

**Faculty of Social Sciences****Call for Applications for Doctoral degree study rights and fixed-term Doctoral Researcher Positions at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc)**

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in University of Turku, Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences. The doctoral programme is multidisciplinary and wide-ranging, and part of the University of Turku Graduate School. The disciplines of the doctoral programme are contemporary history, East Asian studies, economic sociology, speech-language pathology, philosophy, political science, psychology, social policy, social work and sociology.

**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 Sciences at the University of Turku in the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc) from 1 January 2026 onwards***
- b. A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract***

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 and completing the doctoral studies. 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 and other duties not related to the dissertation research.

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 a 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. The doctoral researcher works in the department of the Faculty of Social Sciences to which his or her main subject belongs. 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 approximately € 2 500 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.

**c. Both of the above (a ja b)**

**What is expected of you**

**When applying for a right to study**

- 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§).

If the degree that gives you the eligibility for doctoral studies has not been completed by the closing date of this call, you can still apply in this call. However, you must complete your degree and submit scanned copies of your degree certificates by 31 October 2025 to the Faculty: email to [socpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:socpostgraduate@utu.fi). Until then, the selection is conditional.

- 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 for the right to study for a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Social Sciences: [Instructions for the applicant](#)

**When applying for a doctoral researcher position with an employment contract**

- You must have an active right to study for the doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences. In addition, when acquiring the degree or otherwise, you are required to have demonstrated the ability and motivation to undertake postgraduate studies and the capacity to complete a doctoral degree in accordance with the research plan (University of Turku Rules of Procedure 20.5.2022). If you have not yet been granted a right to study, you must apply for a right to study for a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences in the Studyinfo system (see instructions in the section 'How to apply for a right to study'). The right to study is a prerequisite for being selected for a position of a doctoral researcher;
- You are planning to pursue or pursuing your first doctoral degree;
- You have not previously received four years of full-time funding 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 required 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 (Annex 1 & Annex 2).

### How to apply for a right to study

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 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

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 with the application form (Annex 2). 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, the applicant must have an active right to study for a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural

Sciences. If you have not yet been granted a study right for a doctoral degree in the doctoral programme, you must apply for a right to study from the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences in the Studyinfo system (see the section 'How to apply for a right to study').

### **Evaluation of applications**

Applications will be assessed by the Doctoral programme's Steering Committee and representatives of the doctoral programme disciplines after the application deadline. Applications may also be sent for evaluation to national and/or international reviewers. Shortlisted applicants for the fixed-term doctoral researcher position may be interviewed.

### **Admission criteria for the right to study a doctoral degree**

The programme steering committee reviews the applications and representatives of the programme's disciplines and possible external experts also 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)
- Availability of resources for supervision

In addition, the applicant's research topic must fit the profile of the doctoral programme.

Applicants' previous higher education degrees must include sufficient studies in social sciences or other fields relevant to the doctoral programme. The adequacy of previous studies in social sciences and/or the suitability of previous studies for the doctoral programme is assessed in the major subject applied when evaluating applications.

The applicant must provide in the application a supervisor from the doctoral programme 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.

### **Evaluation of the applications for the position of doctoral researcher**

Particular attention will be paid to the following:

- 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, if the applicant has not yet started a doctoral degree at the University of Turku (master's thesis, or equivalent, grade and other studies)
- Scientific merit and progress in doctoral studies

The evaluation is carried out as an overall assessment, taking into account the stage of the research career. The Doctoral programme Steering Committee makes a selection proposal for the candidates to be selected for the doctoral researcher positions under an employment contract. The selection proposal of the steering committee is based on the evaluation of external experts. The funding needs of applicants in relation to the funding periods available will also be taken into account. The doctoral programme aims to promote all its research fields, which may be taken into consideration when positions are filled.

## Decisions

### Decisions on the study rights

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 28 November 2025 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 December 2025 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 by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Link to the instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)



### **Decisions on the doctoral researcher positions**

The Steering Committee of the Doctoral programme makes a proposal to the departments of the Faculty of Social Sciences for the selection of the doctoral researchers. The decision on the appointment is made by the Head of each department. All applicants will be informed personally (email) of the decision. The names of those selected for the position of doctoral researcher will be published on the website of the doctoral programme by 28 November 2025 at the latest. Doctoral researches selected for the position will be required to notify their acceptance of the position in accordance with the instructions given in the selection decision.

### **More information**

[Link to the doctoral programme website \(DPSoc\)](#) (Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences)

Faculty: [socpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:socpostgraduate@utu.fi), Doctoral Education Specialist Kirsi Tammi

### **Attachments**

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

Annex 2. Attachments to the application when applying for a doctoral researcher position

## **Annex 1: Attachments to the application when applying for study rights**

### **Faculty of Social Sciences**

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') The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the research plan must be clearly stated in the application.

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 Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences 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 the disciplines and contact information of the Faculty:  
<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences/units>

**Note:** At least one of the named supervisors need to represent the doctoral programme and the applicant's discipline at the University of Turku. A commitment from one supervisor is sufficient at the application stage. Applicants should find a supervisor independently (when contacting research and teaching staff, please include a CV and a summary of the research plan).

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 profience

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.

## **Annex 2. Attachments to the application when applying for a doctoral researcher position with employment contract**

Fill in the electronic application form. Unless otherwise instructed, the attachments listed below are to be submitted as part of the electronic application form in the Talentti system (TalentAdore). 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.

Applicants must include with their application the following **obligatory attachments**:

- **An up-to-date research plan, max 6 pages** (excl. list of references) (see [instructions](#), 'Research plan') **Note:** For longer research plans, only the first six pages will be taken into account in the evaluation.

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. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the research plan must be clearly stated in the application.

- **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>
- **Motivation letter**, max 2 pages
- **Information on completed studies**
  - A transcript of records of your previous degree (original scanned documents in English, Finnish or Swedish or an official translation in one of these languages)
  - AND if you are a Doctoral researcher at DPSoc, UTU: Up-to-date transcript of study records for doctoral studies downloadable from the Peppi system (add to "Study transcript of the completed postgraduate studies")
- **Degree certificate**
- any other documents relevant to the selection

In addition, the application must include **information on the major subject**:

- If you have a doctoral degree study right in DPSoc, add information on your major subject to the form.
- If you don't have a doctoral degree study right in DPSoc, add information on the major subject you are applying for. *Note! You have to apply for the doctoral degree study right with a separate application form in MyStudyinfo service.*