

**Doctoral Programme in Languages and
Translation Studies (Utuling)****Call for Applications for Doctoral Researcher Positions at the University of
Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme in Languages and Translation
Studies (Utuling)**

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

The mission of Utuling, the Doctoral Programme in Language and Translation Studies, is to provide PhD training for language specialists in a multilingual and multicultural world in which encounters between different languages and their speakers are increasingly important. Our aim is to provide the future PhDs with a broader understanding of language than considering it as a communicative tool only; with the skills to analyse languages and interaction in depth, and with the tools to become language experts, for whom international networking, publishing and mobility are a self-evident part of their scholarly identity.

[Doctoral Programme in Language and Translation Studies \(Utuling\)](#)

[Doctoral Training at the Faculty of Humanities](#)

Application period and what you may apply for

During the application period 25 August 2026 – 8 September 2026 at 23:59 (local time in Finland) you may apply for:

a) The right to pursue a doctoral degree in the University of Turku Doctoral Programme in Languages and Translation Studies (Utuling) at the Faculty of Humanities from 1 January 2027 onwards.

b) A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

A doctoral researcher position begins on 1 January 2027 or by agreement during the year 2027. It is also possible to apply for a continuation of the current doctoral researcher employment contract.

When determining the length of the employment, previously awarded funding for doctoral studies as well as the planned schedule and stage of the doctoral degree will be taken into account. The duration of a UTUGS-funded fixed-term doctoral researcher position is at most four years, but not beyond 31 December 2030. The basis for the fixed-term employment is doctoral researcher's work related to their doctoral studies



A person who already holds a doctoral degree cannot be selected to a doctoral researcher position. The doctoral researcher position requires working in Finland and the place of work is Turku or Pori.

The position is intended for full-time doctoral research and doctoral studies. Participation in teaching and other duties should be arranged so that the dissertation can be completed within the planned timetable. The employment contract is based on a total annual working time of 1,612 hours, which gives the doctoral researcher flexibility to arrange working hours. As a rule, teaching and other duties may account for up to 5% of the annual working time (approximately up to 80 hours per academic year).

Salary is based on the salary system of the University's teaching and research staff. Salary will consist of a task-specific salary component and a personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of a doctoral researcher varies between levels 2 to 4, depending on the stage of the doctoral degree. In addition, a personal performance salary component is paid. The salary of a doctoral researcher ranges roughly from € 2,400 to € 3,300 depending on progress of the doctoral research and the experience and skills of the person concerned. The level of task-specific salary component of a new doctoral researcher is generally assessed as level 2. The probationary period is six months, however not more than half of the employment period.

Also available are fixed-term positions of up to one year for doctoral researchers in the final stage of completing their dissertation, for the year 2027. The aim is to submit the dissertation for pre-examination during 2027.

c) Both of the above (a and b)

Requirements for applicants

When applying for the right to pursue a doctoral degree

- 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;
- 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 Humanities](#). More information is provided under "Criteria for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree".

When applying for a doctoral researcher position

- You must hold an active study right to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Turku in the Faculty of Humanities, Doctoral Programme in Languages and Translation



Studies (Utuling). In addition, when acquiring the degree or otherwise, you are required to have demonstrated the ability to undertake postgraduate studies and the capacity to complete a doctoral degree in accordance with the research plan. (University of Turku Rules of Procedure 13.12.2024).

- **or if you have not yet been granted right to pursue a doctoral degree, you must apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in Languages and Translation Studies (Utuling) in this call via the Studyinfo (Opintopolku) service** (see the instructions under “How to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree”). The right to pursue a doctoral degree is a prerequisite for being selected for a position of a doctoral researcher;
- You are planning to pursue or pursuing your first doctoral degree;
- You have not previously had a four-year full-time employment contract funded by UTUGS.
- The doctoral researcher position requires working in Finland and the place of work is Turku.

How to apply

Applications for the right to pursue a doctoral degree are submitted via the Studyinfo (Opintopolku) service and applications for fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract are submitted via the University of Turku recruitment system (Talenti) by completing an electronic application form and submitting the required attachments.

Note that if you apply for both the right to pursue a doctoral degree and a doctoral researcher position with an employment contract, you must submit applications with the required attachments in both systems (see details below).

The required attachments are described in more detail at the end of this announcement (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2).

[Links to the application forms will be published on the University of Turku Graduate School web pages.](#)

How to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree

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 start of the application period on 25 August 2026 and closes on 8 September 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 up to two doctoral programmes 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.

The Studyinfo service is used solely to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree; if you also wish to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you must submit a separate application for that position (see the instructions under “How to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract”).

How to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

Doctoral researcher positions are applied for by completing the electronic application form in the University of Turku recruitment system (Talentti) and submitting the required attachments (see Appendix 2). The recruitment form opens at the start of the application period on 25 August 2026 and closes on 8 September 2026 at 23:59 (local time in Finland).

Doctoral researcher positions will be advertised in the University of Turku’s [Open Positions](#) and on the [Graduate School web pages](#) at the beginning of the application period.

Applicants must submit all required attachments by the application deadline; late applications will not be processed and the chosen doctoral programme cannot be changed nor can the application be amended after the deadline.

Selection to a doctoral researcher position requires an active right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in Languages and Translation Studies (Utuling); **if you have not yet been granted study right, you must apply for one in Studyinfo** (see “How to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree”).

Selection criteria and evaluation of applications

Applicant’s research topic must fit the profile of the doctoral programme. The doctoral programme’s steering group 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);
- meets the University of Turku language proficiency requirements;



- fulfils the requirements set by the Faculty of Humanities and Doctoral Programme in Languages and Translation Studies (Utuling) for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree.

The evaluation criteria are the following:

quality of the research plan: its clarity, feasibility, and scholarly significance
demonstrated research skills
motivation

One criterion may also be whether the major subject can offer supervision in the applicant's field of research.

Selection criteria for fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

Applicants selected for UTUGS fixed-term doctoral researcher positions must meet the eligibility requirements defined in the University of Turku Rules of Procedure (13 December 2024).

In the selection, the following aspects are also evaluated: quality of the research plan, its clarity, feasibility, and scholarly significance, demonstrated research skills and motivation.

For applicants who have previously been granted the right to pursue a doctoral degree, progress in doctoral research and doctoral studies will also be assessed; prior funding received for the completion of the doctoral degree may be taken into account when determining the duration of a doctoral researcher position.

Decision on selections

Decisions on the right to pursue a doctoral degree

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 30 November 2026.

An admitted applicant must confirm acceptance of the study place in accordance with the instructions given in the decision by 15 December 2026 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 8 March 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 the instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

Decisions on the fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

The decision on appointment to a doctoral researcher position is made by the head of the relevant department or unit on the basis of the doctoral programme steering group's proposal. All applicants will be notified of the programme's decision personally and the names of the persons offered positions will be published on the doctoral programme web pages; selected applicants must confirm acceptance of the position in accordance with the instructions in the decision.

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: Doctoral education specialist Meri Heinonen (meri.heinonen@utu.fi), Professor Matti Peikola (matti.peikola@utu.fi)

Appendices

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 either in Finnish, in Swedish or 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 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 June 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](#)). Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) as an aid in preparing the research plan must be clearly declared in the application.

The research plan should be formulated according to the following structure. Only research plans that include all the sections named below can be accepted.

Background

- the topic of the doctoral dissertation and its significance and contribution
- its connections to relevant national and international research as well as current scholarly discussions

The aim of the research and the research question

The materials and methods used in the research

- a reflection on research ethics

A plan for collaboration and mobility

Execution

- the applicant's abilities, previous research experience and familiarity with the field
- a schedule for the research



- a publishing plan: whether the dissertation will be a collection of articles or a monograph
 - a) in case of an article-based dissertation, the applicant should include an estimate of the number of articles, a brief summary of their contents as well as a tentative plan concerning the possible publishing forums
 - b) a preliminary plan for the content of the monograph and a view on its possible publishing
- A list of references

The max. length of the preliminary research plan is five pages, not including the list of references (using 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing and 2-2.5 cm margin).

4) Motivation letter

A motivation letter is a one page long, free-form document (12-point font, 1.5 line spacing) that states:

- why the applicant wishes to undertake postgraduate studies at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Turku,
- how the proposed research relates to other research done at the University of Turku and
- the funding plan for the postgraduate studies.

5) Postgraduate study plan

The plan should include the contents of the postgraduate studies (40 ECTS) and a preliminary schedule for carrying out these studies.

6) Statement of the major subject

A statement by the major subject of the applicant's research plan and the applicant's prerequisites for completing a doctoral degree, as well as a proposal for supervisors.

The responsible professor of the major subject submits the statement directly to the Faculty of Humanities within the application period to humpostgraduate@utu.fi

The applicant must contact the major subject they wish to have as their major subject well in advance (at least one month before the end of the application period). The major subject must endorse the application and provide a statement of the application in accordance with the doctoral programme's guidelines.

The right to study cannot be granted if the major subject has not provided a positive statement of the application and proposed supervisors (2).

7) 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.

Appendix 2: Attachments to the application when applying for doctoral researcher position with employment contract

Fill in the electronic application form. The attachments listed below must be submitted as part of the Talenti system's electronic application form unless otherwise instructed. Ensure that all attachments are high-quality, easy-to-read, full-colour scans or photographs of the entire required document. Attachments should be submitted in PDF format. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected. Name each file so that the filename clearly shows both your name and the document type (for example: surname-firstname-CV).

All application documents must be written either in Finnish, in Swedish or in English.

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- the funding plan for the postgraduate studies.

4) Curriculum vitae and a list of publications

CV according to [guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board of Research Integrity](#)