Professor Martin Cloonan

Director
Turku Institute for Advanced Studies
(TIAS)
www.utu.fi/tias

Welcome!

…to the information session for the TIAS postdoctoral and Collegium and

Turku Intersectoral

Excellence Scheme ii

(TIES2) applications

www.utu.fi/tias

TIAS Call Information

- IASs
- TIAS
- Funding
- TIAS 2026
- Our work
- TIAS Calls
- Who are we looking for?
- Location
- Current “General Call”
  - What makes a good application?
  - Sections
  - Review Process
  - Reviewers
- TIES 2 and TIES2 Call
- Dates

Institutes for Advanced Studies

- Princeton 1930
- 'The usefulness of useless knowledge' (Abraham Flexner)
- Various models develop – see UBIAS - https://www.ubias.net/members
- Mostly cover SSH, some cover all subject areas
- UTU has TIAS and TCSMT
- IASs aspire to "Bottom-up" research and support career development
- Interdisciplinarity a key theme

TIAS

- Turku Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Turku
- Established in 2008 to promote high quality interdisciplinary research, internationalisation and enhance the University's research reputation
- Covers the Faculties of Education, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences and Turku School of Economics
- Mixture of postdoctoral (within 5 years of PhD) and collegium (mid career, maximum 12 years from PhD) Research Fellows
- Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES – 8 years from PhD) funded by EU MSCA
- All Fellows funded for three years with salary and research allowance (3 800 € per annum in 2026)
- Concentrate on one research project (max 5% teaching)
- TIES Fellows undertake secondments outside of Higher Education

Funding

- Initially mainly internally funded
- Project funding from:
- Academy of Finland PROFI 5 (500 000 € over 5 years)
- Kone Foundation: Scholars at Risk work – 470 000 €
- MSCA: TIES: 1.14M€, TIES2: 2.7M€
- NOS-HS: Beyond Advanced Studies – 43 000 €
- Fulbright Visiting Expert – ca 10 000 €
- Encourage Fellows to apply for funding – successes include Research Council of Finland, Kone Foundation, ERC Starting grant etc

TIAS 2026

- 8 Collegium Fellows
- 10 Postdoctoral
- 13 Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES) Fellows
- Director, Coordinator, Controller, Ethics Expert, Visiting Professor, Professor of Practice, Research Assistant – https://www.utu.fi/en/research/research-collegia/tias/staff

Our work

- Emphasis on inter- and cross-disciplinary work
- Activities:
  - Monthly 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
- Social media: Just under 1900 followers on X @TIAS_UTU – please follow!
- Annual Reports online (www.utu.fi/tias)

TIAS Calls

- Generally make annual Calls for new Fellows
- Application via research proposal appraised by reviewers, based on Research Council of Finland (Suomen Akatemia) processes and best practice
- Success rates generally under 2% and sometimes under 1%
- *'only <u>exceptionally</u> strong candidates are likely to be successful'*

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, *why* and *who* you want to work with

Location

- Successful applicants are managed within departments which need to have the ability to supervise them – hence the need to link your work to Turku
- TIAS has some accommodation of its own, other Fellows are physically located in departments
- '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 their work relates to one or more of the multidisciplinary themes and areas of strength of the University of the University of Turku'

Current Calls for Postdoctoral and Collegium Fellows ”The General Call”

- Instructions for applicants TIAS Call 2026-2027
- Deadline: **16.00 EET, Friday 13 November.**
- Start for appointees: 1 September 2027
- 4 Collegium and 4 Postdoctoral Fellow positions

General Call

What makes a good application?

- Read the General Call 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 of 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

General Call

Sections of Application, General Call

- Doctoral Certificate (with English translation if necessary)
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- List of publications (maximum 2 pages; please indicate the five most important)
- Research plan (maximum 25 000 characters without spaces)
- Research plan abstract (1 page; max 2 500 characters without spaces)
- Letter of Motivation (maximum 2 pages)
- ***NB**: All parts have maximum limits and we have the right to exclude candidates who break limits*
- *Extensive details on website – please read and follow them*

General Call

Review Process – General Call

- 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

General Call

What reviewers look at – General Call

- 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. 'In addition to committing to the (Finnish) Code, applicants should briefly identify the elements of their research plan which may raise ethical issues and how they intend to deal with these'
- Each ranked category is marked 1-6 (so maximum 30 per reviewer x 3 = 90 total – in line with Research Council of Finland procedures)

General Call

TIES2

Introduction

COFUNDED



Co-funded by the European Union

TIES2 Call

Aims of MSCA COFUND in Horizon Europe

For supported postdoctoral researchers

- Deeper and more diverse set of research-related and transferable skills and competences;
- Improved employability and career prospects both within academia and beyond;
- New mind-sets and approaches to R&I work forged through interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral experience;
- Enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers, as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact.

TIES2:
Main Points

- TIES aims to merge “bottom-up” IAS approach with a secondment outside Higher Education
- TIES Fellows are full members of TIAS, but with additional eligibility and research requirements
- Must be within 8 years of PhD
- Must engage with issues in non-academic sectors and perform research/training secondments with non-academic partners for 2-12 months (maximum 3 organisations)
- 16 TIES2 Fellows over 2026-2027 (10+6, 9+7, 8+8, 7+9)
- 36 month positions
- Programme will run November 2025-September 2030
- European Commission will contribute €2.7M
- UTU co-funding via moving some TIAS positions and additional coordination support
- TIES a “pilot” and TIES2 expands provision, includes Proof of Concept funding for Fellows, 2 000 € per annum.

TIES2 Call

Becoming a TIES Fellow

- Applications
- Reviews Process

Current TIES2 Call

- Instructions for applicants TIES2 MSCA COFUND Fellows Call 2026-2027
- Deadline: **16.00 EET, Friday 13 November 2026**
- Start for appointees: 1 September 2027
- 7 positions

TIES2 Call

Applications Process – TIES2 Call

- 3 main criteria:
  - Within 8 years of PhD (plus other time for parental leave, military service etc)
  - Must meet EU mobility rule – no more than 12 months in the 36 months prior to the closing date of the Call for applications can have been spent in the host country (possible Covid exemption)
  - All relevant documents – detailed instructions – *follow precisely*
- Include secondment plans with the research plans and *can* - but do not have to - include letter of support

Sections of Application – TIES2 Call

- The application *must* contain all the following documents, which *must* be added on the application form in the following order:

- (i) Copy of doctoral certificate (if unavailable please supply a copy of official confirmation that the PhD has been passed)
  (ii) Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
  (iii) List of publications (maximum 2 pages; please indicate the five most important)
  (iv) Research plan (maximum 25 000 characters, without spaces)
  (v) Secondment plan (maximum one page)
  (vi) Data management plan (maximum one page)
  (vii) Motivation letter (maximum 2 pages)

  All attachments *must* be in PDF format. The maximum file size for the attachments is 10 MB.

- All the documents *must* be written in English with Times New Roman, font size 12. This font size *must* be used throughout including in the Bibliography. Footnotes and tables *must* be font size 10. Any words within maps, pictures etc. *must* be at least font size 9. Any words within maps, pictures, tables etc. must be included in the character count.

The Secondment – TIES2 Call

- Key part of research plan
- Minimum 3 months, maximum 12– can be more than one host organisation
- Candidates can suggest own secondment organisation
- Candidates can approach potential hosts
- Potential hosts *can* offer letter of support, *must* be in TIES2 format – see https://www.utu.fi/en/research/research-collegia/tias/ties/for-applicant/secondment

TIES2 Call

Reviews Process – TIES2 Call

- Call open 18 September – 13 November 2026
- Eligibility Check – 2 weeks
- External reviews – 3 months (entire process external, undertaken by ESF)
- Selection Committee (TIAS BoM plus independent chair, vice chair and committee member) meets and decides ranking
- Eligible candidates told outcome
- Appeals process – procedural issues only
- Redress committee if needed – and re-reviews
- Candidates offered post and confirm or not
- Reserve list used as necessary
- Final decisions on website, June 2027

Review Criteria (i)

In the evaluation of the project plan, the key issue for the evaluation is academic quality. TIES2 reviewers are also encouraged to take into account the innovativeness of the research plan within its field, documented international collaboration and potential for groundbreaking research.

The focus is on evaluating scientific quality based on three key criteria: 1) excellence, 2) impact, and 3) quality and efficiency of implementation.

Review Criteria (ii)

Criteria for evaluating the Excellence of the applicant and research project (50 %)

Evaluators will balance the applicant's qualifications and the project's scientific merit, considering both equally.

- The overall quality and impact of the applicant's research outputs, considering alignment with international standards, as outlined in the European Charter for Researchers.
- Record of previous activities including teaching, supervision, knowledge transfer, public outreach, and innovation, in accordance with DORA recommendations and the European Charter's emphasis on diverse academic and non-academic roles.
- Applicant's involvement in international collaborations that can significantly contribute to the success of the plan.
- Recognition through awards, funding, and other accolades, reflecting diverse forms of achievements
- The project's uniqueness, ambition, and innovation, including its potential to advance or challenge current knowledge and methodologies.
- Theoretical and methodological robustness: The relevance and justification of the proposed theoretical framework and research methods, including interdisciplinary approaches.
- Quality of collaborations and external activities: The relevance and contribution of proposed partners and external activities, with an explicit emphasis on interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration.
- Quality of proposed outputs including Open Science practices.

Review Criteria (iii)

Criteria for evaluating the Impact (30 %)

- Scientific: The project's contribution to advancing knowledge in its field, including the potential for ground-breaking discoveries and methodological advancements.
- Researcher development and career: The project's potential to enhance the applicant's professional growth, including the development of new skills, research independence, and overall career advancement.
- Social: The project's relevance and benefits to society, including how it addresses social challenges, contributes to public policy, improves quality of life, and engages the public through dissemination and outreach.

Review Criteria (iv)

- Criteria for evaluating the Quality and Efficiency of Implementation (20 %)
- The coherence, effectiveness, and thoroughness of the project's methodological framework and work plan.
- The appropriateness of task distribution and resource allocation
- Relevance and suitability of planned secondments to the project.
- Alignment with the research themes and existing work at the University of Turku.
- The likelihood of completing the project within the 36-month fellowship period.

Ranking

- For each abovementioned criterion, reviewers will be asked to provide: (i) a score between 1 and 5 (ii) short comments summarising any strengths and/or weaknesses (max. 200 words). Reviewers are also asked to draw to attention areas of ethical concern under UTU's ethics policies. Score criteria:
- 5 Excellent: Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
- 4 Very Good: Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.
- 3 Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.
- 2 Satisfactory: Proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 1 Poor: Criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

Calculation

- (Excellence Score) * 50% + (Impact Score) * 30% + (Quality and efficiency of the implementation Score) * 20% = overall score out of five for each review.
- Overall scores of three reviews are added together and divided by 15 (maximum points) and then multiplied by 100 to give a final percentage score out of 100%.
- Proposals that achieve a score of at least 60% will be considered for funding, subject to availability of the positions. Scores below this threshold will be rejected.
- In case of significant differences (30%) between the reviews, the TIES2 Selection Committee (SC) will consider whether this has unduly affected the result and commission a fourth review if necessary. The score of the fourth review will be added to the original three scores to give an overall score out of 20. This will be multiplied by five to produce a final score out of 100 %.

What makes a good application?

- Read the TIES2 Instructions to Applicants *extremely* carefully and follow them! They are *instructions* – not choices
- Ensure eligibility:
  - PhD
  - 8 years
  - Career breaks allowed – outline in CV
  - Meet EU mobility rule
- Address all issues point by point – in order!
- *Do what it says*
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Appointed TIES2 candidates: support

- Assigned (i) departmental supervisor (ii) workplace supervisor minimum of 5 years relevant experience

  (iii) mentor and (iv) Visiting Professor (v) Professor of Practice
- TIAS Director provides ongoing support
- Meet with secondment provider and agree content of secondment
- NDA, IPR etc
- Contract drawn up
- Secondments are minimum of three months and maximum of 12 (maximum of three organisations)

Further Support (i)

- TIAS requires non-academic supervisors and any other collaborators or partner organisations that host Fellows for research and/or training during their fellowship to demonstrate that their organisation possesses an equality policy equivalent to UTU's, or provide a signed commitment that it will provide a working environment compliant with UTU's equality policy

Further Support (ii)

- TIAS, academic supervisors and mentors remain in regular contact with Fellows during their secondment (e.g. via email and pre-scheduled meetings)
- TIAS has diversified the format of its meetings – and is seeking to have more off campus

The TIAS/TIES experience

Dr Aymeric Pantet

Dates

- 18 September: Call Open
- No late submissions
- 13 November; Call closes. Note that deadline is 16.00 *EET not CET*
- General Call: Eligibility, longlisting, shortlisting, external review, BoM decision
- TIES 2: Eligibility, external review, SC decision, possible appeals (procedural only)
- Decisions announced personally by email and on TIAS website, June 2027

Thanks for coming!

- ..... and good luck with the applications!

Questions?

michael.dunn@utu.fi