications will not be considered. The chosen study programme (doctoral programme) cannot be changed and the application cannot be amended after the application period has ended.

Selection criteria and evaluation of applications

Applicant's research topic must fit the profile of the doctoral programme. The doctoral programme's steering committee will evaluate applications after the deadline and may use external experts as necessary. Research plans submitted with applications may be checked with Turnitin OriginalityCheck for plagiarism in accordance with the University's quality system; the use of artificial intelligence and how it was used in preparing the research plan may also be assessed.

Criteria for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree:

Granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree requires that the applicant:

- meets the eligibility criteria determined in the Universities Act (558/2009, Section 37); More information is provided under "Requirements for applicants".
- meets the University of Turku language proficiency requirements;
- fulfils the requirements set by the Faculty of Science and EXACTUS Doctoral Programme for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree

In order to be accepted as a doctoral researcher, an applicant is required to have completed the advanced studies in the Master's degree with at least grade "Good" or equivalent (Grade 3 in the Finnish grading system). If this is not the case, or if the subject of the Master's degree differs from the field of research of the intended postgraduate studies, researchers will be asked to supplement their knowledge and skills to achieve the required level. A research director nominated for the doctoral researcher will give a statement of possible required bridging studies in these exceptional cases.

The applicant has to agree on the supervision arrangements before submitting the application (mandatory attachment of the signed Supervision plan form). A doctoral researcher should have a research director, a principal supervisor and at least one other supervisor. The research director should have an employment contract to the department where the major subject of the doctoral degree is based and the title of the research director should be a professor. In an exceptional case, if there is no professor available, an associate professor can be nominated as a research director. The principal supervisor should be a professor, associate professor, assistant professor or adjunct professor/docent and in most of the cases have an employment contract to the University of Turku. Other supervisors should hold a doctoral degree.

In addition to these requirements, evaluation criteria of applications for right to pursue a doctoral degree include applicant's educational and research-related merits, the quality of the research plan, and the research potential based on the application documents. The applicant's motivation, merits and completed studies will be taken into account in the evaluation. The applicant's research topic must fit in with the doctoral programme's research profile. The chosen applicants are required to have a good command of the English language.

Decision on selections

The vice-dean or dean responsible for doctoral education in the faculty decides on the granting of the right to pursue a doctoral degree on the basis of the doctoral programme steering group's proposal. All applicants will be notified of the decisions personally by 26 February 2027.

An admitted applicant must confirm acceptance of the study place in accordance with the instructions given in the decision by 16 March 2027 at 23:59 (local time in Finland). 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.

Applicants who have completed their prior degree in a country other than Finland and who are granted a right to pursue a doctoral degree 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 24 May 2027 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. A link to the instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.

Further information

Link to the doctoral programme web pages

Link to the faculty web pages

Link to the UTUGS web pages

Contact details for the doctoral programme coordinator and director: EXACTUS coordinator Eevi Savola (eevi.savola@utu.fi) & EXACTUS Director Pasi Virta (pamavi@utu.fi)

Contact details for the faculty: Chief Academic Officer Sanna Nordman (sanna.nordman@utu.fi)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Attachments to the application when applying for a right to pursue a doctoral degree

Appendix 1: **Attachments to the application when applying for a right to pursue a doctoral degree**

Please ensure that all attachments are high-quality, easy-to-read, full-colour scans or photographs of the entire required document. Attachments must be submitted in PDF format. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected. Name each attachment so that the file name clearly indicates both your name and the document type (for example: surname-firstname-CV).

All application documents are recommended to be written in English.

1) Degree certificate and transcript of study records

Attach to the electronic application form:

- the scanned or electronic original certificate of the higher university degree (e.g. Master's degree),
- the scanned or electronic original transcript of study records of the higher university degree,
- other study certificates relevant to the selection criteria (for example, studies completed outside the degree that relate to the doctoral degree you are applying for).

If the degree that gives eligibility for the study right for a doctoral degree is not completed by the deadline of application time, a scanned or electronic up-to-date transcript of study records must be attached to the application.

If the documents are not in Finnish, Swedish or English, you must also submit an official translation into one of those languages; an official translation is accepted if issued by the degree-awarding university or produced by an authorised translator. A Diploma Supplement (DS) issued by a European higher education institution may be accepted instead of an English translation of the degree certificate and transcript, provided it contains the details of the study records.

2) Certificate of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (8.6.2026) that defines acceptable ways of verifying language proficiency. You should read the University of Turku's guidance on language proficiency carefully: Link to the webpage on language requirements.

As an attachment to your application, you must include a scanned certificate of a language test approved by the University of Turku, unless the guidance states otherwise.

3) Research plan

When preparing the research plan you must follow the principles of good scientific practice (link to TENK's guidelines on good scientific practice). The research plan may be checked with the *Turnitin OriginalityCheck* plagiarism-detection system. Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) as an aid in preparing the research plan must be clearly declared in the application.

The maximum total length of the research plan is **3 pages (including references)**. The research plan should contain:

- Name of the applicant
- Planned title of the doctoral dissertation
- Description of research topic
- Scientific motivation and goals
- Methods and environment of the research
- Applicant's own role in research
- Timetable of research, including publication plan
- Current state of doctoral thesis and postgraduate studies.

4) 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.

5) Curriculum Vitae (CV) including publication list

Link to instructions by the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK) for writing a CV. You can also choose to do a free-form resume. Links to instructions about the list of publications format in English and in Finnish.

6) Motivation letter

The motivation letter is one page long freeform document, in which you justify your reasons for applying for the doctoral studies in the EXACTUS Doctoral Programme and your motivation for conducting research. If you have a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, you must provide reasons for changing over to the EXACTUS doctoral programme in the motivation letter. A doctoral researcher may have only one doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

7) Supervision plan signed by supervisors, a research director, and the applicant

The blank supervision form is available on the website of the doctoral programme. A link to the EXACTUS admissions website where the supervision plan form is found.