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 2-20, 2019

One can apply for

a) a fixed-term doctoral candidate position
b) a 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 2020 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2023). 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, teaching can be at most 5% (maximum about 80 h/academic year) of the annual working time of the Doctoral Candidate.

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 personnel; €2,033.29–€2,535.20 per month. The component based on personal performance is max. 6-50% of the task-specific salary. The task-specific salary component of a beginning 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.

4. 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 2018-2020 of the doctoral programmes of the Faculty of Medicine.

5. Applying

The application should contain
1) electronic application form (link will be open from September 2nd 00:00 to September 20th 2019 23:59)
2) 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 to the plan 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 and the head of subject and scan as an attachment (a mandatory attachment in the Faculty of Medicine).

- **A university degree certificate**, if applicant has attained the higher university degree somewhere else than in the University of Turku and 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.

- **An application for approval of a third supervisor** containing an explanation, when proposing three supervisors
  - Needed only when proposing three supervisors

- **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

5.2 Assessment of applications

5.2.1 Assessment and selection criteria

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will evaluate the applications with the help of outside experts, when needed. The applicant's motivation, merits, previous studies, and the ability to complete a doctoral degree, as well as the quality and feasibility of the research plan (drug research) are taken into consideration when selecting doctoral candidates. Selection process is stepwise and applicants may be invited to interview after preliminary selection. The invitation will be sent by email. Research proposals may be checked by using Turnitin Originality Check (system for electrical plagiarism detection) before the selection.

5.2.2 Decisions

The Dean of 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 on the decisions. The right to study for a doctoral degree begins January 1, 2020.

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions. The names of the applicants who have been selected for a Doctoral Candidate position will be announced on the website of the doctoral programme by the end of November 2019.

An admitted applicant has to notify University of Turku of his/her acceptance of the study place by the 13 December 2019 at 15.00 (GMT +2) according to the instructions given in the admission notification. If the admitted applicant does not give the notification in the time indicated, he/she shall forfeit the study place. A person admitted to more than one university or polytechnic degree has to notify only the degree in which he/she accepts the study place. Notification is binding, it is not possible to cancel or change it 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 and Master 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 (right to study for a doctoral degree), 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 Elimä, kateli(at)utu.fi
TuDMM coordinator Eeva Valve, eeva.valve(at)utu.fi