



## RESEARCH PLAN GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OPPI

(updated on 1 Feb 2024)

Total length of the research plan 10-12 pages.

**Note! The Doctoral Programme OPPI is mainly for producing dissertations based on articles published in international scientific journals. An article-based doctoral dissertation is required from those in doctoral researchers positions under an employment contract (so-called UTUGS salary positions).**

If the dissertation is written in English, it is recommended that the research plan is also written in English.

Please write your research plan carefully according to the guidelines below. The research plan should not exceed 12 pages (maximum 4 500 words including all tables and references). If the guidelines are not followed, it can lead to the rejection of the application.

### **1) Name of applicant**

### **2) Title of the research**

### **3) Background to the research (2-3 pages)**

- Theoretical background and previous research on the topic (review of key literature).
- Argumentative motivation of the significance of the research project/need for the research.

### **4) Objectives and research questions (about 1 page)**

- Objectives and research questions, with justification.
- Hypotheses or outcome expectations, where relevant.
- Relevance of the research: what new scientific knowledge will the research provide?

### **5) Research design and methods, data and ethical issues (3-4 pages)**

- A description of the research design and the research methods. Please also explain how they contribute to answering the research questions, testing possible hypotheses or supporting the chosen perspective.
- Collection of research data and analysis/processing of data.
- Ethical issues related to the methods and data (e.g. ethicality of the methodology, informed consent of the participants, protection of the participants' anonymity) and possible research permits or applications for such permits.
- Risk management: critical points for the success of the project and alternative ways of implementation.



- Commitment to the University of Turku's data policy ([Open data | University of Turku \(utu.fi\)](#)) and research ethics policy ([Research Ethics at the University of Turku | University of Turku \(utu.fi\)](#)), and relating one's own research to these policies.

**6) Implementation: schedule and publications (1 page)**

- Research timetable.
- Outline of the sub-objectives of the dissertation each year.
- Publication plan (plan for publishing the articles of an article-based dissertation).

**7) Research environment and collaboration (1 page)**

- Conditions for carrying out the research.
- Supervision and possible research team.
- Key national and international collaborations, including national and/or international visits in connection with the doctoral studies.
- Justification of the importance of the collaboration.
- A plan for acquiring the necessary additional skills (e.g. methodological skills).

**8) Potential for utilisation of the research results (½ page)**

- Expected scientific and societal relevance and impact of the research.
- Applicability and potential utilisation of the research results.

**9) Financial plan for doctoral studies (max. ½ page)**

- An preliminary brief plan of where and how you intend to obtain funding for your doctoral studies and research.

**10) List of references**