Ask & Apply webinars

Past webinars (materials found online):

• New Academy Research Fellowships

New Academy Research Fellowships funding scheme launching in autumn 2022 - YouTube

Webinars in August-September:

• **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)

Before we start

- First a short presentation, then Q&A
- The webinar presentation will be recorded and made available online for two weeks – Q&A and discussion will not be recorded
- Write your questions on the Q&A.
- Please focus your questions on 'Tips for a good application'
- Please indicate in your question the relevant call and the research council:
  - (Academy Research) Fellow or Project
  - BHE / NSE / CS

1) How do I get started?

- Start early, submit early (calls end 28.9. or 5.10.)
  - 'Test the system' (research plan PDF, information required for each tab)
  - NB. You can edit your submitted application until the deadline

- Read all relevant information before you start writing
  - Call texts: Academy Project; Academy Research Fellow
  - Review criteria, reviewer guidelines
  - Reviewer feedback: BHE NSE CS
  - Research council policies
  - Funding terms and conditions, review process
  - A-Z index of application guidelines

2) A good application

- Follow the [research plan template](#)
- All relevant fields are filled with care
  - Abstract, key words, field of research
- Appendices: Relevant collaboration letters recommended
- Written with due attention to the [evaluation criteria](#) and the review forms ([Academy Project](#); [Academy Research Fellow)](#)
  - Convince the reviewers that you fulfil the call objectives
- Written in clear and meticulous way
  - Make it easy for the reviewer to find the relevant information in the plan

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Evaluation criteria

1. Scientific quality, innovativeness and novelty value of the research as well as its impact within the scientific community

2. Feasibility of research plan (incl. responsible science)

3. Competence of applicant/research team in terms of project implementation, possible researcher training (esp. Academy Research Fellows)

4. Quality of research environment and collaboration networks (incl. researcher mobility)

5. Suitability of the proposed research in terms of the special objectives of the funding scheme (incl. societal impact)

3) Evaluator comments (do's and don'ts)

Do's

- Describe the state of the art in the field

- Implementation 'Make or break!'
    - 2.1 Work plan and schedule
    - 2.2 Research data and material, methods, and research environment
    - 2.3 Risk assessment and alternative implementation strategies
    - 3.2. Role of your collaboration partners

- Describe why you are the right person to lead the project

Don'ts

- Don't leave the submission to the last minute

4) Panel feedback on Implementation I

- BHE:
- *"The panels emphasized the importance of describing the research design, analyses and methods in enough detail and justifying the choice of empirical systems to allow quality assurance and assessment of feasibility."*
- NSE:
- *"Notably, the description of the implementation of the work was often insufficiently detailed."*
- SSH:
- *"Proposals could be strong in making the case for the topic demonstrating a depth in theory and concepts, but then lack detail in the research plan."*
- *"Often the weaker proposals had underspecified data analysis or data collection methods."*

4) Panel feedback on Implementation II

-> Key criterion in the evaluation:

"A rigorous effort to describe the research design in clear details (as opposed to making broad and imprecise statements)"

-> *"The major open questions [to be addressed] are:*

"Why do you decide to use the various methods and how do they help you to reach the desired outcomes?"

4) Extra tips

- Get help from
  - (More experienced) colleagues
  - Research services (get your own university's guidelines)
  - Contact people in the call text
  - Academy of Finland's Helpdesk
- Participate in the Ask & Apply events
- Materials from the Ask & Apply events available online

Additional links

- [Feedback from 2020 panels](#) ([NSE 2021](#))
- [Ethical guidelines](#)
- [Equality and nondiscrimination guidelines](#)
- [Open science guidelines](#)
- [Guidelines on the data management plan](#)
- [Sustainable development guidelines](#)
- [Agenda 2030](#)
- [Research impact - Academy of Finland (aka.fi)](#)