What's new in the September call 2020?

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Covering the basics

September call, 1-30 September 2020

- The Academy's largest bottom-up call, organized every year

- Several different funding opportunities

- **Reminders:** Read the call text carefully; submit early; funding is not granted for the same purpose twice

Funding application

- Online forms (SARA)
- PDF attachments

Online forms (Academy project):

1. Personal data/CV
2. Consortium parties
3. General information
4. Abstract
5. Most relevant publications
6. Mobility
7. Collaborators
8. Affiliations
9. Research ethics
10. Funding for the project
11. Salary of principal investigator
12. Public project description
13. **Research plan**
14. CV
15. Appendixes
16. Submit application
17. Authorisation

Overview of funding opportunitites

https://www.aka.fi/en/funding/apply-for-funding/

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- **Academy project, Academy research fellow, postdoctoral researchers**

- Funding for sport science research projects from Ministry of Education, Science and Culture 2020

- Call for funding for international researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements

- Finnish Centres of Excellence in Research 2022–2029 (two-stage call)

- Special funding for system-level research into climate change mitigation and adaptation

- Targeted Academy Project 2020: International Co-Investigator Scheme for Finnish-Norwegian research cooperation in engineering

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In addition:

- *Calls for research organisations 11 August – 2 September (FIRI, Flagship, networks)*

- *Joint calls with US NIH and NSF are being planned - thematic areas of Finnish Research Flagships*

Why make changes every year?

- The application procedure is being developed constantly based on applicant/reviewer/stakeholder feedback

- Applicants will receive an invitation soon after the call deadline to provide feedback to the Academy via a questionnaire

Feedback received in 2019

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- call texts as websites
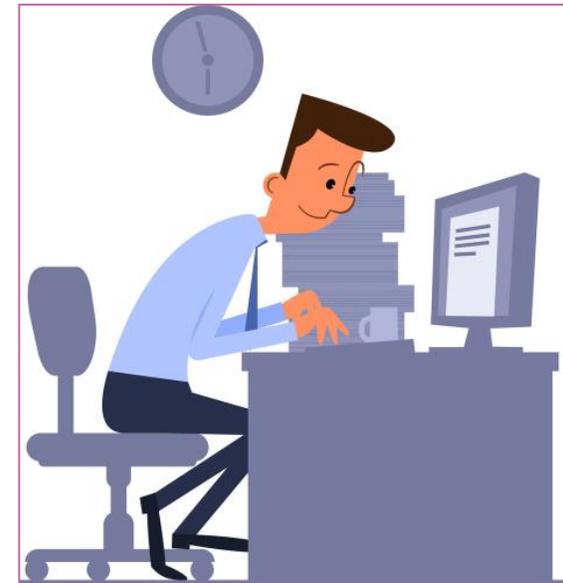- A–Z index of application guidelines

☹☹☹

- workload
- stability of the online system and technical issues with the online forms
- application processing time too long

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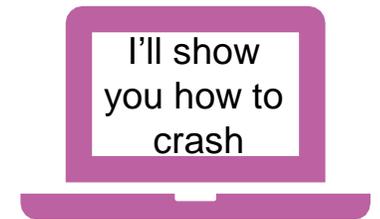**Reduced workload: Less PDF attachments requested**

- CV will be provided via online form, 2 pages, following the [TENK template](#)

- Ethical permits no longer requested

- Data management plan requested only after funding decisions

- Progress report replaced by interim report, which is the same online form as the final reporting form

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Improving user experience of the online system: technical updates

- More server capacity available during peak times

- Identified technical issues with the research plan online form have been fixed

- Start date of the funding period automatically selected

- Editorial features of the research plan form have been incorporated into some other forms (e.g. in Academy research fellow research costs)

- In two-stage calls letter of intent application can be used as a starting point for preparing full application

- PhD degree date and site of research are obligatory information

Click nicely

I'll show you how to crash

Whatever

Changes in the application procedure (3/4)

Mobility requirement: Deviations are possible only on special grounds

- if mobility requirement is not fulfilled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, reasons must be described in the application and relevant certificates (e.g. airline tickets or invitation) provided after the call deadline.

- In general, deviation from the requirement based on part-time positions not accepted

From mobility allowance to mobility aid

- Mobility aid is applied for as needed taking into account the host organization's practices and guidelines together with the Research Council's funding policies & criteria

Salary of a Postdoctoral Researcher may also be co-funded (ERC, MSCA)
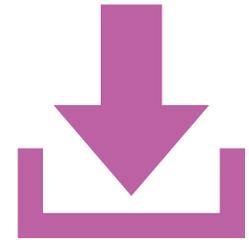
- Starting from the 2020 call

Letters of commitment allowed in addition to invitation letters

- Collaboration may take many forms: researcher visits, use of digital materials, other research cooperation, etc.

Changes in the application procedure (4/4)

Reducing application processing time

- **One-time request by the Academy to supplement application: applicant, together with site of research, responsible for the quality and completeness of the application**

- Site of research responsible for making sure ethical and possible other permits for the research are in place

- Site of research responsible for providing its cost factors for budgeting and persons issuing the commitment by the site of research

- By accepting funding, the site of research commits to ensuring that the DMP can be implemented at the site of research, and that the measures to be taken comply with good data management practice

9 months remaining…

Responsibilties of the Academy

Eligibility
- Commitment by the site of research*
- PhD degree date
- Doctoral degree certificate (only if issue identified with the degree date)*

- Fullfilment of the mobility requirement

Equal treatment of applicants
- Length of research plan submitted as a PDF document*

Basis for funding decisions
- Applied and ongoing funding

Prerequisite for payment of funds
- Data management plan*

* One-time request

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Summary of the key points

- Less PDF attachments to reduce workload

- Updates in the online system to improve user experience

- Deviations to the mobility requirement

- **Applicant, together with site of research, more responsible for the quality and completeness of the application than before**

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