

Call for applications for doctoral researcher positions 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) 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 **3 – 14 March 2025**, 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 2025 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§); 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 2025.

- 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 Studyinfo.fi service and attaching the required additional documents. The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 3 March 2025 and closes at 4 pm (16:00, local time in Finland) on 14 March 2025.

During one application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of two 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](#).

Evaluation of applications

The applications will be reviewed 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, 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.

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 30 May 2025. 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 (Finnish time) on 13 June 2025 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 5 September 2025 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.](#)

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 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 specialization 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. If the applicant uses artificial intelligence (AI) to develop the research plan, they must report on how it has been used.

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 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 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 in the same language as the degree was completed in)



- 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 in the same language as the degree was completed in)
 - 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**, an up-to-date transcript of study records must be attached to the application.

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 or degree certificate 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 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 EXACTUS admissions website where the supervision plan form is found.](#)

6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision 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 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.