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www.utu.fi/tias



Welcome!

...to the the launch of the
Turku Intersectoral
Excellence Scheme
(TIES)

www.utu.fi/ties

Launch Structure

- Introduction to IASs and Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS)
- Introduction to TIES programme
- How you can help!
- Q and A
- Close

Institutes for Advanced Studies

- Princeton 1930
- ‘The usefulness of useless knowledge’
- Various models develop – [see UBIAS](#) -
- 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
- Established in 2008 to promote high quality interdisciplinary research and enhance the University's research reputation
- Funded by Faculties of Education, Humanities, Law, Social Sciences and Turku School of Economics, other university monies and external funding
- 2 types of Fellow positions: postdoctoral (up to 5 years from PhD) and collegium (12 years)
- Appointed following international competition, 2/3 reviewers international
- Success rates for applicants generally around 2-5%
- Fellows funded for three years with salary and research expenses (3 400 Euros)
- Concentrate on one self-designed research project (max 5% teaching)

TIAS 2022

- 13 Collegium researchers
- 16 postdoctoral researchers
- Regular meetings of Fellows to discuss work in progress and germane issues
- Symposia, seminars, workshops, etc. for wider community including Library lecture
- Emphasis on inter- and cross-disciplinary work
- Career development has mentor focus including via the unique Visiting Professor of Mentoring (funded by Academy of Finland): Ulrika Maude (University of Bristol)
- Social media: 1900 followers on @TIAS_UTU
- Annual Reports online (www.utu.fi/tias)

External Funding

2020: Academy of Finland PROFI5: 500 000 € (to develop SAR, mentoring and Finnish IAS activities)

2021: Beyond Advanced Studies Workshops, NOS-HS: 43 000 € - led to formation of NORDIAS

2022: Kone Foundation -SAR Fellowships: 470 500 €

2022: Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES), Marie Skłodowska Curie Action (MSCA) COFUND:

1 146 420 €



TIES

Introduction

COFUNDED



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

MSCA COFUND in Horizon Europe - Postdoctoral

For supported doctoral candidates or 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.

MSCA COFUND

For participating organisations

- Enhanced quality and sustainability of research training;
- Increased global attractiveness, visibility and reputation;
- Stronger R&I capacity and output;
- Increased contribution to the local, regional and/or national socio-economic ecosystems;
- Regular feedback of research results into teaching

TIES:

Main Points

- TIES Fellows will be 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 2-6 months (minimum 2 months, maximum 3 organisations)
- 8 TIES Fellows over 2023-2024 (4+4, 3+5, 2+6 etc)
- 36 month positions
- Programme will run September 2023-August 2027
- European Commission will contribute €1,146,240
- UTU co-funding via moving some TIAS positions and additional coordination support
- In many ways a “pilot”

Promoting Excellence in Scientific Research

Integrates:

- Institute for Advanced Studies Bottom-Up, International Excellence
- EU Best-Practice (such as MSCA requirements, Charter and Code for researchers)
- Intersectoral knowledge and resource exchange with organisations external to Higher Education, including business, government, not-for-profit etc

In order to:

- Address complex, interdisciplinary, problems
- Advance standards of excellence within TIAS, UTU and beyond

Pioneering Excellence in Career Development

To develop skills and experience for thought leadership roles across sectors, TIES offers its Fellows freedom, mentorship, mobility and training support:

- Academic – based on existing TIAS Fellowship programmes plus TIES-focused events and training workshops
- Non-Academic – supervisor, work environment, resource access

Pioneering in Innovation – Regional Level

TIES Research is situated within UTU's 6 thematic areas for research collaboration:

- Biodiversity and sustainability
- Future technologies and digital society
- Cultural memory and social change
- Children, young people and learning
- Health, diagnostics and drug development
- Sea and maritime studies

These are aligned with the EU Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation (RIS3) areas designated for the Varsinais Suomi region:

- Life Science and Health Technologies;
- Blue Growth and Industrial Modernisation;
- Innovative Food Chains.

Pioneering in Innovation – National Level

TIES implements the New Partnership Model of Finnish Government Roadmap and addresses three major issues threatening Finland's economic growth:

- Low rates of mobility: (i) by successfully attracting outstanding researchers from outside Finland and the Nordic region (ii) by providing a model for collaboration and career mobility across sectors – benefitting researchers' skills
- Deficit of international talent: provide a proof-of-concept model for attracting leading international researchers to Finland – by providing career development and guidance, collaboration with the international TIAS cohort, dedicated services available in English, generous living and family allowances, excellent working conditions
- Fragmented research sector: delivers a functional platform for knowledge exchange and internationalisation – benefitting the research sector

Pioneering in Innovation – International Level

Supports the EU Innovation Union flagship initiative to increase competitiveness, jobs and growth in the European Research Area by:

- Creating new research jobs with excellent working conditions, increased autonomy and limited formal obligations, able to attract high-quality international researchers of any age, nationality or discipline.
- Encouraging non-tenured researchers to move across sectors, increasing their career opportunities and expanding the pool of research talent from which the Finnish and European R&I sectors can draw upon in the future.
- Enhancing research quality by developing transdisciplinary approaches within an IAS framework, differentiating the skills, knowledge and vision of TIES Fellows from others in their fields
- Disseminating best-practice in research across disciplines and sectors through knowledge exchange
- Establishing a model for the development of intersectoral knowledge leaders with broad perspectives and networks, able to identify new opportunities across multiple sectors and address complex societal challenges

Must Be Transformative

- Advances current model for intersectoral research (e.g. industrial PhDs) beyond Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) areas in to SSH, incorporating bottom-up, “blue skies” interdisciplinary IAS model
- Creative, non-STEM researchers offer fresh new opportunities for growth concepts. SSH competencies identified (by Ministry of Education and Culture and the OECD) as having the potential to renew the innovation sector and therefore the economy
- Provides a transformative new model for IAS-based research: IASs are only now beginning to explore intersectoral approaches (e.g. [The New Institute](#), Hamburg). Through TIES, TIAS aims to be among the pioneers of this new movement
- Provides wider opportunities to explore the nature of interdisciplinarity itself, building on the Beyond Advanced Studies network
- Establishes best practice for the development of postdoctoral and mid-career researchers at TIAS and UTU

Targeted Recruitment Strategy

A Targeted strategy is being adopted to attract applications from eligible candidates who reside outside Finland, including from the Global South, and who are currently working both inside and outside academia and/or have experience of intersectoral research

The communication channels to reach target applicants include:

Direct contacts: TIAS and UTU researcher networks, other IAS networks, such as University-Based Institutes for Advanced Study (UBIAS) and Network of European Institutes for Advanced Study (NetIAS), interdisciplinary research units, centres of excellence and researchers in other sectors,

General channels: national, international press, online recruitment sites and social media platforms

Key channels: specific print and online media, in addition to current channels, such as TIAS/ UTU websites and social media (UTU and TIAS Twitter feeds, 16.4K and 1.9K followers respectively).

Call dissemination

Call disseminated by email to direct contacts and at events

Call published on direct contacts' key channels. Prime amongst these will be the [EURAXESS website](#)

TIES Communications

- Launch!
- Adverts in key locations –Paid advertisements including relevant international online recruitment channels, such as academicpositions.com (3M network users); academic jobs worldwide, ResearchGate (17M users), jobs.ac.uk (advertises for over 1,000 universities worldwide), and LinkedIn (575M users)
- Website: www.utu.fi/ties
- Dedicated email: ties@utu.fi
- Online presentation for candidates – 7 December, 14.00-16.00 (EET)

Applications Process

- 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
- Include secondment plans with the research plans and *can* include letter of support

Reviews Process

- Call open 15 November 2022 – 9 January 2023
- Eligibility Check - week
- External reviews – 2 months
- Selection Committee (TIAS BoM plus independent chair, vice chair and committee member) meets and decides ranking
- Unsuccessful told
- Appeals process – procedural issues only
- Redress committee if needed – and re-reviews
- Selection Committee agrees final ranking (c May 2023)
- Candidates offered post and confirm or not
- Reserve list used as necessary
- Final decisions on website (c June 2023)

Review Criteria (i)

1. Excellence of applicant:

Quality of applicant at international level, in relation to their career stage, including:

- A significant record not only of scientific publications but also of academic activities such as teaching, supervision, teamwork, knowledge transfer, public engagement activities
- Engagement in networks at international level (e.g. collaborations and conference presentations)
- Evidence of academic excellence (e.g. awards and grant funding)

2. Scientific excellence of research project:

- Quality and credibility of research project, including:
- Originality, ambition and level of innovativeness of the project
- Theoretical and methodological framework
- Interdisciplinarity aspects of the project or reasoning for why it should be located within an IAS environment
- Potential of the applicant to reach or re-enforce professional maturity/independence during fellowship
- Quality and relevance of proposed partners, supervisors and working groups (including secondments)
- Quality and appropriateness of any planned training and knowledge exchange between the researcher and host(s)

Review Criteria (ii)

3. Impact:

Potential of the plan to result in significant new scientific breakthroughs

Potential of the plan to enhance the applicant's future career prospects

Quality of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results

Quality of the proposed publication and output plan to communicate the project activities to different target audiences, both within and outside academia.

4. Implementation:

Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources

Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures, including risk management

Appropriateness of the secondment in terms of the overall research

Feasibility of completion within the 36-month duration of the fellowship

5. Overall grade (not simply an average)

Appointed candidates

- Assigned (i) departmental supervisor (ii) workplace supervisor minimum of 5 years relevant experience (iii) mentor and (iv) Visiting Professor of Mentoring
- TIAS Director provides ongoing support
- Meet with secondment provider and agree content of secondment
- NDA, IPR etc
- Contract drawn up
- Placements are minimum of 2 months and maximum of 6 (maximum of three organisations)

Further Support (i)

- TIAS will require 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
- TIAS, academic supervisors and mentors will remain in regular contact with Fellows during their secondment (e.g. via email and pre-scheduled meetings)

Further Support (ii)

- TIAS will seek to appoint a UTU Professor of Practice from outside academia
- TIAS will also diversify the current format of its meetings. – seeking to have more off campus
- Such events may also be supported, led or facilitated by a representative from UTU's Brahea Centre to explore and develop new thinking regarding issues of mutual interest, using a range of activities including presentations and questions, one-to-one “speed-dating” discussions and other ways of establishing relationships of trust and mutual understanding of perspectives

How you can help!

- Everyone: *Please* let your networks know about the programme
- Potential partners: Let us know you are interested in hosting and we can inform candidates (website will be updated regularly)
- Potential partners: Authorise a letter of support – which **must** be in the format found on the TIES website
- Everyone: Keep in touch!
- Everyone: Follow TIAS on twitter - @TIAS_UTU



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Questions?

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