

Call for Applications for Doctoral degree study rights at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme on Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State (DPIInvest)

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in University of Turku, 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 Centre](#), which is one of the internationally leading research centres studying inequality and wellbeing unfolding from the early life-course onwards. INVEST's cross-disciplinary research addresses societal changes brought on by demographic trends, digitalization and polarization.

Societal challenges are addressed through five research themes:

- Socioeconomic and intergenerational inequalities
- Demographic changes and family dynamics
- Education, skills and learning
- Child and adolescent psychosocial well-being and mental health
- Public health and health equity

Our goal is to improve the sustainability of the welfare state with evidence-based interventions and investments.

Please note that the degree requirements for the doctoral programme include compulsory advanced methodological training, particularly in quantitative methods, studies in the programme's research areas, seminars, multidisciplinary thematic workshops, mobility studies, and other studies. Completing the compulsory studies also requires attendance on campus. See DPIInvest curriculum 2024–2027 by the faculty you are applying to: [Faculty of Social Sciences](#) / [Faculty of Medicine](#)

Application period and what can be applied for

During the application period 2 March – 16 March, 2026, you can apply for *the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Sciences or Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku in the Doctoral Programme Programme on Inequalities, Interventions and New Welfare State (DPIInvest) from 1 August 2026 onwards*

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 that gives eligibility for admission must be completed by the end of the application period.
- 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 requirements set by the faculty you are applying the study right from 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](#)
 - [The prerequisites for the right to pursue doctoral studies at the Faculty of Medicine](#)

How to apply

To apply, fill in the electronic application form on Studyinfo and submit the required attachments with the application form (see Annex 1). 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 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.

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

Evaluation of applications

Applications will be assessed by the Doctoral programme's Steering Committee and representatives of the doctoral programme disciplines. The programme steering committee may also use external experts to assess the applications. The evaluation will take into account the following criteria:

- Quality of the research plan (general quality, feasibility, relation to the 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 link with [the research themes of the programme](#)
- Availability of resources for supervision



The applicant must provide in the application a supervisor from the doctoral programme who meets the requirements of the faculty in question and who has approved the research plan and agreed to be the primary supervisor of the research. See guidelines for finding a supervisor when you are applying to the Faculty of Social Sciences from the [DPIInvest instructions for applicants](#). If you are applying to the Faculty of Medicine two supervisors and a follow up committee is required, see more information from the [Faculty of Medicine instructions for applicants to doctoral training > Before applying](#).

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 informed of the decisions personally (email) by 29 May 2026 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 June 2026 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 9 September 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](#).

More information

[Link to the doctoral programme website](#) (www.utu.fi/dpinvest)

Faculty: socpostgraduate@utu.fi, Doctoral Education Specialist Kirsi Tammi

Attachments

Annex 1. Attachments to the application when applying for study right

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

Faculty of Social Sciences: Psychology and Sociology

The attachments listed below are submitted as part of the electronic application form in the Studyinfo system. Please ensure that all attachments are of good-quality, easy to read, also full colour scans or photographs of the complete document required.

Attachments should be submitted in PDF format. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.

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 maximum of two-page-long freeform document, which includes 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 guidelines for finding a supervisor: <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/dpinvest/admission>

Note: The primary supervisor must be affiliated with Invest and represent the applicant's discipline (sociology or psychology) at the University of Turku. At the application stage, a commitment from the primary supervisor is sufficient. Applicants must find a supervisor independently; see the link to the instructions above.

5. **Degree certificates and transcript of study records** (degree that makes the applicant eligible for doctoral studies)
 - 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 the following items to the electronic application form:



- 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).
- 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:
- 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 of records 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.

6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (15.8.2019, supplemented 21.12.2023) on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. You should carefully read the University of Turku's guidelines on language proficiency. [Link to the website of the language requirements.](#)

You must attach a scanned certificate of a language test approved by the University of Turku to your application, unless otherwise stated in the guidelines.

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 the right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, and you wish to transfer to Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences, you must state the reasons for transferring to a doctoral programme in the application form. If you intend to use research material collected during your previous supervision for your doctoral dissertation, you must submit a certificate with your application stating that you are entitled to use the material.

Faculty of Medicine: Child Psychiatry

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3. **Motivation letter** (reasons for applying to study a doctoral degree). Motivation letter is a maximum of two-page-long freeform document, which includes the motivation for pursuing doctoral studies in DPInvest in the Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku.
4. **Post graduate study plan**. See [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** (degree that makes the applicant eligible for doctoral studies), if necessary: see [Instructions of the Faculty of Medicine](#), section "Degree giving the eligibility"
 - 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 the following items to the electronic application form:



- 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)
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- 9. The supervisor's justified plea for approval of only one supervisor** must be attached to the application, when only one supervisor for doctoral training is proposed. See [Before applying / Doctoral training at the Faculty of Medicine](#), section "Supervision"

10. Certificate of right to use the research material

If you have the right to study for a doctoral degree at another university or in another doctoral programme at the University of Turku, and you wish to transfer to Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences, you must state the reasons for transferring to a doctoral programme in the application form. If you intend to use research material collected during your previous supervision for your doctoral dissertation, you must submit a certificate with your application stating that you are entitled to use the material.