

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 gives qualification for 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 on 12 September 2025 at the latest.

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 Law of the University of Turku from 1 January 2026 onwards***
- b. A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract***
- c. Both of the above (a ja b)***

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 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 € 2 400 and € 3 300, depending on the progress of the doctoral research and the experience and skills of the person concerned. The probationary period of 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§). The graduation of degree 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 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 for 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 Studyinfo 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 (Talenti) 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 attachments are described in more detail at the end of this Call for applications.

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 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 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 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 Doctoral Programme in Law. 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

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

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](#)

All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by the 28 November 2025.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 15 December 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 6 March 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.](#)

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

- The quality 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 comprehensive evaluation of applications (not on a single criterion) as the applicants can be at different stages of their doctoral dissertation process. Most qualified candidates 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. As a rule, the doctoral programme offers funding only to applicants who have not yet received funding for four year 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 will be announced on the website of the doctoral programme by the 28 November 2025.

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 Description of the application documents at:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/doctoral-programme-in-law/admission>

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. 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)
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 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 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

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](#)
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.

Further information

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