

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

Short description of the doctoral programme

In [Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences \(EXACTUS\)](https://www.utu.fi/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, Finnish Centre for Astronomy with ESO, Turku PET Centre, and Turku Research Institute for Learning Analytics. The website of the programme can be found at www.utu.fi/EXACTUS.

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period **2 – 16 March 2026**, you can apply for the **right to study for a doctoral degree** at the University of Turku at the Faculty of Science at the Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences 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§). If the degree which gives you the eligibility for doctoral studies has not been completed by the closing date of this call, you can still apply to this call. However, you must complete your degree and submit scanned copies of your degree certificates **by 31 July 2026** to the University of Turku email sci-docstudies@utu.fi. Until then, the selection is conditional.
- You must fulfil the University of Turku language skill requirements. [Link to language requirements in the web page of the university's graduate school](#).
- You are required to fulfil the prerequisites set by the Faculty of Science for granting a right to study. For more information, see the section "Assessment of applications".

How to apply

The right to pursue the doctoral degree is applied for by filling in an electronic application form in My Studyinfo service and attaching the required additional documents in pdf form. The application documents are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1). The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 2 March 2026 and closes at 4 pm (16:00, local time in Finland) on 16 March 2026. [A link to the website of the doctoral programme where the application forms of the doctoral programmes will be published.](#)

It is recommended that application documents are written in English. All of the required attachments must be submitted before the end of the application period. Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

During this application round the applicant may apply to only 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. When the application period has ended, you cannot change the doctoral programme you are applying for, or any other information.

Evaluation of applications

The applications will be assessed by the steering committee of the EXACTUS doctoral programme. If needed, the applicants can be interviewed.

When admitting the right to pursue for a doctoral degree, the eligibility criteria of the applicant must be fulfilled. In addition to the eligibility criteria for doctoral degrees (Universities Act 558/2009, 37§) and the required language skills, the educational and research-related merits, the quality of the research plan, and the research potential based on the application are used as admission criteria. In the selection process, applicant's motivation, merits and completed studies will be taken into account. The applicant's research topic must fit in with the doctoral programme's research profile. The chosen applicants must have a good knowledge of the English language.

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.

Decisions

The Dean/Vice Dean of research affairs of the Faculty of Science decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree based on the proposal of the steering committee of the doctoral programme and statement of the department / unit. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 29 May 2026.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 15 June 2026 at 3:00 pm (15:00, local time in Finland) 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 July). 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](#).

Further information

sci-docstudies@utu.fi

<https://www.utu.fi/exactus>

[How to Apply to Doctoral Training in the Faculty of Science](#)

EXACTUS coordinator

Eevi Savola (eevi.savola@utu.fi)

Faculty of Science

Chief Academic Officer Sanna Ranto (sanna.ranto@utu.fi)

Appendices

Appendix 1: Application documents

APPENDIX 1. Attachments to the application

Please fill the electronic application form on My StudyInfo and attach the required application documents into it. Please make sure that all attachments are of good quality, are easy to read, and are full-colour scans or photographs of the complete required document. **The application documents should be in pdf-format.** Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.

1. Curriculum vitae (CV) including list of publications

[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](#).

2. Research plan (recommended to be written in English)

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
- Research topic in the context of the field
- Scientific motivation and goals
- Methods and environment of the research
- Applicants own role and specialisation in the study
- Timetable of research
- Current state of doctoral thesis and postgraduate studies.

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](#)). The research plans can be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan in a wider role other than checking grammar or generating short expressions should be clearly indicated in the research plan.

3. Motivation letter

The motivation letter is one page long freeform document, which includes the reasons for applying for the doctoral studies in the EXACTUS Doctoral Programme and 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.

4. 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 the application:
 - a. Scans of the original **degree certificate** or the electronic degree certificate of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. Master's degree certificate)
 - b. Scans of the original **transcript of records** or the electronic transcript of records of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. transcript of records of the Master's degree)
 - c. 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).
- 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. Scans of the original **degree certificate** or the electronic degree certificate of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. Master's degree certificate)

- b. Scans of the original **transcript of records** or the electronic transcript of records of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. transcript of records of the Master's degree)
 - c. 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).
- c) 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 original degree certificates, transcripts of study records and/or 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 and a translation made by an authorised translator. A transcript or degree certificate 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.

5. 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.](#)

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. You must carefully study the instructions on language requirements of the University of Turku. [Link to language requirements on the www page of the University's Graduate School.](#) The language test result is a mandatory attachment of the right to study application, if not otherwise stated in the University of Turku graduate school web page. 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 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.