



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE RIGHT TO STUDY FOR THE A DOCTORAL DEGREE AT THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE IN TURKU DOCTORAL PROGRAMME OF MOLECULAR MEDICINE (TuDMM)

1. Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine (TuDMM)

Turku Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine is a doctoral programme established in the Faculty of Medicine. The programme offers diverse and high-standard doctoral training in the broad field of molecular medicine. The traditionally strong research areas of bio- and clinical medicine at the Turku Campus, such as cancer research, endocrinology and metabolism, immunology, microbiology, and connective tissue research, are all represented among the research groups affiliated to our programme. TuDMM works together with the other local doctoral programmes operating in biosciences and will also participate in the national networks of doctoral programmes in the area of life sciences.

2. Application period and what can be applied for

General guidelines for postgraduate studies in the [Faculty of Medicine](#)

During the application period **1–15 May 2024** the Doctoral Programme of Molecular Medicine invites applications for the right to study **for a doctoral degree in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Turku from 1 August 2024 onwards.**

3. Who may apply

The right to study for doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine can be applied for by persons who meet the eligibility criteria for pursuing a doctoral degree, as stipulated in the Universities Act (558/2009, Section 37), as well as the prerequisites for pursuing a doctoral degree at the Faculty of Medicine.

Eligible for studies leading to an academic postgraduate degree is a person who has completed

1. an applicable higher university degree in Finland
2. an applicable higher polytechnic degree in Finland; or
3. an applicable education completed outside Finland which in the awarding country gives eligibility for corresponding higher education.

Degree specific prerequisites for pursuing a doctoral degree are written in the [Study Guide 2022-2024](#) of the doctoral programmes of the **Faculty of Medicine**.

-> Go to the study guide of the doctoral programme of your choice -> Faculty of Medicine -> Show description

4. Applying

Qualified applicant with a research topic fitting the scope of TuDMM can apply. The motivation to apply to TuDMM is presented in the Motivation letter. The applicant should have two supervisors* with at least one supervisor affiliated with University of Turku and holding the UTU -account (UGIS-supervisor) to use the UGIS system. One member in the follow-up committee should be well familiar with the practicalities of doctoral training in the faculty and TuDMM. To plan the theoretical studies, take into account the Learning outcomes of TuDMM and your career plans.

*When only one supervisor for doctoral training is proposed, the supervisor's justified plea for approval of only one supervisor must be attached to the application.

Please notice that the TuDMM application should be in English.



The right to study for a doctoral degree is applied for by filling in an electronic form in My Studyinfo service and attaching the required additional documents. The form will be accessible as the application period begins on 1 May 2024 and closes at 3 pm (local time in Finland) on 15 May 2024.

During this application round the applicant may apply to a maximum of one doctoral programmes at the University of Turku. You can only have one valid study right at a time for a doctoral degree at the University of Turku.

Applications that arrive after the application period has ended will not be processed. The application documents will not be returned to the sender.

The application should include the following:

1. **Motivation letter** (Max 1 page)
2. **CV** of the applicant, including a list of publications when applicable (it is mandatory to use this attached [CV model](#))
3. **Research plan** (max 3 pages, Arial, font 12). The plan should consist of: abstract, background, aims and hypotheses, significance, how will the plan be carried out in practice, research environment, timetable and funding plan.

By attaching the research plan to the application form the applicant gives permission for checking the research plan with Turnitin Originality Check (system for electrical plagiarism detection).

4. **Supervision and study plan – [the Faculty's form](#)** (Fill in electronically, print and sign together with the supervisor/-s and the head of subject)
See: [Subjects in doctoral training and heads of doctoral subject](#)
5. **Degree certificates and transcripts of study records**
 - a) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a higher education institution in Finland, you must attach your scanned original degree certificates, transcripts of study records and other educational documents which may be of relevance in the selection to the electronic application form.
 - b) If you have completed your former degree(s) that make you eligible for doctoral studies at a higher education institution abroad (i.e. outside of Finland), you must attach the following items to the electronic application form:
 - a. scanned original degree certificates (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - b. scanned original transcripts of study records (in the language that the degree was completed in)
 - c. scanned other original educational documents which may be of relevance in the student selection and that you are applying based on.

If the original degree certificates or transcripts of study records are not written in English, Finnish or Swedish, official translations to one of these languages must also be submitted. An official translation here refers to a translation of the educational documents issued by the awarding institution and a translation made by an authorised translator. A transcript in English can be replaced by a Diploma Supplement (DS) awarded by a European educational institution, provided that it contains the information about completed courses and other study attainments.

Please make sure that all attachments are good-quality, easy to read, full colour scans or photographs of the complete required document. Attachments that do not meet these requirements may be rejected.



6. Verification of language proficiency

The University of Turku follows the Rector's decision on the means of verifying one's language proficiency. [See the language requirements on the webpage of the university's graduate school.](#)

If you are required to prove your language proficiency with a language test, a scanned certificate of a completed language test must be attached to the application.

7. Copy of 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. A justified application for the approval of a supervisor, when proposing only one supervisor.

See Faculty of Medicine [webpage](#), under the section Supervision.

5. Assessment of applications

The steering committee of the doctoral programme will evaluate the applications and use outside experts, when needed. The applicant's motivation, merits, previous studies, the ability to complete a doctoral degree, and the quality and feasibility of the research are taken into consideration when selecting doctoral researchers. The research plans attached to the applications may be checked with the Turnitin OriginalityCheck plagiarism detection software in accordance with the University of Turku quality assurance system.

The selection process is step wise and applicants may be invited for an interview after the preliminary selection. The invitation will be sent by email.

6. Decisions

The Dean/Vice Dean of the Faculty Of Medicine decides on granting the right to study for a doctoral degree based on the proposal of the Steering Committee of the doctoral programme.

The admission decisions are made by 12 June 2024. All applicants will be personally informed about the decision.

An admitted applicant has to notify the University of Turku of their acceptance of the study place by 3:00 pm (Finnish time) on 19 June 2024 according to the instructions given in the admission notification. 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.

The applicants who have completed their prior degree in a country other than Finland and who are granted a study right 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 6 September 2024 at the latest. If the admitted applicant does not deliver the required certificates by the deadline, they forfeit the study right. [Instructions on delivering certificates and country-specific requirements.](#)



7. Appeal for rectification

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the result of the student selection, he/she has the right to submit an application for the rectification of the decision to the Faculty of Medicine within 14 days of the official publishing of the results.

8. Other

In the spring of 2024, the faculty is in the process of updating the curricula. The instructions and regulations regarding doctoral education, which will lead to e.g. the regulations regarding postgraduate studies and the dissertation may change from August 1, 2024. The accepted applicant will complete their doctoral degree in compliance with the regulations that come into effect on August 1, 2024. Any updating of the graduate study plan to comply with the new regulations will be instructed separately.

9. Additional information:

TuDMM director Noora Kotaja: nookot@utu.fi

TuDMM coordinator: tudmm@utu.fi

Faculty of Medicine: Chief Academic Officer Outi Irjala