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(TIAS)

[www.utu.fi/tias](http://www.utu.fi/tias)



Welcome!

...to TIAS and the  
Turku Intersectoral  
Excellence Scheme  
(TIES)

[www.utu.fi/ties](http://www.utu.fi/ties)

# Talk Structure

- Introduction to IASs and Turku Institute for Advanced Studies (TIAS)
- Introduction to TIES programme
- Applications and Reviews process
- Q and A
- Close

# Institutes for Advanced Studies

- Princeton 1930
- ‘The usefulness of useless knowledge’ (Abraham Flexner)
- Various models develop – see UBIAS - [www.ubias.net/network-participants](http://www.ubias.net/network-participants)
- 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) (and, now TIES, 8 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 (3 500 Euros in 2023)
- 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 Turku Main Library lecture series
- 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](http://www.utu.fi/tias))
- Largely internally funded

# 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 € - <https://sites.utu.fi/beyond-ias/> - led to formation of NordIAS -

<https://sites.utu.fi/beyond-ias/nordias/>

2022: Kone Foundation -SAR Fellowships: 470 500 €

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

1 146 420 € - [www.utu.fi/ties](http://www.utu.fi/ties)

# TIAS Calls

- Generally make annual Calls for new Fellows
- 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%
- Extremely competitive





TIES

# Introduction

# Current Call

- [www.utu.fi/ties](http://www.utu.fi/ties)
- Deadline: 9 January 2023
- Start for appointees: 1 September 2023
- Up to 8 positions

# COFUNDED



**Co-funded by  
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# MSCA COFUND in Horizon Europe - Postdoctoral

**For doctoral candidates or postdoctoral researchers who get**

- 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

## 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 Finland’s 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 - <https://thenew.institute/en>). 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 workshops
- Establishes best practice for the development of postdoctoral and mid-career researchers at TIAS and UTU

## 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



# Becoming a TIES Fellow

- Applications
- Reviews Process

# Applications Process

- 3 main criteria:
  - Within 8 years of PhD (plus other time for parental leave, military service etc – note in CV)
  - 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. - note in CV)
  - All relevant documents – detailed instructions
- Include secondment plans within the research plan 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)

# 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’
- In short – do your homework

# 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
- 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. Theory and Method

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

Proposed outputs and publications

## 5. Overall grade (not simply an average)

# What makes a good application?

- Read the 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*
- 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*? What is your proposal *fantastic*?
- Clear links to UTU and its strategic research priorities an advantage
- Fully understand *where* you are applying to and *why*
- Make the secondment integral to the research

# Sections of Application

- Research plan abstract (1 page; max 2 500 characters, plus spaces)
- Research plan (maximum 25 000 characters, plus spaces)
- Secondment plan (maximum one page)
- Data Management Plan (maximum one page)
- Curriculum vitae (maximum 2 pages)
- List of publications (maximum 2 pages; please indicate the five most important)
- Letter of Motivation (maximum 2 pages)
- Copy of doctoral certificate (if unavailable please supply a copy of official confirmation that the PhD has been passed).
- ***NB: All parts have maximum limits and we have the right to exclude candidates who break limits***

# The secondment

- Key part of research plan
- Minimum 2 months, maximum 6 – can be more than one host organisation
- See [www.utu.fi/ties](http://www.utu.fi/ties) for more details - includes faculty contacts for help
- Candidates can select own secondment organisation
- Candidates can approach potential hosts – refer to ties website
- Potential hosts *can* offer letter of support, *must* be in TIES format – see website



# Appointed candidates

- Assigned (i) departmental supervisor (ii) workplace supervisor minimum of 5 years relevant experience (iii) mentor and access to (iv) Visiting Professor of Mentoring
- TIAS Director provides ongoing support
- Meet with secondment host 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)



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# Contact

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Questions?

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