



14 February 2025

Call for applications for the right to study a doctoral degree at the University of Turku Graduate School, the Doctoral Programme on Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State (DPIInvest)

[The Doctoral Programme in Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State](#) is a cross-disciplinary, international PhD programme aimed at educating such specialists in social and behavioural sciences. The doctoral programme includes sociology and psychology for the Faculty of Social Sciences and child psychiatry for the Faculty of Medicine.

DPIInvest is part of the [INVEST Research Flagship Center](#), which aims for a more equitable, better targeted, proactive and economically and socially sustainable welfare model. INVEST identifies and addresses the barriers to well-being of children and young people through evidence-based interventions. INVEST also seeks ways to simultaneously help families suffering from accumulated deprivation and use society's resources more efficiently. INVEST aims to increase the well-being of society.

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 3 March – 14 March 2025, you can apply for **the right to study for a doctoral degree** at the University of Turku, Faculty of Social Sciences or Faculty of Medicine from 1 August 2025 onwards, at the Doctoral Programme on Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State (DPIInvest). The application period ends 14 March 2025, at 4 pm (Finnish time).

What is expected of you

- 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§). The degree, which grants the applicant the eligibility for the study right for a doctoral degree must be completed by the end of the application period.
- You must fulfil the University of Turku language skill requirements. [Link to language requirements in the web page of the university's graduate school](#).
- You are required to fulfil the prerequisites set by the Faculty for granting a right to study. For more information, see:
[The prerequisites for the right to pursue doctoral studies at the Faculty of Social Sciences](#)
or
[The prerequisites for the right to pursue doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine](#)



14 February 2025

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 Appendix 1. The application documents are written in English. 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.](#)

During one application round 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. When the application period has ended, you cannot change the doctoral programme you are applying for, or any other information. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

Evaluation of applications

Applications are reviewed by the steering committee of the doctoral programme. Applications may also be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers.

The evaluation will take into account the following criteria:

- Quality of the research plan (general quality, feasibility, relation to doctoral programme research profile). 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.
- Success in previous studies (master's thesis, or equivalent, grade and other studies)
- How well the research plan is linked with [the research themes of the programme](#)
- Availability of resources for supervision

Applicants' previous higher education degrees must include sufficient studies in social sciences or other fields relevant to the doctoral programme.

The applicant must provide in the application a supervisor who meets the requirements of the faculty and who has approved the research plan and agreed to be the first supervisor of the research.

A maximum of 50 doctoral researchers per academic year are admitted into the faculty. The steering committee of the doctoral programme will make a proposal on granting the study rights to a doctoral degree.

Decisions

The Dean of the Faculty decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal of the steering committee of the doctoral programme. All applicants will be personally informed about the decisions by 30 May 2025.



14 February 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.](#)

Additional information

[Link to DPInvest web pages](https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpinvest) (<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpinvest>)

Doctoral Education Specialist Kirsi Tammi, socpostgraduate@utu.fi

Appendices

Appendix 1: Application documents for a study right application

14 February 2025

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See the guidelines for attachments depending on which faculty you are applying for.

Faculty of Social Sciences: psychology and sociology

1. **Research plan**, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#), 'Research plan and study plan')

The research plans attached to the applications can be checked via the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software, in accordance with the quality assurance system of the University of Turku.

2. **Curriculum vitae (CV)**, max 3 pages. A CV includes a list of publications.
Please see the instructions of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity for writing a CV <https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>
3. **Motivation letter** (reasons for applying to study a doctoral degree). Motivation letter is a max two-page-long freeform document, which includes the the motivation for pursuing doctoral studies in DPInvest in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Turku.
4. **Commitment by a supervisor** (a file or a copy of an email message by a professor or a researcher with a doctoral degree working at the University of Turku to confirm that she/he is willing to supervise the applicant's dissertation project. See list of supervisors: <https://invest.utu.fi/dpinvest-supervisors/>).

Note: At least one of the named supervisors need to represent the applicant's discipline (i.e. sociology or psychology) at the University of Turku.

5. Degree certificates and transcript of study records

- a) If you have completed your former degree at a higher education institution in Finland, you must attach to the application:
 - Scans of the original degree certificate or the original electronic degree certificate of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. Master's degree certificate)
 - Scans of the original transcript of records or the original electronic transcript of records of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. transcript of records of the Master's degree)
 - Other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection (e.g. studies you have completed outside the degree that are related to the right to study you are applying for).

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.

- 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:



14 February 2025

- Scans of the original degree certificate or the original electronic degree certificate of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. Master's degree certificate in the same language as the degree was completed in)
- Scans of the original transcript of records or the original electronic transcript of records of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. transcript of records of the Master's degree in the same language as the degree was completed in)
- Other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection (e.g. studies you have completed outside the degree that are related to the right to study you are applying for).

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 or degree certificate 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.

6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. [Link to language requirements in 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.**

7. Copy of a valid passport

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

8. Certificate of right to use the research material

If you have a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, you must provide reasons in your application for changing over to a doctoral programme in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Turku (give the information on the electronic application form in a specified field, a separate attachment is not needed). If any materials collected during the previous supervision relationship are planned to be used in the dissertation, a consent to the applicant's use of research materials must be submitted.



14 February 2025

Faculty of Medicine: child psychiatry

1. **Research plan**, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#), 'Research plan and study plan')

The research plans attached to the applications can be checked via the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software, in accordance with the quality assurance system of the University of Turku.

2. **Curriculum vitae (CV)**, max 3 pages. A CV includes a list of publications. Please see the instructions of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity for writing a CV <https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>
3. **Motivation letter** (reasons for applying to study a doctoral degree). Motivation letter is a max two-page-long freeform document, which includes the the motivation for pursuing doctoral studies in DPinvest in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku.
4. **Postgraduate study plan**. See instructions: [DPInvest doctoral programme's instructions on applying](#), section 'Research plan and study plan'.
5. [Signed supervision plan](#) [(Fill in electronically, print, sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject (Child Psychiatry) and scan as an attachment)].

Note! At least one of the supervisors must be employed by the University of Turku or by the unit within the Turku University Hospital expert responsibility area (ERVA).

6. **Degree certificates and transcript of study records**, if necessary: see more information from [Instructions of the Faculty of Medicine](#) (Before applying / Doctoral training at the Faculty of Medicine > Degree giving the eligibility)
 - a) If you have completed your former degree at a higher education institution in Finland, you must attach to the application:
 - Scans of the original degree certificate or the original electronic degree certificate of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. Master's degree certificate)
 - Scans of the original transcript of records or the original electronic transcript of records of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. transcript of records of the Master's degree)
 - Other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection (e.g. studies you have completed outside the degree that are related to the right to study you are applying for).

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.

- 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:



14 February 2025

- Scans of the original degree certificate or the original electronic degree certificate of the degree which make you eligible for doctoral studies (e.g. Master's degree certificate in the same language as the degree was completed in)
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If the applicant is required to prove their 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 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](#)

10. Certificate of right to use the research material

If you have a right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, you must provide reasons in your application for changing over to the DPinvest doctoral programme (give the information on the electronic application form in a specified field, a separate attachment is not needed). If any materials collected during the previous supervision relationship are planned to be used in the dissertation, a consent to the applicant's use of research materials must be submitted.