

Faculty of Law**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). All fields of law are represented in the programme. The programme welcomes multidisciplinary doctoral dissertation research.

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Law of the University of Turku, Doctoral Programme in Law (DPLAW) and/or for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract. Please read more specific instructions below and apply by 16 March 2026.

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 2 March–16 March 2026, you can apply for:

- a. The right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Law of the University of Turku from 1 August 2026 onwards***
- b. A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract for maximum of two years***
- c. Both of the above (a and b)***

The position of a doctoral researcher is for the duration of a maximum of two years (24 months). The position is set to begin on 1 August 2026 or, according to an agreement, at an alternate date. 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 (b and c above), the funding previously granted for a doctoral degree is considered, as well as the timetable and the stage of completion of the degree. Applicants who have received 48 months of full funding to work on their doctoral dissertations, including external funding, cannot be considered for employment as doctoral researchers. Moreover, 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 the Faculty of Law. The place of employment is Turku. The University of Turku offers flexible possibilities for remote work.

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 € 2 500 and € 3 400 per month, depending on the progress of the doctoral research and the experience and skills of the person concerned. The probationary period of 6 months applies.

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§). Graduation needs to be completed by the end of the application period.
- persons who in addition fulfil the University of Turku language skill requirements. [Link to language requirements in the web page of the university's graduate school](#)

A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract can be applied for by

- persons who have an active right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law, University of Turku, and who have not received full four years of (internal and/or external) funding for their doctoral research.
- persons who do not yet have a study right for a doctoral degree but have completed a Master's Degree, other applicable higher education degree or a corresponding international degree and whose degree and research plan are in accordance with the research areas included in the Doctoral Programme. A right to pursue a doctoral degree is a prerequisite for an applicant to be chosen for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position under an employment contract. Therefore, the applicant for the salaried position who do not have the right to pursue a doctoral degree have to apply for it by filling in an electronic form in My Study info service (for details, please, see section "How to apply the right to study 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).**

The application documents are described in more detail at the end of this Call. The documents can be written in Finnish, Swedish, or English. Late applications will not be considered.



How to apply for a right to study

To apply, fill in the electronic application form on Studyinfo and submit the required attachments. The Studyinfo application form will open on 2 March 2026 and close on 16 March 2026 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 only to one doctoral programme at the University of Turku. You can only have one valid doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

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 with an employment contract

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. The application form will open on 2 March 2026 and close on 16 March 2026 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.

To be eligible for employment as a doctoral researcher, the applicant must have an active right to study for a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in 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 Doctoral Programme in Law (DPLAW) in the Studyinfo system (see the section 'How to apply for a right to study').

Assessment of applications and decisions

Right to study for the doctoral degree

The Dean of the Faculty of Law makes the decision to grant **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:

- scholarly originality, ambition, rigour, importance and feasibility of the research plan,
- sufficiently wide-ranging knowledge of the research in the applicant's field manifested in the research plan and methodological approach,
- possible publications,



- the merits, content and grade of the Master's thesis, and success in previous academic studies,
- connection between the research project and the faculty's focal areas of research,
- other merits such as relevant professional experience,
- agreement of supervision by the intended supervisor(s) (to be sent directly by the supervisor(s) to lawpostgraduate@utu.fi).

Having a supervisor from the Faculty of Law is a mandatory requirement.

A person applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree **must find one, preferably two, supervisors** 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. Applicants should contact the intended supervisors well ahead of the deadline for applications. The [contact information of the staff can be found on the web site of the faculty](#).

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 29 May 2026.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 15 June 2026 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 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 9 September 2026 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](#).

Fixed-term doctoral researcher positions

The Dean of the Faculty of Law makes the decision of **the fixed-term doctoral researcher positions** based on the proposals of the steering committee of the doctoral programme. The essential criteria of evaluation for the fixed-term positions of a doctoral researcher are:



- The scholarly originality, ambition, rigour, importance and feasibility of the research plan,
- Applicant's eligibility for postgraduate studies (academic performance, possible scientific merits, the progress of studies and research to the current date).

The final selection is based on a comprehensive evaluation of applications, since the applicants may be at different stages of their doctoral dissertation process. The candidates who are considered most qualified may be interviewed.

When determining the length of the employment contract, the stage of the doctoral research and prior funding granted for pursuing a doctoral degree is taken into account. The doctoral programme offers funding only to applicants who have not yet received internal or external funding for four years (48 months) of full-time work.

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions. The names of the applicants who have been selected for the fixed-term doctoral researcher position under employment contract may be announced on the website of the doctoral programme.

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 available in Finnish, Swedish or in English.

Please see Description of the application documents at: [Doctoral Programme in Law - Admission Criteria and Instructions for Applicants | University of Turku](#)

ATTACHMENTS 1, Applying for a right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Law

1. [A research plan for a doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the Faculty of Law.](#) To ensure equality among applicants, it is important that the maximum length of the research plan is not exceeded. Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools when drafting the research plan must be carefully disclosed in the plan, clearly explaining and distinguishing the work of the applicant from that of AI software. 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 and AI detection).
2. CV and List of publications (CV according to [guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board of Research Integrity](#)).
3. An agreement from the person(s) proposed to act as a supervisor(s) to the applicant. The supervisor(s) 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 or electronic original degree certificates (in the same language as the degree was completed in)
 - scanned or electronic original transcripts of study records (in the same language as the degree was completed in)
 - scanned or electronic 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.

5. 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 \(link\)](#)



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 a valid passport or official identification card with photo and information on citizenship. If the 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.

Please ensure that all attachments are of high quality, easily readable and are full-colour scans or photographs of the entire required document. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.

ATTACHMENTS 2, Applying for a fixed-term Doctoral Researcher position

1. [A research plan for a doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the Faculty of Law](#). To ensure equality among applicants, it is important that the maximum length of the research plan is not exceeded. Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools when drafting the research plan must be carefully disclosed in the plan, clearly explaining and distinguishing the work of the applicant from that of AI software. 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 and AI detection).
2. CV and List of publications (CV according to [guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board of Research Integrity](#))
3. Degree certificate
4. Transcript of study records

The application form and the attachments must be delivered by the application deadline. *Applications that arrive after the deadline will not be processed.*

[Application forms](#) at the Graduate School webpage

Further information

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