

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 can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Science of the University of Turku [Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences \(EXACTUS\)](#). Please read more specific instructions below and apply on 28 March 2024 at the latest.

Short description of the doctoral programme

In 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, 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 **28 February – 28 March 2024**, 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 2024 onwards.

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§); The degree which grants the applicant the eligibility for the study right for a doctoral degree must be completed within the application period, 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

sci-docstudies@utu.fi by 31 July 2024.

- You must fulfil the [University of Turku language skill requirements](#);
- 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. The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 February 2024 and closes at 3 pm (15:00, local time in Finland) on 28 March 2024.

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

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.

The application documents are specified at the end of this call for applications (Appendix 1) and on the doctoral programme website. [A link to the website of the doctoral programme where the instructions for the application will be published.](#)

Assessment of applications

The applications will be assessed by the steering committee of the EXACTUS doctoral programme. The department, where the doctoral researcher will belong to, gives a statement of the applicant who is recommended by the doctoral programme. If needed, the applicants can be interviewed. The research plans attached to the applications may be checked with the *Turnitin OriginalityCheck* plagiarism detection software in accordance with the University of Turku quality assurance system.

In addition to the eligibility criteria related to the right to pursue a doctoral degree, also the applicant's motivation, merits, completed studies, grade of the master's thesis (or corresponding work) and capability to complete a doctoral degree, as well as the quality and feasibility (in the planned schedule) of the research plan are taken into account in the selection of doctoral researchers. The admitted applicants must have a good knowledge of the English language. The research topic of the doctoral researcher must fit the profile of the doctoral programme.

In the Faculty of Science, the applicant has to agree on the supervision arrangements with the Department in question before submitting the application (Supervision plan form). A doctoral researcher should have a research director and a principal supervisor from their own department and at least one other supervisor. The principal supervisor should be at least Adjunct Professor or docent and the other supervisors should hold a doctoral degree.

Postgraduate applicants are required to have completed the advanced studies in the Master's degree with at least the 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, applicants 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.

Decisions

The Dean/Vice Dean of research affairs of the faculty 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.

The admission decisions are made by the end of May 2024. All applicants will be personally informed about the decision.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (15:00, Finnish time) on 14 June 2024 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 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.

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 September 2024 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](#).

The decision is conditional for those who were not graduated before the end of application time and who has not graduated and delivered the degree certificate to the faculty before the decision. If applicant does not graduate and deliver the certificate at the latest on 31 July 2024, the right to study will be cancelled.

Other information

In spring 2024, the Faculty will be updating its curricula and the guidelines and regulations for doctoral studies, which may result in changes to the regulations for doctoral studies and doctoral dissertation form 1 August 2024. An approved applicant will complete their studies in accordance with the regulations that will come into force on 1 August 2024, and instructions for updating the personal study plan will be provided separately.

Additional information

sci-docstudies@utu.fi

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

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

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APPENDIX 1. Description of the application documents (in PDF form)

Please fill the electronic application form and attach the following required application documents with it. The application documents should be in pdf-format.

1. Curriculum vitae (CV) including list of publications

[Link to instructions by the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\) for writing a CV](#). 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 specialization in the study
- Timetable of research
- Current state of doctoral thesis and postgraduate studies.

The research plans attached to the applications can be checked via the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software, in accordance with the quality assurance system of the University of Turku. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be clearly indicated in the research plan.

3. Motivation letter

Motivation letter is one page long freeform document, which includes the reasons for applying for the doctoral studies in the Doctoral Programme in Exact Sciences.



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 following items to the electronic application form:

- a. scanned original degree certificates
- b. scanned original transcripts of study records
- c. scanned original other educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and that you are applying based on.

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 and that you are applying based on.

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.

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



If you have completed the former degree(s) which make you eligible for doctoral studies at a university abroad (i.e. outside Finland), please make sure to have original degree certificates and other relevant educational documents ready at hand if you are granted a right to study. Instructions will be given in the admission notification.

Please note! 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.

5. Supervision plan signed by supervisors, a research director and the applicant

A supervision plan is a mandatory attachment of the application. [A link to the page 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. [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.

The applicant must deliver all required attachments by the end of the application period. Late applications will not be processed.