

**Doctoral Programme of Social and
Behavioural 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 may apply for the right to pursue a doctoral degree within the University of Turku Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DPSoc) at the Faculty of Social Sciences and/or for a fixed-term doctoral researcher position funded by the University of Turku Graduate School (UTUGS).

The Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences is multidisciplinary and wide-ranging. 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 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 of Social and Behavioural Sciences at the Faculty of Social Sciences 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.

In addition, up to one-year positions for 2027 are available for applicants in the final stages of their doctoral research. The aim is to submit the dissertation for pre-examination during 2027.

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 € 2,400 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§).

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 by 31 October 2026. Submit the degree documents of your completed degree by 31 October 2026, to the faculty via email to: socpostgraduate@utu.fi. Until then, the selection is conditional.

- 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 and requirements of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences. 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 Social Sciences, Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences. 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 of Social and Behavioural Sciences 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 (Talenti) 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 of Social and Behavioural Sciences; **if you have not yet been granted the 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.

1. 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 Social Sciences and Doctoral Programme of Social and Behavioural Sciences for granting the right to pursue a doctoral degree



The programme steering group 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)
- Success in previous studies (master's thesis, or equivalent, grade and other studies)
- 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 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 in the applied discipline (major subject of the doctoral degree) who meets the requirements of the faculty and who has approved the research plan and agreed to be the first supervisor of the research. The supervisor must be employed by the University of Turku. Two supervisors are required for the study right to be granted. If necessary, the discipline will propose a second supervisor who meets the faculty's requirements for the application to be proposed for approval. If a second supervisor is not available, the study right cannot be proposed for approval.

A total maximum of 100 doctoral researchers per year are admitted into the Faculty of Social Sciences. The steering group of the Doctoral programme will make a proposal on granting the study rights to a doctoral degree.

2. 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 quality of the research plan in relation to the stage of the research
- the applicant's merits and capabilities in relation to the stage of their dissertation project

The evaluation is conducted as an overall assessment, taking into account the stage of the researcher's career. The more specific criteria and evaluation scale used in the assessment can be found on [the doctoral programme's website](#).

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.



The application evaluation process consists of two stages: 1) an internal evaluation of eligible applications at the departments, and 2) an evaluation by external experts of the top applications that have advanced to the next stage. The Doctoral programme steering group 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 group 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.

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 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 head of the relevant department or unit 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:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs/doctoral-programme-of-social-and-behavioural-sciences>

Link to the faculty web pages: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-social-sciences>

Link to the UTUGS web pages: <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/utugs>

Contact details for the doctoral programme coordinator and director:

Coordinator Kirsi Tammi and Director Johanna Kaakinen

socpostgraduate@utu.fi

Contact details for the faculty: socpostgraduate@utu.fi

Appendices

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

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

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

All application documents should be written either in Finnish or in English.

1. **Research plan**, max 6 pages (see [instructions](#), 'Research plan') 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 preparing the research plan you must follow the principles of good scientific practice ([link to TENK's guidelines on good scientific practice](#)).

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: The supervisor needs to represent the doctoral programme and the applicant's discipline at the University (employed by 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)



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.

6. 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.

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.

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).

All application documents should be written either in Finnish or in English.

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

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

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.

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**, max 2 pages
4. **Information on completed studies**

4.1 **A transcript of records of your previous degree:** scanned or original electronic 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:

4.2 **Up-to-date transcript of study records for doctoral studies downloadable from the Peppi system** (add to "Study transcript of the completed postgraduate studies")

5. **Degree certificate:** the scanned or electronic original certificate of the higher university degree in English, Finnish or Swedish or an official translation in one of these languages
6. 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.*