

Doctoral Programme in Law**Call for Applications for Doctoral Researcher Positions at the University of Turku Graduate School, Doctoral Programme in Law (DPLAW)**

In this call for applications, you may apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree within the University of Turku, Doctoral Programme in Law (DPLAW) at the Faculty of Law and/or for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position funded by the University of Turku Graduate School (UTUGS).

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.

Application period and what you may apply for

During the application period 25 August 2026 – 8 September 2026 at 23:59 (local time in Finland) you may apply for:

a) The right to pursue a doctoral degree in the University of Turku Doctoral Programme in Law at the Faculty of Law from 1 January 2027 onwards.

b) A fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

A doctoral researcher position begins on 1 January 2027 or by agreement during the year 2027.

When determining the length of the employment, previously awarded funding for doctoral studies as well as the planned schedule and stage of the doctoral degree will be taken into account. The duration of a UTUGS-funded fixed-term doctoral researcher position is at most four years, but not beyond 31 December 2030. The basis for the fixed-term employment is doctoral researcher's work related to their doctoral studies.

A person who already holds a doctoral degree cannot be selected to a doctoral researcher position. The doctoral researcher position requires working in Finland and the place of work is Turku.

The position is intended for full-time doctoral research and doctoral studies. Participation in teaching and other duties should be arranged so that the dissertation can be completed within the planned timetable. The employment contract is based on a total annual working time of 1,612 hours, which gives the doctoral researcher flexibility to arrange working hours. As a rule, teaching and other duties may account for up to 5% of the annual working time (approximately up to 80 hours per academic year).

Salary is based on the salary system of the University's teaching and research staff. Salary 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 ranges roughly from € 2,500 to € 3,300 depending on progress of the doctoral research and the experience and skills of the person concerned. The level of task-specific salary component of a new doctoral researcher is generally assessed as level 2. The probationary period is six months, however not more than half of the employment period.

c) Both of the above (a and b)

Requirements for applicants

When applying for the right to pursue a doctoral degree

- 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 application deadline;
- You must meet the University of Turku language proficiency requirements. [Link to the Graduate School's web page on language requirements](#);
- You must meet the faculty and doctoral programme requirements for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree. Carefully read the application guidelines of the Faculty of Law and the requirements of the Doctoral Programme in Law. More information is provided under "Criteria for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree".

When applying for a doctoral researcher position

- You must hold an active study right to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Turku in the Faculty of Law, Doctoral Programme in Law. In addition, when acquiring the degree or otherwise, you are required to have demonstrated the ability to undertake postgraduate studies and the capacity to complete a doctoral degree in accordance with the research plan. (University of Turku Rules of Procedure 13.12.2024).
- **or if you have not yet been granted right to pursue a doctoral degree, you must apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in Law in this call via the Studyinfo (Opintopolku) service** (see the instructions under "How to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree"). The right to pursue a doctoral degree 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 doctoral studies.

- The doctoral researcher position requires working in Finland and the place of work is Turku.

How to apply

Applications for the right to pursue a doctoral degree are submitted via the Studyinfo (Opintopolku) service and applications for fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract are submitted via the University of Turku recruitment system (Talentti) by completing an electronic application form and submitting the required attachments.

Note that if you apply for both the right to pursue a doctoral degree and a doctoral researcher position with an employment contract, you must submit applications with the required attachments in both systems (see details below).

The required attachments are described in more detail at the end of this announcement (Appendix 1 & Appendix 2).

[Links to the application forms will be published on the University of Turku Graduate School web pages.](#)

How to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree

Apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree by filling the electronic Studyinfo form and submitting the required attachments (see Appendix 1). The Studyinfo form opens at the begin of the application period on 25 August 2026 and closes on 8 September 2026 at 23:59 (local time in Finland). [A link to the Graduate School web pages where the links to the application forms will be published.](#)

In this application round, you may apply for admission to up to two doctoral programmes at the University of Turku. You may only have one valid doctoral degree study right at the University of Turku at a time.

Late applications will not be considered. The chosen study programme (doctoral programme) cannot be changed and the application cannot be amended after the application period has ended.

The Studyinfo service is used solely to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree; if you also wish to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position, you must submit a separate application for that position (see the instructions under “How to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract”).

How to apply for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

Doctoral researcher positions are applied for by completing the electronic application form in the University of Turku recruitment system (Talentti) and submitting the required attachments (see Appendix 2). The recruitment form opens at the begin of the

application period on 25 August 2026 and closes on 8 September 2026 at 23:59 (local time in Finland).

Doctoral researcher positions will be advertised in the University of Turku's [Open Positions](#) and on the [Graduate School web pages](#) at the beginning of the application period.

Applicants must submit all required attachments by the application deadline; late applications will not be processed and the chosen doctoral programme cannot be changed nor can the application be amended after the deadline.

Selection to a doctoral researcher position requires an active right to pursue a doctoral degree in the Doctoral Programme in Law; **if you have not yet been granted study right, you must apply for one in Studyinfo** (see "How to apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree").

Selection criteria and evaluation of applications

Applicant's research topic must fit the profile of the doctoral programme. The doctoral programme's steering group will evaluate applications after the deadline and may use external experts as necessary. Research plans submitted with applications may be checked with Turnitin OriginalityCheck for plagiarism in accordance with the University's quality system; the use of artificial intelligence and how it was used in preparing the research plan may also be assessed.

Criteria for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree

Granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree requires that the applicant:

- meets the eligibility criteria determined in the Universities Act (558/2009, Section 37); More information is provided under "Requirements for applicants";
- meets the University of Turku language proficiency requirements;
- fulfils the requirements set by the Faculty of Law and Doctoral Programme in Law for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree.

When considering the applicant's capability to complete the degree, the following criteria are taken into consideration:

- scholarly originality, ambition, rigour, importance and feasibility of the research plan,
- sufficiently wide-ranging knowledge of the research in the applicant's field manifested in the research plan and methodological approach,
- possible publications,
- the merits, content and grade of the Master's thesis, and success in previous academic studies,
- connection between the research project and the faculty's focal areas of research,
- other merits such as relevant professional experience,
- agreement of supervision by the intended supervisor(s) (to be sent directly by the supervisor(s) to lawpostgraduate@utu.fi).

Having a supervisor from the Faculty of Law is a mandatory requirement.



A person applying for the right to study for a doctoral degree **must find one, preferably two, supervisors** 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. Applicants should contact the intended supervisors well ahead of the deadline for applications. The [contact information of the staff can be found on the web site of the faculty](#).

Selection criteria for fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

Applicants selected for UTUGS fixed-term doctoral researcher positions must meet the eligibility requirements defined in the University of Turku Rules of Procedure (13.12.2024).

In the selection, the following aspects are also evaluated:

- The scholarly originality, ambition, rigour, importance 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).

For applicants who have previously been granted the right to pursue a doctoral degree, progress in doctoral research and doctoral studies will also be assessed; prior funding received for the completion of the doctoral degree may be taken into account when determining the duration of a doctoral researcher position.

Usually, the selection for the employed positions in the Doctoral Programme in Law is a two-stage process. In the first stage the steering group evaluates all eligible applicants in relation to the above criteria and selects the most successful candidates for the second stage, which may include an interview. Each application is assessed with the same number of evaluators. Supervisors don't evaluate applications in which they have agreed to act as supervisor. The final selection is based on a comprehensive evaluation of applications, since the applicants may be at different stages of their doctoral dissertation process.

Decision on selections

Decisions on the right to pursue a doctoral degree

The dean of the faculty decides on the granting of the right to pursue a doctoral degree on the basis of the doctoral programme steering group's proposal. All applicants will be notified of the decisions personally by 30 November 2026.

An admitted applicant must confirm acceptance of the study place in accordance with the instructions given in the decision by 15 December 2026 at 23:59 (local time in



Finland). 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.

Applicants who have completed their prior degree in a country other than Finland and who are granted a right to pursue a doctoral degree 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 8 March 2027 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [A link to the instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)

Decisions on the fixed-term doctoral researcher position with an employment contract

The decision on appointment to a doctoral researcher position is made by the dean on the basis of the doctoral programme steering group's proposal. All applicants will be notified of the programme's decision personally and the names of the persons offered positions will be published on the doctoral programme web pages; selected applicants must confirm acceptance of the position in accordance with the instructions in the decision.

Further information

[Link to the doctoral programme web pages](#)

[Link to the faculty web pages](#)

[Link to the UTUGS web pages](#)

Contact details for the doctoral programme coordinator and director:

Coordinator Kirsi Tuohela, kirsi.tuohela@utu.fi

Associate Professor Daniela Alaattinoğlu, daniela.alaattinoglu@utu.fi

Appendices

Appendix 1: Attachments to the application when applying for a right to pursue a doctoral degree

Please ensure that all attachments are high-quality, easy-to-read, full-colour scans or photographs of the entire required document. Attachments must be submitted in PDF format. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected. Name each attachment so that the file name clearly indicates both your name and the document type (for example: surname-firstname-CV).

Application documents can be written in Finnish, Swedish or in English.

1) Degree certificate and transcript of study records

Attach to the electronic application form:

- the scanned or electronic original certificate of the higher university degree (e.g. Master's degree),
- the scanned or electronic original transcript of study records of the higher university degree,
- other study certificates relevant to the selection criteria (for example, studies completed outside the degree that relate to the doctoral degree you are applying for).

If the documents are not in Finnish, Swedish or English, you must also submit an official translation into one of those languages; an official translation is accepted if issued by the degree-awarding university or produced by an authorised translator. A Diploma Supplement (DS) issued by a European higher education institution may be accepted instead of an English translation of the degree certificate and transcript, provided it contains the details of the study records.

2) Certificate of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision (8.6.2026) that defines acceptable ways of verifying language proficiency. You should read the University of Turku's guidance on language proficiency carefully: [Link to the webpage on language requirements](#).

As an attachment to your application, you must include a scanned certificate of a language test approved by the University of Turku, unless the guidance states otherwise.

3) Research plan

When preparing the research plan you must follow the principles of good scientific practice ([link to TENK's guidelines on good scientific practice](#)). The research plan may be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism-detection system. Any use of



artificial intelligence (AI) as an aid in preparing the research plan must be clearly declared in the application.

When applying for the Doctoral Programme in Law, you need to write [a research plan for a doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the Faculty of Law](#). To ensure equality among applicants, it is important that **the maximum length of the research plan is not exceeded**. Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools when drafting the research plan must be carefully disclosed in the plan, clearly explaining and distinguishing the work of the applicant from that of AI software.

4) Curriculum Vitae and List of publications

CV according to [guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board of Research Integrity](#). The CV must include a list of publications.

5) An agreement from the person(s) proposed to act as a supervisor(s) to the applicant.

The supervisor(s) should send the agreement directly to the doctoral programme at lawpostgraduate@utu.fi

6) Copy of 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.

For instructions please also visit [Doctoral Programme in Law - Admission](#)

Appendix 2: Attachments to the application when applying for doctoral researcher position with employment contract

Fill in the electronic application form. The attachments listed below must be submitted as part of the Talenti system's electronic application form unless otherwise instructed. Ensure that all attachments are high-quality, easy-to-read, full-colour scans or photographs of the entire required document. Attachments should be submitted in PDF format. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected. Name each file so that the filename clearly shows both your name and the document type (for example: surname-firstname-CV).

Application documents can be written in Finnish, Swedish or in English.

1) Curriculum Vitae and List of publications

CV according to [guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board of Research Integrity](#). The CV must include a list of publications.



2) Research plan

When preparing the research plan you must follow the principles of good scientific practice ([link to TENK's guidelines on good scientific practice](#)). The research plan may be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism-detection system. Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) as an aid in preparing the research plan must be clearly declared in the application.

When applying for the Doctoral Programme in Law, you must draft [a research plan for a doctoral dissertation in accordance with the guidelines of the Faculty of Law](#). To ensure equality among applicants, it is important that the maximum length of the research plan is not exceeded. Any use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools when drafting the research plan must be carefully disclosed in the plan, clearly explaining and distinguishing the work of the applicant from that of AI software.

3) Degree certificate and transcript of study records

Attach to the electronic application form:

- the scanned or electronic original certificate of the higher university degree (e.g. Master's degree),
- the scanned or electronic original transcript of study records of the higher university degree,

If the documents are not in Finnish, Swedish or English, you must also submit an official translation into one of those languages; an official translation is accepted if issued by the degree-awarding university or produced by an authorised translator. A Diploma Supplement (DS) issued by a European higher education institution may be accepted instead of an English translation of the degree certificate and transcript, provided it contains the details of the study records.