UNIVERSITY OF TURKU
Faculty of Medicine

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FIXED-TERM DOCTORAL CANDIDATE POSITIONS AND ALSO FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR THE A DOCTORAL DEGREE AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IN TURKU DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE (TuDMM)

1. Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine (TuDMM)

Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine is a doctoral programme established in the Faculty of Medicine. The programme offers diverse and high-standard doctoral training in the broad field of molecular medicine. The traditionally strong research areas of bio- and clinical medicine at the Turku Campus, such as cancer research, endocrinology and metabolism, immunology, microbiology, and connective tissue research, are all represented among the research groups affiliated to our Programme. TuDMM works together with the other local doctoral programmes operating in biosciences and will also participate in the national networks of doctoral programmes in the area of life sciences.

2. Closing date for applications and what can be applied for

General guidelines for postgraduate studies in
the Faculty of Medicine

Call for applications September 1-18, 2020

One can apply for

a) the fixed-term doctoral candidate position
b) right to study for a doctoral degree
c) both of the above (a and b)

3. Fixed-term doctoral candidate position

The position of a Doctoral Candidate is set to begin on 1 January 2021 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2024). The positions are primarily intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research with the aim of completing the doctoral degree in four years. Duties other than those related to doctoral dissertation research must not compromise the full-time doctoral dissertation research. As a rule, up to 5% (a maximum of about 80 hrs per academic year) of the annual working time of the Doctoral Candidate can consist of teaching.

The salary is based on the salary system of Finnish universities. It consists of a task-specific salary component and a personal performance salary component. The task-specific salary component of a Doctoral Candidate is at level 2–4 of teaching and research staff; €2,033.29 – €2,535.20 per month. The component based on personal performance is 6–50% of the task-specific salary. The task-specific salary component of an entry-level Doctoral Candidate is typically on level 2. A probationary period of 6 months applies.

Persons who already have a doctoral degree cannot apply for the fixed-term Doctoral Candidate position.

3. Qualifications

The right to study for doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine can be applied for by persons who meet the eligibility criteria for pursuing a doctoral degree, as stipulated in the Universities Act (558/2009, Section 37), as well as the prerequisites for pursuing a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine.

Eligible for studies leading to an academic postgraduate degree is a person who has completed
1. an applicable higher university degree in Finland
2. an applicable higher polytechnic degree in Finland; or

3. an applicable education completed outside Finland which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.

Degree specific prerequisites for pursuing a doctoral degree are written in the Study Guide 2020-2022 of the doctoral programmes of the **Faculty of Medicine**.
-> Go to the study guide of the doctoral programme of your choice -> Faculty of Medicine -> Show description

4. Applying

The application should contain
1) electronic application form (link will be open from September 1st 00:00 to September 18th 2020 23:59)
2) the requested pdf files

The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

The application should include the following:

- **Motivation letter** (max 1 page)
- **CV** of the applicant (it is mandatory to use attached CV model)
- **Research plan** (max 3 pages, Arial, font 12). The plan should consist of: abstract, background, aims and hypotheses, significance, how will the plan be carried out in practice, research environment, timetable and funding plan.

  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.
- **The postgraduate study plan**. Mark the studies you have already taken. Use this template.

  If you are applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree, attach also:
- **Supervision plan**
  the Medical Faculty's form: Supervision plan - fill in electronically, print, sign together with the UGIS supervisor/supervisors (UGIS supervisor must have utu-email address) and the head of subject and scan as an attachment (a mandatory attachment in the Faculty of Medicine).
- **A university degree certificate**, if the applicant has attained the higher university degree somewhere else than in the University of Turku. In addition, a transcript of studies if the degree has been completed outside Finland.
  - If needed - please see the instructions: Degree giving the eligibility

  Those applicants who have been granted the right to study and who have completed their studies at a University abroad have to submit officially certified copies of the degree certificates, other educational documents and the official translations of the documents to the University of Turku according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not submit the degree documents in time as indicated in the admission notification, they shall forfeit the study place.
- If applicant has to pass **a language test,** the copy of the language test result must be attached to the application
  - If needed - please see the instructions: Language proficiency

4.2 Assessment of applications

4.2.1 Assessment and selection criteria

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will evaluate the applications and use outside experts, when needed. The applicant's motivation, merits, previous studies, the ability to complete a doctoral degree, and the quality and feasibility of the research are taken into consideration when selecting doctoral candidates. The selection process is stepwise and applicants may be invited for an interview after the preliminary selection. The invitation will be sent by email.

Decision

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposals of the steering committee of the Doctoral Programmes. All applicants will be personally informed of the decisions. The right to study for a doctoral degree begins January 1, 2021.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (GMT +2) on 15 December 2020 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, he/she forfeits the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree programme only notifies the one educational institution at which he/she accepts 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, a student 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 and Master 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. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline set in the admission notification, he/she forfeits the study right. Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements are available here: https://www.utu.fi/en/study-at-utu/accepted-students/original-documents.

Appeal for rectification

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection, he/she has the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Faculty of Medicine within 14 days of the official publishing of the results.

Additional information

Faculty of Medicine: Chief Academic Officer Outi Irjala

6. Additional TuDMM information:

TuDMM director Kati Elima, kateli(at)utu.fi
TuDMM coordinator Eeva Valve, eeva.valve(at)utu.fi