

**ask &
apply**



SUOMEN AKATEMIA
FINLANDS AKADEMI
ACADEMY OF FINLAND

A stylized, artistic representation of a DNA double helix structure. It is rendered in dark green and black lines against a lighter green background. The helix is composed of two intertwined strands connected by horizontal rungs, with various dots and circles scattered around it, suggesting a molecular or genetic theme.

Funding for clinical researchers

Funding opportunities

 For researchers	 For research teams	 For research organisations	 For strategic research
Academy Professor Academy Research Fellow Postdoctoral Researcher Clinical Researcher Mobility grants	Academy Project Academy Programme Centre of Excellence International joint calls	Research infrastructures University profiling Flagship Programme	SRC programmes

- Academy research fellow: 5 year funding (3-9 (+4*) years after PhD)
- Postdoctoral researcher: 3 year funding (max 4(+4*) years after PhD)
- Academy project: 4 year funding for PIs **
- **Clinical researcher: 4 year, part time funding (20-50%) ****
 - * with medical specialist training
 - **both fundings possible, but it is not possible to apply both in the same year

Clinical researchers

- *The clinical researchers combine their working in clinical practice (at least 50 % clinical practice) with research (20-50 % part-time research).*
- *During the typically 4 years funding for their own salary and research costs they can allocate the research periods according to their needs.*
 - Means: discuss and agree with your organization(s) how to integrate the clinical practice with the research

Clinical researchers

- *Medical doctors and other researchers working in clinical practice are qualified to apply and there is no limitation in time after the PhD-degree.*
 - Means: you should have a PhD-degree but you do not need to be a MD-PhD – however at least half of your working time should go to clinical practice.
 - There is no limitation in time after the PhD-degree
 - There is no limitation how many times you can be funded
 - No mobility requirement

How to prepare?
Follow the structure of
the research plan &
check the review form

The structure of the research plan – all parts are important!

1. Aim and objectives

- Significance of the research project
- Research questions & hypotheses
- Expected results & impact

2. Implementation

- Work plan & schedule
- Data & methods
- Risk assessment

3. Applicant and collaborators

- Merits & justifications

4. Responsible science

- Research ethics
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Open science
- Sustainable development objectives

5. Societal effects and impact

- Effects and impact beyond academia

6. Bibliography

- List of all of the sources used in the research plan
- The list (no more than 2 pages) does not count towards the length of the research plan

Make sure you score high with respect to the review form

1.1 Scientific quality, novelty and innovativeness of the research

Sub-rating (1–6)

Significance of the project; Objectives and hypothesis; Ambitiousness and state of the art of the objectives (possible novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines); Scientific impact of the research; Potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes; etc.

E.g. Don't leave it for the reviewer to figure out what kind of impact your research will have, it should be clearly written within your research plan!

Match your methods and aims

- Aim for a focused methodological plan that is directly tied to your specific aims
- Give enough details on what you are planning to do and how to do this in practice
 - Power calculations!
 - Ethics!

Why Structured research plan?

- During the review process the reviewers are directed straight to the specific section of the research plan
 - Reviewers are able to quickly find the information they need and the evaluation is based on correct information
- Better comparability between the different applications

Show your enthusiasm

- Your excitement towards your research questions and researcher career should be seen from your application
 - Choice of research visits
 - Knowledge of recent literature
 - Novel ideas, 'out of the box' –thinking
 - Career development (CV)

Research is teamwork, writing applications should also be

Collaborators listed in your application, but also:

- Senior scientist(s)
- Peer(s)
- Someone who has received the funding
- Research Services (e.g. budgeting)
- Science advisers at Academy of Finland

Seek external reviews prior to submission, ideally both a specialist and a generalist

**Most common
critique from
evaluators?**

Methods are often poorly explained OR JUSTIFIED

Go down to details and include proper risk analysis

“A number of applications were lacking important methodological details: therefore potentially good projects were being scored as lower quality.”

Layout, spelling & proper english

Put yourself in the shoes of the reviewer: make it understandable, enable skimming

“Make better use of figures and tables to make the proposals more illustrative and to improve the general readability”

“At the end I am left with the feeling this was hastily written proposal”



Important documents and additional resources

Important documents

- Call text: Funding > Apply for funding <http://www.aka.fi/en/funding/apply-for-funding/>
- Application review forms & other guidelines for reviewers:
<https://www.aka.fi/en/review-and-funding-decisions/how-applications-are-reviewed/guides-for-reviewers/>
- [Structure of the research plan](#)
- Familiarise yourself with [A-Z index of application guidelines](#)

Application parts in online services


Application parts and guidelines

- Appendices (in PDF files):
 - Obligatory
 - Complete list of publications
 - Case-specific
- Interim report
- Submit application – be on time!

Checklist

- Read carefully the call text
 - Choose the right funding opportunity → What are the objectives?
 - Read all guidelines and conditions
- Follow the right structure
 - [Curriculum vitae \(CV\)](#) and [Publication list](#)
 - The mobility plan is part of your application
 - The [abstract](#) is a concise scientific account of your research
 - The public description of your project ≠ an abstract
 - [Interim report](#)
- Familiarise yourself with the [review questions](#)
- Know the [\(research policy\) factors](#) that influence the research council's decision
- START YOUR APPLICATION **NOW**: SIGN UP, UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS (My account)
→ www.aka.fi/en > [Go to the online services](#)
- Send us your questions (our contacts are named in the call page)
- TIP: see [A–Z index of application guidelines](#)

Additional information

- [Academy of Finland webpages](#)
- [Ask&Apply](#)
- Twitter 
 - @SuomenAkademia
 - @SannaMarjavaara
- Ask – colleagues, research services, Science advisers etc.

Thank you!



Time for Questions and Answers

Sanna Marjavaara

firstname.lastname@aka.fi

www.aka.fi/en

**ask &
apply**