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Director

Turku Institute for Advanced Studies
(TIAS)

www.utu.fi/tias

TIAS

- Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Turku
- Established in 2008 to promote high quality interdisciplinary research and enhance the University's research reputation
- Covers the Faculties of Education, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences and Turku School of Economics
- Mainly internally funded
- Project funding from Academy of Finland (500 000 € over 5 years)
- Recent award of 290 000 € for Scholars at Risk work
- Mixture of postdoctoral (within 5 years of PhD) and collegium (mid career, maximum 12 years from PhD) Research Fellows
- All Fellows funded for three years with salary and research allowance (3 400 € per annum in 2022)
- Concentrate on one research project (max 5% teaching)

TIAS 2021

- 10 Collegium researchers
- 15 Postdoctoral researchers
- (Director, Senior RF, Coordinator)
- Emphasis on inter- and cross-disciplinary work
- Activities:
 - Regular meetings for Fellows, social events, joint projects, publications
 - Symposia, seminars, workshops, etc. for wider community
 - Outreach activities including public lecture series in Turku Main Library and blog (<https://blogit.utu.fi/collegia/>)
- Career development focus including personal mentors and the unique Visiting Professor of Mentoring (funded by Academy of Finland): Ulrika Maude (University of Bristol)
- Social media: Over 1700 followers on @TIAS_UTU
- Annual Reports online (www.utu.fi/tias)

TIAS Calls

- Generally make annual Calls for new Fellows
- This is first Call for Fellows to start in September
- Application via research proposal appraised by reviewers, based on Academy of Finland processes and best practice
- 2018: 22 new positions advertised: 5 Postdoctoral and 6 Collegium for starts in both 2019 *and* 2020: 700 applications, from 78 countries. Success rates 2-5%
- 2020: 5 Postdoctoral positions: 296 applications, from 57 countries. Success rate under 2%.
- 2021: Call 1: 218 applications for 3 postdoctoral positions, 116 for 4 Collegium. Success rate under 2% and under 4%
- ‘only exceptionally strong candidates are likely to be successful’

Current Call

- URL: www.utu.fi/en/research/research-collegia/tias/vacancies/instructions-for-applicants
- Deadline: 7 January 2022
- Start for appointees: 1 September 2022

What makes a good application?

- Read the Instructions to Applicants *extremely* carefully and follow them! They are *instructions* – not choices
- Ensure eligibility:
 - Postdoctoral – 5 years since PhD
 - Collegium - 12 years since PhD and not tenured Professors (i.e. with the title Professor)
 - Career breaks allowed – outline in CV
- Address all issues point by point – in order!
- *Do what it says*
- Failure to do so means you are out

What are we looking for?

- Looking for people to do excellent research – *in Turku!*
- No quotas (faculties, international, gender etc)
- Research excellence is criteria throughout
- Extremely competitive – what is your USP? Why should we want *you*? Why is your proposal *fantastic*?
- Clear links to UTU and its strategic research priorities an advantage
- Fully understand *where* you are applying to and *why*

Sections of Application

- Research plan abstract
- Research plan
- CV
- List of publications
- Letter of motivation
- ***NB: All parts have maximum limits and we have the right to exclude candidates who break limits***
- Plus Doctoral Certificate (with English translation if necessary)

Location

- Successful applicants will be located in departments which need to have the ability to supervise them
- ‘In their motivation letter, applicants should state how their work supplements existing work at the University, identifying both the department within which they wish to be located and relevant members of staff whose work aligns with their own’
- No need to contact departments or individuals, but *do* ‘outline how (your) work relates to one or more of the strategic research and education profiles of the University of Turku for 2021–30’

Review Process

- Eligibility check
- Long listing (closer check of viability)
- Shortlisting in consultation with faculties
- TIAS Board agrees shortlist
- External Review (2/3 of reviewers international)
- TIAS Board makes final decision
- Reviews sent to all *shortlisted* candidates

What reviewers look at

- Reviewers asked to consider *equally*:
 - Candidates' previous achievements *relative to career stage*
 - Quality and feasibility of research project
 - Project's theoretical and methodological framework
 - Proposed publications and outputs
 - Overall ranking (not simply an average)
- Ethics are addressed but not ranked
- Each ranked category is marked 1-6 (so maximum 30 per reviewer x 3 = 90 total)

Dates

- 25 November – 7 January: Call Open. No late submissions.
- January-February: Eligibility, longlisting, shortlisting
- March-May: External review
- Early June: Decisions announced on TIAS website



Thank you

And Good luck!



Questions?

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