



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR STUDY RIGHT FOR A DOCTORAL DEGREE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU GRADUATE SCHOOL (UTUGS), THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES**

In this call for applications, you can apply for the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Turku, Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc).

[The Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences \(DPSoc\)](#) is a wide-ranging doctoral programme 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. Please, read more specific instructions below and apply on 28 March 2024 at the latest (15:00 Finnish time).

### **Application period and what can be applied for**

During the application period 28 February – 28 March 2024 (until 15:00 Finnish time), you can apply for **the right to study for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Turku from 1 August 2024 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§). 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 to this call. However, you must complete your degree and submit scanned copies of your degree certificates by 30 June 2024 to the Faculty (email to [socpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:socpostgraduate@utu.fi)). Until then, the selection is conditional.
- You must fulfil [the University of Turku language skill requirements](#);
- You are required to fulfil [the prerequisites set by the doctoral programme for granting a right to study](#).

Your former degrees must include a sufficient amount of studies in social sciences or other fields relevant to the Doctoral Programme. The Steering Committee of the Doctoral Programme evaluates the suitability of previous studies to the Doctoral Programme.

- You must provide in the application a supervisor who meets the [requirements](#) of the faculty and who has approved your research plan and agreed to be the first supervisor of the research.



## 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. The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 28 February 2024 and closes at 3 pm (local time in Finland) on 28 March 2024.

During one application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of three 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. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

## Attachments to the application:

1. **Research plan**, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#) > “Research 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 (TENK) 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 motivation for pursuing doctoral studies in the Doctoral Programme of Social Sciences, 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). Faculty’s disciplines and contact information:  
<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences/units>

**Note:** At least one of the named supervisors need to represent the applicant’s discipline at the University of Turku.

## 5. Degree certificates and transcript of study records

- 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 your scanned original degree certificates, transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the selection to the electronic application form.
- 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:
  - a. scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
  - b. scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)



- c. scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and that you are applying based on.

If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records 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 and a translation made by an authorised translator. A transcript in English can be replaced by a Diploma Supplement (DS) awarded by a European educational institution, provided that 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. [See the language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school.](#)

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.**

## **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. Reasons for transferring from another doctoral programme**

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.

## **Assessment of applications**

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will process the applications and may invite external experts to evaluate them. The applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

- Quality of the research plan (general quality, feasibility, suitability for the research profile of the doctoral programme). 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. A maximum of 50 doctoral researchers per academic year are admitted into the faculty.

## Decisions

The Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree, based on the proposal of the Steering Committee of the doctoral programme.

The admission decisions are made by the end of May 2024. All applicants will be personally informed about the decision.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (Finnish time) on 14 June 2024 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 September 2024 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

## Other information

In spring 2024, the Faculty will be updating its curricula and the guidelines and regulations for doctoral studies, which may result in changes to the regulations for doctoral studies and doctoral dissertation form 1 August 2024. An approved applicant will complete their studies in accordance with the regulations that will come into force on 1 August 2024.

## Further instructions

Coordinator: Kirsi Tammi, [socpostgraduate@utu.fi](mailto:socpostgraduate@utu.fi)

Head of the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences: Professor Juha Räikkä, [juha.raikka@utu.fi](mailto:juha.raikka@utu.fi)