

Professor Martin Cloonan

Director

Turku Institute for Advanced Studies

(TIAS)

www.utu.fi/tias

TIAS Call Information

- TIAS
- Funding
- TIAS 2023
- Our work
- TIAS Calls
- Current Call
- What makes a good application?
- Sections
- Location
- Review Process
- Reviewers
- Dates
- Questions

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
- New programme from 2023 – Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES – 8 years from PhD)
- All Fellows funded for three years with salary and research allowance (3 500 € per annum in 2023)
- 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 €
- NOS-HS: Beyond Advanced Studies – 43 000 €
- Fulbright Visiting Expert – ca 10 000 €
- Encourage Fellows to apply for funding – 3 of 6 successful applicants from UTU for Research Council of Finland Academy Research Fellowships in 2023 came from TIAS

TIAS 2023

- 11 Collegium Fellows
- 12 Postdoctoral
- 8 Turku Intersectoral Excellence Scheme (TIES) Fellows
- Director, Coordinator, Ethics Officer, Visiting Professor of Mentoring, four Research Assistants, Professor of Practice from 1.1.24

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 and the unique Visiting Professor of Mentoring : Ulrika Maude (University of Bristol)
- 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
- 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 i: 218 applications for 3 postdoctoral positions, 116 for 4 Collegium. Success rate under 2% and under 4%
- 2021: Call ii: 172 applications for 4 postdoctoral and 65 for 4 Collegium
- *'only exceptionally strong candidates are likely to be successful'*

Current Call

- URL: <https://www.utu.fi/en/research/research-collegia/tias/vacancies>
- Deadline: 12 January 2024
- Start for appointees: 1 September 2024

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 (1 page; max 2 500 characters, plus spaces)
- Research plan (maximum 25 000 characters, plus spaces)
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- List of publications (maximum 2 pages; please indicate the five most important)
- Letter of Motivation (maximum 2 pages)
- ***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)
- *Extensive details on website – please read them*

Location

- Successful applicants are managed within departments which need to have the ability to supervise them
- 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 (your) work relates to one or more of the strategic research and education profiles of the University of Turku for 2021–30’ (link on website)

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. '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)

Dates

- 15 November – 12 January: Call Open
- No late submissions
- Note that deadline is 15.00 *EET not CET*
- January-February: Eligibility, longlisting, shortlisting
- March-May: External review
- Early June: Decisions announced on TIAS website



Thank you

and....

Good Luck!



Questions?

martin.cloonan@utu.fi

?