



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCHER POSITIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU GRADUATE SCHOOL, DOCTORAL PROGRAMME IN LAW

The Doctoral Programme in Law is responsible for the doctoral education in law as part of the University of Turku Graduate School (UTUGS). The programme includes all fields of law and provides opportunities for interdisciplinary and multi-legal doctoral research that goes beyond traditional subject boundaries.

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 3 March – 14 March 2025, the Doctoral Programme in Law invites applications for:

- *the right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law, University of Turku, from 1 August 2025 onwards*

Who may apply

The right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law can be applied for by persons who 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 graduation of degree needs to be completed by the end of the application period.

Applicants need to fulfil the University of Turku language skill requirements. [Link to language requirements in the web page of the university's graduate school](#)

How to apply

The right to study for a doctoral degree is applied for by filling in an electronic form in My Studyinfo service and attaching the required additional documents specified in Attachments section below.

The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 3 March 2025 and closes at 4 pm (local time in Finland) on 14 March 2025. [Link to the University of Turku Graduate School web page, where the application form can be found.](#)

In this call the applicant may apply to a maximum of two doctoral programmes at the University of Turku. You can only have one valid study right at a time for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku.

Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. Application documents will not be returned.

A person applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree **must find a supervisor** for their thesis before submitting their application. At least one supervisor must be employed by the Faculty of Law at the University of Turku.

The applicant must **contact a potential supervisor** directly in order to arrange the supervision. The applicant should acquaint themselves with the research profiles of the



teaching staff of the faculty and consider if their research plan fits adequately the research profile of a staff member. The contact information of the staff can be found on the web site of the faculty: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-law/contact>

In this call, you can only apply for right to study a doctoral degree. Please notice that the right to study a doctoral degree does not include any funding.

ASSESSMENT OF APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

The Dean of the Faculty of Law makes the decision of granting **a right to study for the doctoral degree** based on the proposals of the board of the doctoral programme. When considering the applicant's capability to complete the degree, the following criteria are taken into consideration:

- academic attractiveness, importance and feasibility of the research plan,
- sufficiently wide-ranging knowledge of the research on the applicant's field manifested in the research plan and methodological approach,
- possible publications,
- the merits and grade of the Master's thesis and possible postgraduate degree thesis in Law and
- previous studies in law, their content and level if the applicant has a degree other than a Master of Laws degree,
- connection between the research project and the faculty's focus in research,
- other merits such as relevant professional experience.

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 30 May 2025.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 13 June 2025 at 3:00 pm (local time in Finland) 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 5 September 2025 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates (in a paper form) by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Link to instructions on providing original educational documents and country-specific requirements.](#)



APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

Applicants must prepare and attach the following documents to the application form according to the instructions on filling in the application form. All application documents must be written either in Finnish, Swedish or in English.

Please see instructions on the required documents at:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/doctoral-programme-in-law/admission> > Description of the application documents

ATTACHMENTS:

1. **A research plan** for a doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the Faculty of Law. The maximum length of a research plan should not be exceeded. By attaching the research plan to the application form, the applicant gives permission to check the research plan with Turnitin OriginalityCheck software (a system for electronic plagiarism detection). The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to assist in the preparation of the research plan should be indicated in the research plan.
2. **CV and List of publications** (CV according to guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board of Research Integrity, http://www.tenk.fi/sites/tenk.fi/files/CV_english_270613.pdf)
3. **An agreement from the person or persons proposed to act as a supervisor** to the applicant. The supervisor should send the agreement directly to the doctoral programme at lawpostgraduate@utu.fi
4. **Degree certificates and transcripts of study records**
 - A. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make them eligible for doctoral studies at a university in Finland, the degree certificates, the transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection must be attached to the electronic application form.
 - B. If the applicant has completed the former degree(s) which make them eligible for doctoral studies at a university abroad (i.e. outside Finland), they must attach the following items to the electronic application form:
 - scanned original degree certificates or the original electronic degree certificate of the degree (in the same language as the degree was completed in)
 - scanned original transcripts of study records or the original electronic transcript of records of the Master's degree (in the same language as the degree was completed in)
 - scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection

If the original degree certificates and other educational documents 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 or a translation made by an authorized translator. A transcript in English can be replaced by a



Diploma Supplement awarded by a European educational institution if 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.

5. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15 Aug 2019, supplemented 21.12.2023) on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. See the language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/how-to-apply/language>

- If the applicant is required to prove their language proficiency with the language test, a **scanned certificate of a completed language** test must be attached to the application

6. Copy of a valid passport

A copy of valid passport or official identification card with photo and information on citizenship. If applicant has a Finnish personal identity code and they have entered it on the application form, they do not need to attach a copy of their passport

7. Reasons for transferring from another doctoral programme

If the applicant has a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, and they wish to transfer to the DPLAW doctoral programme, they must provide reasons for transferring. If the applicant intends to use research materials collected during the previous supervision relationship in the dissertation, they must submit a confirmation of having the right to use the materials.

Further information

Coordinator Kirsi Tuohela (lawpostgraduate@utu.fi. +358 50 329 0514)