

Call for Applications for Doctoral Researcher Positions at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Turku, Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science, and/or for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position under an employment contract. Please read more specific instructions below and apply on 12 September 2025 at the latest.

The Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science (DPNurs) provides systematic doctoral education in the field of nursing science. DPNurs covers central [research fields](#) in nursing science. DPNurs is responsible for the doctoral education in health sciences at the University of Turku. DPNurs educates high-level researchers and experts in nursing science for the national and international needs of the research field, as well as for social and health services, education, business, and industry. DPNurs supports expertise required in research activities and systematic career development in nursing science. Doctoral Researchers are involved in the national and international nursing and health science community, where the Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science has strong integration.

[More information about the Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science](#)

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 29 August – 12 September 2025, you can apply for:

- a. The right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Turku from 1 January 2026 onwards***
- b. A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract***

The position of a doctoral researcher is set to begin on 1 January 2026 at the earliest and for the duration of a maximum of four years (up to until 31 December 2029). The positions are intended for full-time doctoral dissertation research. Duties other than those related to doctoral dissertation research, such as teaching duties, must be proportioned so as not to compromise the completion of the doctoral dissertation within the planned schedule. As a rule, up to 5% (a maximum of about 80 hrs per academic year) of the annual working time of the doctoral researcher can consist of teaching.

When determining the length of the employment contract, the funding previously granted for doctoral degree is taken into account, as well as the timetable and the stage of completion of the degree. The maximum duration of doctoral researcher position is four years. A person already awarded with a doctoral degree may not be appointed to a position of doctoral researcher with an employment contract.

The position of doctoral researcher with employment contract requires working in Finland. A doctoral researcher works in a Department of Nursing Science.

The salary is based on the salary system of the University's teaching and research staff. Salaries 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 varies between € 2 400 and € 3 300, depending on the progress of the doctoral research and the experience and skills of the person concerned. The probationary period of six months applies.

c. Both of the above (a ja b)

d. The right to complete a licentiate degree, see more information
<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utuugs/doctoral-programme-in-nursing-science/admission>.

What is expected of you

When applying for a right to study

- 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§).
- You must fulfil the language requirements of the University of Turku. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School's language requirements webpage](#).
- You must fulfil the prerequisites set by the Faculty of Medicine and the doctoral programme in Nursing Science for granting a right to study:
 - The eligibility criteria and other general guidelines can be found on [the web page of the Faculty of Medicine](#).
 - The grade received for the major subject of the Master's degree should be at least "good" (3 on a scale of 1–5). If the final grade of the major subject is not identifiable (e.g. international degrees), study achievements must be proved by other means. See also the [study guide of the Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science](#), prerequisites (click "show description").

When applying for a doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

- You must have an active right to study for the doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku. In addition, when acquiring the degree or otherwise, you are required to have demonstrated the ability and motivation to undertake postgraduate studies and the capacity to complete a doctoral degree in accordance with the research plan (University of Turku Rules of Procedure 20.5.2022). If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to study for a doctoral degree in the in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku in the Studyinfo system (see instructions in the section 'How

to apply for a right to study'). The right to study 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 received four years of full-time funding for a doctoral degree.

How to apply

Applications for the right to study for a doctoral degree are submitted in the Studyinfo system, and applications for the position of doctoral researcher are submitted in the University of Turku's recruitment system (Talentti) by filling in the electronic application form and attaching pdf attachments to the application. **Please note that if you are applying for both the right to study and the doctoral researcher position with an employment contract, you must submit your application with attachments in both application systems (see below for details).** For both applications you will need to submit the required attachments (in English and in PDF format).

How to apply for a right to study

To apply, fill in the electronic application form on Studyinfo and submit the required attachments 1-9 (listed below). The Studyinfo application form will open on 29 August 2025 and close on 12 September 2025 at 4 pm (local time in Finland). [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School website where the application forms are published.](#)

In this application round, you can apply for admission to up to two doctoral programmes at the University of Turku. You can only have one valid doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

Late applications will not be considered. You cannot change the study programme (doctoral programme) or the application after the application deadline.

Only the right to study for a doctoral degree is applied for in the Studyinfo system. If you also wish to apply for a doctoral researcher position with employment contract, you must apply for the position separately (see the section 'How to apply for a doctoral researcher position').

How to apply for a doctoral researcher position

To apply for a doctoral researcher position with an employment contract, fill in the electronic application form in the University of Turku's recruitment system (Talentti) and submit the required attachments 1–4 (listed below). The degree certificate and transcript of records from your previous degree must be attached to the application for technical reasons, even though they will not be taken into account in the selection process. The application form will open on 29 August 2025 and close on 12 September 2025 at 4 pm (local time in Finland).

The positions will be advertised in the Open Positions of the University of Turku and on the website of the University of Turku Graduate School at the beginning of the

application period. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School's website where the application forms will be published](#). Late applications will not be considered. It is not possible to change the doctoral programme or the application after the deadline.

To be eligible for the position of a doctoral researcher, applicant must have an active right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku. If you have not yet been granted a study right for a doctoral degree, you must apply for a right to study from in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku in the Studyinfo system (see the section 'How to apply for a right to study').

Attachments to the application:

1. Research plan, max 5 pages ([research plan instructions](#))

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. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be clearly indicated in the research plan.

2. Progress and resource plan ([instructions](#))

3. Curriculum Vitae of the applicant ([Please see the instructions of Finnish National Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\) for writing a CV](#))

4. List of publications of the applicant (following the [instructions of the Academy of Finland](#))

5. Supervision and study plan (fill in electronically, print and sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject)

6. 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 your scanned original degree certificates, transcripts of study records, and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the selection to the electronic application form.
- 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. scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - b. scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - c. scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and that you are applying based on.

If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records 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 and a translation made by an authorised translator. A transcript in English can be replaced by a Diploma Supplement (DS) awarded by a European educational institution, provided that it contains the information about completed courses and other study attainments.

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.

7. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15 Aug 2019) 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.

8. Copy of a valid passport

Attach a copy of your valid passport or official identification card with a 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.

9. When only one supervisor for doctoral training is proposed, the supervisor's justified plea for approval of only one supervisor must be attached to the application.

[See Before applying / Doctoral training at the Faculty of Medicine > Supervision](#)

Evaluation of applications

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will evaluate the applications. Applications may also be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers. Applicants may be invited to an interview by the DPNurs steering committee. 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 the selection process for the Doctoral Researcher positions, the following issues are emphasized: quality, feasibility and social relevance of the research plan. In addition, the applicant's merits, completed studies, capability, and motivation to complete a doctoral degree are evaluated.

When admitting the right to study for a doctoral degree, the eligibility criteria of the applicant and the [evaluation criteria of the Doctoral Programme in Nursing Science](#) are considered in addition to the above-mentioned criteria. A prerequisite for admission is that there is at least one person who has agreed to act as a supervisor and who fulfils the qualification requirements for supervisors. In addition, the applicant's research topic must fit in with the profile of the Doctoral Programme.

Decisions

Decisions on the study rights

The Dean / Vice Dean of the Faculty of Medicine decides whether to award a study right for a doctoral degree to an applicant. The decision is based on the proposal of the

Doctoral Programme's Steering Committee. All applicants will be informed of the decisions personally by 28 November 2025 at the latest.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3 pm (local time in Finland) on 15 December 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 6 March 2026 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Link to the instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

Decisions on the doctoral researcher positions

The appointment is decided by the Head of the department (Department of Nursing Science) on the recommendation of the Doctoral Programme's Steering Committee. All applicants will be informed personally of the decision. The names of those selected for the position of doctoral researcher will be published on the website of the doctoral programme. Doctoral researches selected for the position will be required to notify their acceptance of the position in accordance with the instructions given in the selection decision.

More information

[Link to the website of DPNurs](#)

[Link to the website of Faculty of Medicine](#)

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