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 or THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING IN DRUG RESEARCH DOCTORAL PROGRAMME (DRDP)

1. Drug Research Doctoral Programme (DRDP)

The doctoral candidates of Drug Research Doctoral Programme (DRDP) carry out their doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine or at the Faculty of Science and Engineering. The degree requirements for the doctoral candidates are stated in the Academic Post-graduate Study Guide for 2018-2020 of each Faculty. In addition, the doctoral studies in DRDP are guided by doctoral programme -specific study guide.

Doctoral candidates of DRDP will carry out their doctoral studies in research groups with high scientific standards at the university and in companies. Each doctoral candidate focuses on a specific topic relevant for drug development, and the research project is planned with the supervisors for the application. DRDP doctoral candidates’ work on target identification and validation, development and preclinical testing of novel drug molecules, clinical drug research, pharmacoepidemiology, and development of methods and diagnostics supporting drug research. DRDP serves as a postgraduate programme for graduates of the Master’s Degree Programme in Drug Discovery and Development at the University of Turku, but it is open to all applicants with a suitable M.Sc. level education and an interest in drug research.

DRDP training prepares for work in wide and demanding expert and development tasks in the field of drug development and research internationally. The graduates work in academic and commercial institutes, healthcare sector and as regulatory authorities. The DRDP training provides a general view of the drug development process, starting from molecular and mechanistic levels and continuing to preclinical and clinical drug research, pharmaceutical development, and pharmacoepidemiology as well as transferable skills relevant to drug development. In addition, it provides networking opportunities locally, nationally and internationally and supports career planning in the field of drug research. DRDP is part of a strong national FinPharmaNet network of drug research programmes in Finland.

Novel in 2019 application round:

DRDP has started industrial PhD (iPhD) doctorate training in collaboration with industrial partners. The aim is to train doctors with strong scientific thinking in combination with applied research expertise, and capabilities to work in both academic and industrial research environments as well as in their interface. Doctoral candidates on the iPhD track will carry out their research primarily (>75 % of total 4 years) in the industrial environment, and are supervised by both industrial and academic supervisors. The academic training will be composed of academic secondments (akateeminen työskentelyjakso, max 25 %), and the post-graduate education courses at the UTU. Applicants to iPhD track will select iPhD track in the application, and will attach the special iPhD Supervision plan as an appendix.

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

General guidelines for postgraduate studies in the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Science and Engineering

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.

-> Go to the study guide of the doctoral programme of your choice -> Faculty of Medicine -> Show description

5. Applying

Qualified applicant with research topic fitting the scope of DRDP can apply. The motivation to apply to DRDP is presented in the Motivation letter. The applicant should have 1-2 supervisors with at least one supervisor affiliated with University of Turku and holding the UTU-account to use the UGIS system. One member in the follow-up committee should be well familiar with the practicalities of doctoral training in the faculty and DRDP. To plan the theoretical studies, take into account the Learning outcomes of DRDP, your research project and your career plans.

5.1 Application documents

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:

1. **Motivation letter** (why do you wish to perform doctoral studies in this doctoral programme)

2. **CV** of the applicant (it is mandatory to use attached **CV model**)

3. **Structured research plan** approved by the supervisor (max 5 pages). **Guidelines**.

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.

4. **The postgraduate study plan**. Mark to the plan the studies you have already taken.

**Faculty of Medicine**:

- Use this [template](#)
- [Examples of postgraduate studies](#) and [study guide](#)

or **Faculty of Science and Engineering** – Use this [Plan](#)

**If you are applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree, attach also:**

5. **Supervision plan**

the Medical Faculty’s form: [Supervision plan](#) - fill in electronically, print, sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject and scan as an attachment (a mandatory attachment in the Faculty of Medicine).

or [Industrial PhD (iPhD) Supervision plan](#)

See: [Subjects in doctoral training and heads of doctoral subject](#) (PDF)

or Faculty of Science and Engineering – Use this [Supervision plan](#)

6. **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.

7. **An application for approval of a third supervisor** containing an explanation, when proposing three supervisors

   - Needed only when proposing three supervisors
8. 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 or Faculty of Science and Engineering 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 or Faculty of Science and Engineering within 14 days of the official publishing of the results.
Additional information

Faculty of Medicine:
Chief Academic Officer Outi Irjala

Faculty of Faculty of Science and Engineering:
Chief Academic Officer Sanna Ranto

6. Additional DRDP information:

DRDP director, associate professor Erika Savontaus, eriika.savontaus(at)utu.fi
DRDP coordinator PhD Eeva Valve, eeva.valve(at)utu.fi