

ask &
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SUOMEN AKATEMIA
FINLANDS AKADEMI
ACADEMY OF FINLAND

New Academy Research Fellowships

13 June 2022

We start at 13:00

Some guidelines

1. First the presentation – then questions and discussion

There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion

2. You can write questions during the presentation on Q&A

3. The webinar presentation will be recorded and made available online for two weeks – Q&A and discussion will not be recorded

Early-career funding reform

- The Academy of Finland is committed to support early-career researchers
 - The new generation has a key role in driving the renewal of science
- Until now, we have had Postdoctoral Research funding, Academy Research Fellowships and an earmarked allocation of the Academy Project funding
- New Academy Researcher Fellowship will be launched in September call 2022
 - Replaces the previous Postdoctoral Researcher and Academy Research Fellow calls
 - Ongoing fundings continue as agreed

New Academy Researcher Fellowship

- Two main aims of the new funding
 - to support researchers so that they can increase competencies and make significant career progress
 - to fund high-quality, high-impact research that stimulates the renewal of science
- Eligibility: 2 to 9 years from the first doctorate at the application time
 - PhD certificate dated 30/9/2013–30/9/2020, extensions due to parental leave etc.
 - As of the autumn 2023 call, the eligibility period will be 2–7 years since the first doctorate.
- Not to be granted to persons holding a permanent, senior research position
 - Meaning permanent professors, permanent assistant/associate professors, permanent research directors or comparable
- Not to be granted to those with previous 5-year Academy Researcher Fellowship

What's new in Academy Researcher Fellowship?

- No mobility requirement
 - Mobility still important
- 4-year funding period, full cost model, max 70% funding from the Academy
- Flexible budget
 - Any combination of own salary, group members' salaries and/or research costs
 - Own salary 0-46 months, according to the salary scale of the site of research
 - Max 2 full time equivalent salaries in total (incl. own salary) in the budget
 - Examples (not limited to!)
 - Academy Research Fellow + 1 junior + some other costs
 - 2 postdocs/juniors + some other costs
 - Academy Research Fellow + more other costs
 - Taking into account differences in different disciplines, remember to justify
 - Flexible changes

What's new in Academy Research Fellowship?

- Career progress as a professional researcher is an essential objective of the funding
- To support that, the funding period includes 4 months' worth of tasks other than research tasks that are important for a professional research career
 - E.g. teaching and supervision, administrative duties, interaction or advocacy, or other tasks related to the organisation's core functions
 - To be agreed and organised with the site of research
 - Of this work max 2 months' salary can be included in the Academy Research Fellow budget
- Aim also to strengthen support, commitment and integration

Academy Research Fellowship: review

- Main review criteria reflect the aims of the funding
 - Competence of the applicant and the potential to increase competencies and make career progress during funding
 - Scientific quality, innovativeness and novelty, impact within the scientific community
- All review in relation to the career stage
- Special emphasis on the principles of Responsible researcher evaluation

Describing own merits and competencies in application

The applicant describes

1. Researcher merits to date
2. How the research idea has evolved since the doctoral dissertation
3. Increasing researcher competencies during the funding period
4. Career plan after the funding period

Gained/foreseen competencies may include e.g. (not limited to!)

- National and international collaboration and mobility
- Cross-sectoral collaboration
- (Co-)publication (implemented or planned)
- Sharing of data
- Establishing a research team and other academic leadership experience
- Supervision and teaching experience
- Various expert positions
- Most important research funding awards (planned and received)

Review form

1. Competence of applicant

1.1 Competence and expertise of applicant
(1–6)

2. Quality of research

2.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of research
(1–6)

3. Implementation

3.1 Feasibility of research plan
(1–6)

3.2 Human resources, expertise and collaboration
(1–6)

4. Responsible science, societal effects and impact

4.1 Responsible science
4.2 Societal effects and impact of the project

5. Summary assessment of project

5.1 Main strengths and their justifications
5.2 Main weaknesses and their justifications
5.3 Concluding remarks

6. Overall rating (1–6)

How does Academy Researcher Fellowship differ from Academy Project?

Academy Project

Research plan and its feasibility, incl. applicant's competence to run the project

Academy Researcher Fellowship

Competence, expertise and potential of the applicant

Research plan and its feasibility, incl. applicant's competence to run the project

What can I do?

- If you plan to apply
 - Read the call objectives and review questions carefully
 - Think open-mindedly of your merits and skills
 - Be optimistic but realistic
- If you are not eligible yet but plan to apply later
 - Think open-mindedly how to gain merits and skills
 - Make a career plan, talk to your seniors/mentors
- If you are a senior researcher, supervisor or research manager
 - Support the younger!
 - Give an example but remember that everyone has their own career path
 - Help a promising researcher over a gap
 - Create procedures to systematically give career support

Time for Questions and Answers



If you wish to speak, raise your hand



You may also ask in Q&A. Start your question with an initial of Research Council

BHE=Biosciences, Health and Environment; CS=Culture and Society; NSE=Natural Sciences and Engineering



Unmute the microphone and turn on the camera only when your turn to speak

More information

- Call open 25/8 – 28/9/2022 READ THE CALL TEXT CAREFULLY
 - Contact details according to your Research Council
- Helpdesk
- Academy Research Fellow reform
- Ask & Apply webinars in June and August-September



Ask & Apply webinars

- **Monday 13 June at 13.00–14.00**

New Academy Research Fellowships

[Join the webinar](#)

- **Tuesday 14 June at 13.00–14.30**

How to demonstrate your qualifications in the new Academy Research Fellowships scheme (workshop)

NB! [Pre-registration required by 9 June](#).

- **Thursday 16 June at 13.00–14.00**

Tips for a good application

[Join the webinar](#)

- **Aug 25:** What's new in autumn 2022 call? at 13-14

- **Aug 31:** How applications are reviewed at 13-14

- **Sept 7:** How funding decisions are made at 13-14

- **Sept 14:** Ask Me Anything – our science advisers answer your questions at 13-14