Academy of Finland
Ask & Apply Roadshow 2015

Programme:

• Academy of Finland and September 2015 call
• How applications are reviewed
• Q&A with our science advisers
ACADEMY OF FINLAND AND SEPTEMBER 2015 CALL

1. About us
2. Funding for research projects
3. Funding for research posts
4. International calls
5. Funding for research environments
1. ABOUT US
Who are we?

- The Academy of Finland is a public funding agency for scientific research
- We provide funding for scientific research, researcher training and the improvement of research capacities
- In 2014, our funding budget totalled €316.8 million
- We have four research councils
  - Research Council for Biosciences and Environment
  - Research Council for Culture and Society
  - Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering
  - Research Council for Health
- Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee (FIRI Committee)
- Strategic Research Council (SRC)
- We have a staff of 143 people
Decision-making at the Academy

The Finnish Government
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

Board of the Academy of Finland

Research councils
1 chair, 10 members

Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee

Research Council for Biosciences and Environment
Research Council for Culture and Society
Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering
Research Council for Health

Strategic Research Council
Our activities

- Reviewing funding applications, making funding decisions
- Evaluating research
  - science, research and individual disciplines
  - research programmes
- Drafting policy and providing funding for research infrastructures
- Science and researchforesighting, impact analysis
  - developing science indicators
  - reviewing the state of scientific research in Finland
- Actively influencing European and Nordic science policy
- Drafting science policy lines and statements, engaging in science policy debate
Research funding by the Academy

- **Open competition, fixed-term funding**

- Granted to the best researchers and the most promising early-career researchers for cutting-edge scientific research

- Decisions based on:
  - *scientific peer review of the research plan and the applicant*
  - independent, international and high-quality peer review
  - science policy lines adopted by the Academy Board
  - equal treatment of applicants
  - open and transparent decision-making: criteria, processes and decisions all public
Our funding opportunities

For research
- Academy Projects
- Targeted Academy Projects
- Research programmes
- Centres of Excellence

For researchers
- Postdoctoral Researchers
- Academy Research Fellows
- Academy Professors

For research environments
- University profiling
- Research infrastructures
- FiDiPro
Our funding in 2014

Research environments 6% 
€17.0 million
Research infrastructures €17.0 million

Researchers 30%
€96.0 million
Academy Professors €5.5 million
Academy Research Fellows €26.6 million
Postdoctoral Researchers €26.2 million
Research costs in research posts €28.8 million
FiDiPro €9.0 million

Research projects 57%
€180.8 million
Academy Projects, incl. strategic funding by research councils €113.2 million
CoE Programmes €28.4 million
Academy Programmes €39.1 million

Other 7%
€23.0 million
International membership fees €20.3 million
Researcher mobility €1.2 million
Project funding by Administration Office €1.5 million

Total €316.8 million
Open for application in September 2015

**Funding for research projects**
- Academy Project funding
- Targeted Academy Project funding
  - thematic call
  - funding for development research
  - International joint projects

**Funding for research posts**
- Research posts as Postdoctoral Researcher
- Research posts as Academy Research Fellow
- Funding for clinical researchers
- Research posts as Academy Professor
- Mobility grants

**Funding for research environments**
- SRC matching funds (open-ended deadline)
2. FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS
Academy Project funding

- Our main funding opportunity

- Promotes the quality and diversity of research and its capacity for regeneration by providing funding for scientifically ambitious research

- The funding is granted to leading-edge researchers and research teams for:
  - salaries
  - acquisition of materials and equipment
  - travel
  - international cooperation

Bottom-up project funding
**Academy Project funding**

**Goal:** To fund internationally high-quality research projects

**Applicant:** A researcher with the qualifications of a professor or an adjunct professor (docent)

**Funding period:** Normally four years

**Funding starts:** 1 September

**For what?** Primarily for teams of researchers who have completed their doctorate; for all project costs
## Academy Project funding in September 2014 call

- Notes on differences between research councils available in Appendix 2 of the call for applications
- Also read more on our website under [Research councils](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research council</th>
<th>Success rate</th>
<th>Funding on average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biosciences and Environment</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>€531,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>€476,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences and Engineering</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>€444,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>€345,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As a rule, the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment strives to keep the total costs of Academy Projects as they are entered in the applications. If the Research Council does make reductions, these are primarily targeted at large-scale projects.

In the September 2015 call, the Research Council for Culture and Society will grant a maximum of 600,000 euros per Academy Project.

In the September 2015 call, the Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering will grant a maximum of 700,000 euros per Academy Project (175,000 euros per year).

In recent years, the Research Council for Health has granted Academy Projects a maximum of 500,000 euros in funding.

Bottom-up project funding
Targeted Academy Project funding

Goal: To fund a specific field or purpose
- thematic topic
- international calls for joint projects

- Not a cluster of projects as in research programmes
- The same conditions as in Academy Projects (check exceptions in the call text)

Open for application in September 2015:
Targeted Academy Project funding by the Academy’s research councils
- ICT 2023 programme, letters of intent
- Funding for development research (check status on our website)
3. FUNDING FOR RESEARCH POSTS
Four-tiered research career system

- Early-stage researcher/Researcher training
  - Training
- Postdoctoral Researcher
  - Increased independence
- Academy Research Fellow/Team leader
  - Independent
- Academy Professor/Professor/Research director
  - Established
Research post as Postdoctoral Researcher

**Goal:** To advance the professional competence of researchers who have recently earned their doctorate

**Applicant:** 0–4 years since doctorate (+ 4 years since medical specialist training)

**Funding period:** Three years; only once

**For what?**
- salary (full-time work for 36 months)
- personal research costs (excl. other people’s salaries)
- international or national mobility

**Mobility is encouraged** – well-motivated mobility plan important, invitation preferred

**Remember:** Detailed budget with justifications in the research plan!
Research posts as Postdoctoral Researcher, September 2014 call

- Fierce competition for this funding

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biosciences and Environment</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>€278,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>€253,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Sciences and Engineering</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>€258,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>€270,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Postdoctoral Researchers doing research at EUI or IIASA

- The European University Institute (EUI) can receive up to two Academy-funded Postdoctoral Researchers at a time to carry out research at the EUI for 1–2 years. Funding for this opportunity is applied for as part of the three-year research post as Postdoctoral Researcher.

- During the Academy funding period, Postdoctoral Researchers can also visit the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).
Academy Research Fellows

- have successfully been engaged in scientific research and publishing after earning their doctorate
- get an opportunity to qualify for advanced research tasks or other expert tasks
- carry out independent scientific work
- provide teaching and supervision in their field
- receive funding for five years
Research posts as Academy Research Fellow

**Goal:** To support the best experienced researchers in developing their skills of academic leadership and establishing themselves as independent researchers

**Applicant:** 3–9 years since doctorate (+ 4 years since medical specialist training)

**Funding period:** Five years; only once

**Funding starts:** 1 September

**For what?** Researcher’s own salary, costs of project

**Know this:**

1. The funding (= personal salary) is applied for in September.
2. Those selected can then apply for funding for research costs.

**Remember:** Detailed budget with justifications in the research plan!
Research posts as Academy Research Fellow, September 2014 call

- The funding consists of the Fellow’s salary and research costs.
- The research costs vary between research councils; read more in the call for applications and on our website under Research councils.

<table>
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<th>Salary</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biosciences and Environment</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>€434,485</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>€434,485</td>
</tr>
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<td>€434,485</td>
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</table>
Funding for clinical researchers

- A strategic funding opportunity by the Academy’s Research Council for Health

- **Goal**: to promote clinical research careers

- **Applicant**: a medical doctor in clinical practice
- **Funding period**: 0–4 years, further periods possible
- **Funding starts**: 1 September
- **For what?** Researcher’s own salary (20–50%) and research costs
- **Success rate has been**: 21–29%

- Please contact Science Adviser Sanna Marjavaara (Health Research Unit)
Academy Professors

- are top researchers who contribute to the progress of research within their field
- lead their own research team
- provide supervision to junior researchers and teaching associated with the research
- receive funding for no more than five years at a time
Research posts as Academy Professor

**Goal**: to facilitate full-time scientific research for internationally top-level researchers; Academy Professors are expected to contribute to the progress of research and the development of a creative research environment.

**Applicant**: an internationally merited senior researcher

**Funding period**: five years; further terms possible (successful research and a competitive research plan)

**Funding starts**: 1 January

**For what?** same as for Academy Research Fellows

**Know this**:  
- Application in two stages (letters of intent + full applications by successful candidates)
4. INTERNATIONAL CALLS
International activities

- Supported in all Academy funding opportunities:
  - Academy Project funding
  - Academy Programmes, CoE Programmes
  - Academy Research Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers

- Opportunities for international engagement:
  - Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FiDiPro)
  - Funding for researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements
  - Joint project calls with foreign funding agencies

- Scientific infrastructure cooperation:
  - Finland’s membership in international research infrastructures
  - Partnership and membership in ESFRI research infrastructures
International engagement, support to researcher mobility

Supported with all our funding opportunities, such as:

- Academy Project funding
- Research programmes and CoE programmes: joint calls and networking
- Finland Distinguished Professor Programme
- Academy Research Fellows, Postdoctoral Researchers
- ERA-NET calls
- Agreement-based mobility
- Together with foreign funding agencies: calls for joint projects
Mobility grants

Bilateral agreements between funding agencies to promote researcher mobility:

- China/Taiwan
- Germany
- India
- Japan
- Russia
- South Africa

Applicant: A researcher with a higher university degree (primarily doctorate)

For what? A grant to cover travel and living costs

Grant duration: 7–360 days

Invitation money: Funding to invite a foreign researcher to Finland or organise a seminar in Finland (Japan, China/Taiwan)

The mobility funding is either a personal grant or a research grant. Personal grants are paid directly to the researchers, research grants via the sites of research.
International calls

- The Academy is a funding partner in several international calls.
- A number of calls will open in late 2015 and early 2016. Read more in the call for applications and on our website under Apply now.
- Academy Programme call:
  - The Academy of Finland, the National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) and the Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) will launch a call for joint projects to promote international collaboration in mineral resources research.
  - The call is affiliated with the Academy Programme Mineral Resources and Material Substitution (MISU, 2014–2019). The theme of the call is research into primary mineral resources, materials efficiency and recycling.
Calls by the European Union

- **European Research Council (ERC), all research fields**
  - ERC Starting Grants (deadline November 2015)
  - ERC Consolidator Grants (deadline February 2016)
  - ERC Advanced Grants (deadline September 2016)
  - More information: Science Advisers Maiju Gyran and Hannele Lahtinen

- **Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility funding**
  - research projects involving mainly two-year mobility (Individual Fellowships)
  - short-term international and intersectoral mobility (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange)
  - networks that implement international and innovative training programmes (Innovative Training Networks)
  - funding programmes for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers (Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes)
  - More information: Science Adviser Satu Huuha-Cissokho

- **Other Horizon 2020 calls**
  - More information from the national contact points; see the call for applications
5. FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS
SRC matching funds for Horizon 2020

• The Strategic Research Council (SRC) at the Academy of Finland grants national matching funds to projects that have received funding under the Societal Challenges priority of Horizon 2020.

• Projects eligible to receive SRC matching funds must have received funding in 2015 or thereafter. The aim of SRC matching funds is to encourage research organisations to participate in preparing projects for upcoming EU funding calls.

• Applicant: SRC matching funds can be applied for by research organisations, such as research services or financial administration units.

• Please note the application schedule. Sites of research can submit applications as soon as they have received the final, signed funding decision from the EU Commission. The application deadline is open-ended.

• Draft the application in the Academy’s online services. Select Open calls > SRC matching funds for Horizon 2020.
Research infrastructures

- A reserve of research facilities, equipment, materials and services that enable R&D at various stages of innovation

- Tasks of the FIRI Committee at the Academy of Finland:
  - monitors and develops Finnish and international research infrastructure activities
  - submits proposals (every five years) on long-term research infrastructure plans
  - selects and monitors research infrastructure projects

- [Finland’s Strategy and Roadmap for Research Infrastructures 2014–2020](#)

- Academy funding for research infrastructures €17 million in 2014, €16.7 million available in 2015
Key issues in September 2015 call

- **Mobility** – must be well-motivated and research-driven
- **Open science** – open access publishing and open data
  - One of our science policy objectives is to promote open science. We are also committed to promoting the practices outlined in the *Open Science and Research Roadmap 2014–2017* and to considering open science promotion in providing funding for research projects.
  - We require that Academy-funded projects commit to open access publishing. We also urge projects to make their research data and methods freely available.
  - Funding is also available for research costs arising from publishing of research results. This funding is applied for on the online form under *Funding for the project/Services* and justified in the research plan.
- **Impact** – the potential impact of the research must be described in the application
More information:

- Academy of Finland: [www.aka.fi/en](http://www.aka.fi/en)
- For mobile researchers: [www.euraxess.fi](http://www.euraxess.fi)
- Follow us on: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube
THANK YOU!

More about our calls, guidelines on how to apply:

• [www aka fi en → Funding → Apply now](http://www.aka.fi/en)
• contact persons named in the call text

[www aka fi AskApply](http://www.aka.fi/AskApply)