

Research Council of Finland's funding terms and conditions 1 June 2023–31 October 2023 (adopted 22 May 2023)

These funding terms and conditions apply to
the Research Council of Finland's funding calls opened
between 1 June 2023 and 31 October 2023
and to funding decisions made on such calls.



ACADEMY OF FINLAND

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Part 1: Applying for funding

1. Scope of application

1.1. Scope of application of these funding terms and conditions

This document includes terms and conditions as well as guidelines. The funding terms and conditions apply to the Research Council of Finland's funding calls opened between 1 June 2023 and 31 October 2023 and to funding decisions made on such calls.

As a rule, the contact person for a funding decision by the Research Council is the presenting official named in the decision notification. Our email addresses are in the format `firstname.lastname(at)aka.fi`. Funding recipients may also contact us via the Registrar's Office or the feedback form on our website.

If any questions arise concerning the accuracy of the information presented in this translated text, please refer to the official Finnish version. The terms and conditions concern, for example, the following funding instruments:

- Academy Project Funding
- Academy Research Fellowships (first call in autumn 2022, decisions in spring 2023)
- International researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements (mobility grants and mobility invitation, mobility seminars and mobility cooperation)
- Funding for research post as Clinical Researcher
- Possible special funding schemes for international research cooperation
- Funding by the Strategic Research Council
- Funding for research infrastructures
- Proof of Concept Funding.

These terms and conditions as well as any special conditions mentioned in the Research Council of Finland's funding decisions and the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers must be followed in the use, payment and control of funds granted by the Research Council. Research Council of Finland funding is granted for a fixed term. The funding terms and conditions are the same irrespective of whether the funding involves a government organisation or a recipient of discretionary government grants.

These terms and conditions apply when the recipient of the funding is a site of research (recipient of government grant) or a grant recipient. Our research funding is granted to Finnish sites of research, unless there are special reasons for not doing so. The site of research is the applicant's background organisation (e.g. university, research institute or research organisation). The PI of the funded project must have a close connection with Finland to support

the implementation of a multi-year project. The site of research of an Academy Project is a Finnish organisation via which the funding is paid.

The Research Council's funding terms and conditions for funding decisions apply to both the PI and the site of research (recipient of government grant). The PI bears the primary responsibility for the implementation of the research project and for adherence to the funding plan.

As a rule, the Research Council of Finland does not grant funding to support economic activity. Economic activity is defined as all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market regardless of whether profits are pursued or generated. When an organisation is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities. Funding may be granted for economic activity only if it can be granted in keeping with the EU's state aid rules in the form of de minimis aid.

The Research Council of Finland can fund research infrastructures that are used for non-economic activities. If, however, a research infrastructure is also used for economic activity, the activity may only be of an ancillary nature. Ancillary activities are directly associated with and essential to the research infrastructure, or closely affiliated with the infrastructure's non-economic activities. In economic activities, the annual capacity of ancillary activities must not exceed 20% of the infrastructure's annual total capacity. The Research Council must be notified as soon as possible if the annual capacity exceeds 20%.

A research organisation refers to an organisation whose primary goal is to conduct independent basic research, industrial research or experimental development or to disseminate its results widely by means of education, publication or knowledge transfer. Research organisations are, for example, higher education institutes, research institutes, technology transfer organisations, innovation intermediaries, and research-oriented physical or virtual collaborative entities, regardless of their legal status (organised under public or private law) or financing source. When such an entity is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities. The enterprises exercising a controlling interest in such an entity (as shareholders, members, etc.) may not enjoy any preferential access to the results generated by the entity.

Research infrastructures refer to a reserve of research instruments, data and related services that strengthens the impact and increases the international attraction of the Finnish research, education and innovation system. Research infrastructure services enable R&D activity, support researcher training, and maintain and develop research and innovation capacity, thus promoting the quality, renewal and competitiveness of research, strengthening the versatile impact of research environments and enhancing national and international cooperation. Research infrastructures may be based at a single location

(single-sited), scattered across numerous sites and organisations (distributed), or provided via a virtual platform (virtual).

1.2. Receiving and confirming receipt of funding, notifying application for advance payment

Applicants will receive an email message of the funding decision. The email address is the applicants' username for the online services. In the online services, the applicant can view the funding decision as well as the terms and conditions related to the decision.

The site of research of the PI receives and administers the funding granted. Before the funds can be paid, the PI and the site of research (first the PI, then the site of research) must confirm that they will accept the funding.

If necessary, the PI shall update the public project description and make changes to the annual instalments. It is important that the public description is written for a general audience. As a rule, the full data management plan (or equivalent) shall be appended to the application before receipt of funding is confirmed. In calls concerning funding for research infrastructures, the data management policy must be appended already at the application stage.

Receipt of funding must be confirmed via the online services **within eight weeks of the decision date, unless otherwise stated in the special conditions of the decision notification**. By their confirmation, the PI and the site of research accept the content of the funding decision in full and commit themselves to following the conditions set for the use of the funds. **Any applications for changes in the annual instalments of the decision (see section 7) must be submitted by the PI before receipt of funding is confirmed.**

As a rule, no confirmation of receipt is needed for international researcher mobility grants based on bilateral agreements.

Sites of research may notify the Research Council of Finland of their intention to apply for advance payments on funding granted. The minimum amount for advances paid by the Research Council is 10,000 euros. In the notification, the site of research must justify why the funded project needs an advance payment. For more information on advance payments, see section 15.1.

2. How cost models are applied to Research Council of Finland research funding

As a rule, the full cost model is applied in all drafting, issuing and executing of the Research Council of Finland's funding decisions. Any exceptions to this principal rule are mentioned separately for each funding opportunity.

Universities and universities of applied sciences must take into account the regulation issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture (27 May 2016) on the calculation of full costs.

Research Council of Finland research funding is in essence a form of co-funding in which the funds to finance the costs of a project primarily come from at least two sources.

Universities, research institutes and other research organisations applying for funding commit to the co-funded activity by contributing their percentage of the costs.

2.1. Funding percentage

Under the full cost model, our funding contribution normally covers a maximum of 70% of the total costs of a project.

The funding percentage is equally applicable to all project costs, that is, to both direct and indirect costs. Project overheads are indirect costs (see section 16.5). The Research Council's funding percentage will be the same in each request for payment and for each year through the entire funding period. The funding percentage is mentioned in the decision notification (table for calculation grounds/funding for the project, last column under 'Total').

In the funding for strategic research and the funding to strengthen university research profiles, the Research Council of Finland's funding covers 100% of the total costs of a project. In these funding opportunities, sites of research need not contribute with their own percentage of the funding.

2.2. Decisions following the additional cost model

The cost calculation in salaries for research posts as Academy Professor and Academy Research Fellow (granted in 2022 or earlier) follows the additional cost model and an overheads percentage of 12.5%. However, if the researcher has been granted research cost funding in connection with the post (incl. Academy Research Fellow posts open for application in 2021 or earlier and their research costs; read more in section 8.2), the funding follows the full cost model.

Likewise, the full cost model does not apply to grants for international researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements (mobility grant, mobility invitation, mobility seminar and mobility cooperation) nor to continuation and additional funding related to decisions made under the additional cost model.

Deviations from the full cost model are also possible in co-funded international calls in which the funding agencies have jointly decided on the principles for the funding and financial administration of projects.

3. Basic project facilities

The application must also include a commitment by the site of research (i.e. the applicant's host organisation that is committed to administering the funding received), which includes a commitment to secure the necessary basic facilities for the project and a notice of the site's overheads percentage, indirect employee costs and coefficient for effective working hours.

The Research Council of Finland will fund a research project only if the site of research undertakes to provide the project with the necessary basic facilities. Though determined based on the nature of the research, they are usually the same as those available to other research staff at the institution: office and laboratory premises, equipment (incl. computer equipment) and telecommunications, telephone, mailing, copying and library services. If the funding is discretionary government transfer, the site of research must commit to act as the recipient of the transfer on behalf of the applicant and will accordingly assume all related obligations.

The costs of ensuring immediate open access to peer-reviewed articles are included in the overheads of the site of research and are thus part of the basic facilities provided by the site. The costs associated with storing and sharing research data are regarded as overheads for the project's site of research. Only exceptionally and for justified reasons can they be accepted as research costs to be covered by Research Council research funding. The site of research also commits to ensuring that the data management plan can be implemented at the site of research, and that the measures to be taken comply with good data management practice.

4. Costs of foreign scientists' research visits to or research in Finland

EU-based researchers who carry out research work must be paid salary from the funding granted by the Research Council of Finland. EU-based researchers may only be paid a scholarship in the case of mobility funding based on bilateral agreements.

As a rule, personal grants can be awarded to non-EU researchers for a maximum of one year's research spell in Finland. It is recommended that the funding amount be determined in line with standard practice at the site of research. Short-term visits may also be carried out following the state travel regulations.

5. Responsible science

5.1. Guilty of illegal employment

A state aid authority may continue to pay the government grant and refrain from recovering the paid grant or a part thereof only for compelling reasons:

- if the recipient of the government grant or a representative referred to in chapter 47, section 8(1)(2) of the Criminal Code of Finland has been sentenced by a final judgment to a penalty for an offence referred to in section 6a of the Criminal Code or an offence referred to in section 186 of the Aliens Act
- if a financial sanction referred to in Chapter 11a, section 3 of the Employment Contracts Act has been imposed on the recipient of the government grant.

The site of research undertakes to notify the Research Council without undue delay of said judgments or financial sanctions.

5.2. Research ethics

The Research Council of Finland of Finland requires that the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity guidelines ‘Responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland’ be followed in all research the Research Council funds. We also require that researchers follow ALLEA’s (All European Academies) European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity when engaging in international collaboration.

Adherence to the principles of good scientific practice is primarily the responsibility of each individual researcher and research team, but the responsibility is also shared by the director of the research unit and the management of the organisations conducting research. Besides complying with good scientific practice, the research community and individual researchers must also consider the legislation in force.

The site of research undertakes to submit to our Registrar’s Office the final report of any investigations concerning violation of good scientific practice by the PI or a researcher of a project we have funded.

We will not process a funding application if the applicant has been found guilty of research misconduct in the three years preceding the year of the call. If we find out about the misconduct during the funding period, whatever is left of the funding period will be added to the three-year limit. If the applicant appeals the decision on the misconduct, and the appeal is successful, we will process the applicant’s new applications following normal procedures.

5.3. Considering sustainability

The Research Council of Finland has made a commitment to Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development for 2022–2025. One of the objectives of the commitment is to increase awareness of the principles of sustainable development and to highlight their significance in research funding and scientific research. Another objective is to make use of active communications to draw attention to how research can contribute to promoting sustainability.

We require that projects we have funded take into account sustainable development. In their final reports, in turn, researchers are encouraged to describe how the project and its results have contributed to sustainable development.

5.4. EU sanctions regulations

Due to actions undermining or threatening the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine, the European Union and/or the United Nations have imposed and may in the future impose sanctions in their legislation and/or by decisions of their institutions. The funding recipient must comply with the restrictive measures imposed on Russia and Belarus by the European Union or the United Nations concerning the economy and financing, which are in force in the European Union.

In accordance with the sanctions referred to above, the Research Council of Finland seeks to ensure that no funds granted by it are used directly or indirectly to support individuals or entities designated by the UN or the EU as being subject to sanctions against Russia and Belarus. The recipient must therefore take appropriate steps to ensure that funds granted by the Research Council are not used to provide financial assistance or support to persons or entities listed on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List or EU sanctions regulations (as amended from time to time). The EU regulation is binding and directly applicable in all EU member states without any separate decision.

In addition, the decisions of the Council of the European Union on sanctions bind the contracting entities referred to in the Finnish Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts and apply as such. Each contracting entity is responsible for examining the effects of EU sanctions in its own procurement. When assessing the effects of sanctions, the company's ownership and controlling interests must be identified. The funding recipient must notify the Research Council of Finland immediately if funding has been used for said purposes.

5.5. Publishing, data and open science

All results produced with funding from the Research Council of Finland must be made public.

Scientific publications and research data produced with our funding or by using research infrastructures we fund must always indicate that the research has been conducted with funding from the Research Council of Finland. The number of the funding decision must also be mentioned.

Publications produced with funding from the Strategic Research Council (SRC) must always include the number of the funding decision and a mention of the fact that the research has been conducted with funding from the Strategic Research Council at the Research Council of Finland. If the publication or data are electronic, the acknowledgement must be included in the metadata.

We require that funded projects commit to open access publishing. We also urge projects to make their research data and methods freely available whenever possible. The goal is to make research publications, data and material, metadata and methods widely available for reuse. The principles of open science must be pursued with due attention to research ethics and law.

The Research Council of Finland has signed the national Declaration for Open Science and Research 2020–2025. We apply the principles and objectives of the Declaration and its open science guidelines to support research and publishing activities of funded research projects.

We are also a member of cOAlition S, a consortium of research funders that promotes open access to publications. We require that researchers and research projects we have funded make peer-reviewed articles wholly or partially produced with our funding available to the public immediately after publication. We also urge researchers to publish scientific books and monographs with open access.

5.5.1. Open access to peer-reviewed scientific articles

The Research Council of Finland requires that researchers and research projects we have funded make research outputs wholly or partially produced with our funding available to the public immediately after publication.

In the case of peer-reviewed articles, this can be achieved by:

- 1) publishing the article in a Plan-S-compliant scientific journal based on immediate open access
- 2) storing a parallel copy of the scientific publication (Version of Record) or a pre-print, author accepted manuscript in a publication archive or database that supports immediate access and is in compliance with Plan S. If the chosen scientific journal or publishing platform does not declare that they accept immediate self-archiving of either of these versions, we encourage the authors to propose making the article openly available immediately, as agreed in the publishing agreement. If the publisher refuses immediate parallel storage, the article can be made open access through parallel publishing within an embargo (up to 12 months for social sciences and the humanities, up to 6 months for other scientific disciplines).

- 3) publishing the article in accordance with Plan S within the framework of a transformative agreement with a publisher committed to promoting immediate open access, or in accordance with Plan S in a transformative journal committed to promoting immediate open access.

The costs of making peer-reviewed, Plan-S-compliant articles immediately available are included in the overheads of the sites of research and thus form part of the costs of the basic facilities they provide. The costs should therefore be taken into account when calculating the overheads percentage.

When the overheads percentage is calculated, the following may be taken into account:

- 1) Article Processing Charges (APC) required by the Plan-S-compliant journal that supports immediate open access
- 2) maintenance and development costs for self-archiving service maintained by site of research
- 3) costs according to so-called transformative agreements with publishers committed to promoting immediate open access as proposed by Plan S, and APCs presented by scientific publishers and journals operating in accordance with corresponding agreements until 31 December 2024. Please note the following in terms of these agreements:
 - Subscription fees resulting from participation in the Finelib consortium as regards the costs of open access in accordance with Plan S of agreements concluded between FinELib and scientific publishers until 31 December 2024.
 - Plan-S-compliant open access costs incurred by an individual research organisation until 31 December 2024 for subscription contracts concluded between the organisation and scientific publishers.

Peer-reviewed scientific articles shall be published under a global licence that guarantees immediate access free of charge. The licence must also guarantee the free redistribution and reproduction of article contents. The condition supports both the dissemination and reuse of research outputs and the researcher's rights to research outputs and the results presented in them. The licence must also guarantee the free redistribution and reproduction of article contents. As a rule, the Research Council of Finland requires the use of Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) 4.0, but deviations from this requirement is possible in these cases:

- 1) Use of CC BY-SA 4.0
- 2) Use of CC0
- 3) Use of CC BY-ND.

The articles may, subject to a licence, contain content produced by other authors, the copyright of which is not affected by the licences in question.

It is not necessary to ask permission from the Research Council for the use of permitted licences. **This will be applied retroactively to funding decisions made after 2 November 2020.**

The implementation of open access to peer-reviewed scientific articles will be monitored from the research reports. The publication data included in the final report must contain persistent identifiers, which help in confirming the open access. If necessary, the Research Council will require that a peer-reviewed article published behind a paywall be made available in accordance with our practices guaranteeing open access to research publications.

5.5.2. Open access to research data

Research data and material produced with Research Council of Finland funding in research projects and research infrastructure projects must be made freely available as soon as possible after the research results have been published. Sites of research must therefore provide researchers with the necessary guidance and ensure that they have access to suitable storage infrastructure.

Data and material may come in varying degrees of openness, ranging from fully open to strictly confidential. The publisher of the data and material must ensure that the publishing will not be in breach of the Finnish Act on the Openness of Government Activities, data protection legislation or the Finnish Copyright Act. When making data and material openly available, the parties involved must also consider licensing issues.

We recommend that principal investigators of Research Council-funded research projects also store their research data and material and make them available through major national or international archives or storage services that are important in their own fields. Research data shall be managed and made available following the FAIR principles (F = findable, A = accessible, I = interoperable and R = reusable; see www.go-fair.org/fair-principles). If the research data and material cannot be made openly available, the metadata must be stored in a national or international data finder. See section 8.2.

More information on open access publishing, open data, and repositories or storage services is available in our [open science guidelines](#).

5.6. Export of dual-use goods

Dual-use goods are goods that are suitable for both civilian use and military purposes. The export of dual-use goods outside the European Union requires an authorisation. This is based on an EU regulation on the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items. In some cases, the need for authorisation may also apply to internal deliveries in the EU. The need for authorisation may also be related to the export of knowledge or expertise, including the publication of an article.

If the implementation of the research plan requires an export authorisation, the exporter, i.e. the researcher or research organisation, is responsible for

obtaining the authorisation. The need for authorisation must be checked at the earliest possible stage. Consult the administration or research services at your own organisation. More information is available on the website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland: <https://um.fi/export-control>.

Part 2: Using funding

6. Receiving and confirming receipt of funding, notifying application for advance payment

Before Research Council of Finland funds can be paid, the PI and the site of research must confirm that they will receive the funding (see section 1.2). The funding is paid based on invoices received. This applies to all sites of research that receive funding from the Research Council.

The site of research is responsible for requesting advance payments and for submitting requests for payment. The financial administration must follow the principles of good governance. We accept requests for advances and requests for payment as e-invoices. The requests can also be submitted via the online services.

7. Deviating from the funding plan

In addition to the total amount of funding, the Research Council of Finland's funding decision may also specify the annual instalments and types of expenditure for the project. If the funding granted is less than what was applied for, it means that we have scaled down both our own funding contribution and the contribution of the site of research proportionally.

The types of expenditure specified in the decision's cost estimate are indicative; deviation from them is allowed only if the funding will still be used for the stated purpose and to support the implementation of the proposed research plan. In the case of significant deviations, please contact us. A significant deviation may be, for example, over four months' delay in recruiting staff from the start of the project's funding period, which means that the use of funding in the first year of the project is significantly below the annual instalment in the cost estimate. Enter information on significant deviations in funding use under 'My applications' > 'Decisions' > 'Additional information' in the online services.

7.1. Applying for changes in annual instalments

If the PI of a project cannot commit to the annual instalments specified in the funding decision, they must submit a proposal on new instalments. The application is submitted via the online services under 'My applications' > 'Decided' > 'Make an appeal' > 'Change cost estimate and/or annual instalments'. The appeal must include justifications for the requested change and a new cost estimate for the project. The proposed change must not exceed the Research Council's total funding granted for the project.

Cost estimate appeals must be submitted **within eight weeks of the decision date**, unless otherwise stated in the special conditions of the decision. See Appendix 1 for more detailed instructions.

If the annual instalments deviate significantly from the decision's cost estimate during the funding period, the PI must notify this deviation in advance and without delay in the online services under 'My applications' ('Decided' > 'Additional information'). **This also applies retroactively to previous funding decisions by the Research Council of Finland.**

In the funding to strengthen university research profiles, the annual deviation from the indicated annual instalments can be no more than 15%. **This also applies retroactively to funding decisions made prior to the validity of these funding terms and conditions.**

7.2. Changing funding proportions of consortium subprojects

In certain funding opportunities (Academy Programme funding, Centres of Excellence, Finnish Flagships, funding for research infrastructures and funding programmes by the Strategic Research Council), it is possible to apply for changes in the funding plans of consortium subprojects while the consortium project is ongoing.

The proposed change cannot exceed the total funding amount granted by the Research Council of Finland for the project, that is, the consortium's total funding must not change. See Appendix 1 for more detailed instructions.

8. Use of funding

8.1. General principles

Research funding granted by the Research Council of Finland may only be used for the purpose specified in the funding decision. Any conditions set in the funding decision must be adhered to.

The funding is granted as a total sum that must not be exceeded. The funding can be used only for costs that have incurred during the funding period. If the Research Council requires an auditor's report on the project, the auditing costs may be accepted as project costs, even if they arise after the funding period has ended. The PI and the site of research are responsible for seeing to that the funds are used in compliance with the funding decision, with these funding terms and conditions as well as with other regulations and provisions (see section 18).

Projects funded by the Strategic Research Council are expected to participate both in the activities of their own research programme and in the joint societal impact activities of strategic research. Activities promoting impact include joint events, data summaries and policy briefs.

If a research organisation or research infrastructure funded by the Research Council is also engaged in economic activities, separate accounts must be kept of the funding and costs of and the revenue generated by such activities. The Research Council must be notified as soon as possible if the annual capacity of the economic (i.e. ancillary) activity exceeds 20%.

With regard to the projects of the Academy Programme for Development Research, the practices agreed jointly between the Research Council of Finland and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs concerning cooperation between the Finnish and foreign sites of research may also be applied.

8.2. Eligible project costs

The Research Council of Finland's funding can be used to cover both direct costs (e.g. salaries) and indirect costs (e.g. rents for premises) of a research project. All costs are covered with the same funding percentage, as specified in the funding decision. Research projects include Academy Projects, Targeted Academy Projects, Academy Programmes, funding for strategic research, funding for research posts, and funding to strengthen university research profiles. See below for guidelines concerning salary funding in research posts.

Research grants awarded by the Research Council of Finland can be used within the limits of the research plan or action plan (or equivalent) to cover, for instance, the following costs:

- salaries, fees and indirect employee costs (see section 16.1)
- salaries and indirect employee costs of researchers returning to Finland
- overheads (see section 16.5)
- mobility by researchers working on the project (see section 4)
- foreign scientists' research visits to or research in Finland (see section 4)
- travel expenses (see section 8.6)
- collaboration in Finland and abroad
- purchases of services
- auditing costs
- implementing the interaction plan (projects funded by the Strategic Research Council)
- preparation of international projects
- research collaboration meetings
- acquisition of individual equipment, instruments, software, etc. that are essential to the project; the acquisition must not be part of a larger research infrastructure
- justified layout and editing costs of publishing activity
- costs related to promoting the utilisation of research, if they are not incurred in economic activities.

The costs associated with storing and sharing research data are regarded as overheads for the project's site of research. Only exceptionally and for justified reasons can they be accepted as costs to be covered with the Research Council of Finland's research funding.

Value added tax is also paid out of funding granted by the Research Council, provided that the VAT remains to be paid by the funding recipient and the recipient is not entitled to deduct VAT costs in its accounting. If the VAT does not remain a final cost for the site of research (recipient of government grant), it cannot be included in the costs of a project funded by the Research Council. The funding recipient must not be overcompensated by the payment of costs that will not remain as its final costs.

The funding granted may not be used for

- direct expenditure such as grants, donations, prizes or other similar financial contributions
- costs of economic activities, representation, advertising or marketing.

Representation costs do not include reasonable and necessary negotiation costs for the implementation of the project, such as meeting refreshments provided at steering group meetings. The catering must comply with the beneficiary's own rules on the level of catering at meetings. The funder will only approve catering to the extent that the costs are deemed reasonable.

Representation expenses are defined in the Tax Administration's harmonisation guidelines and their interpretation of the boundary between representation expenses and negotiation expenses (see Tax Administration's guidelines on representation expenses).

Ineligible costs cannot be included in the project's direct or indirect costs.

8.3. Self-financing

The self-financing percentage refers to the organisation's own funding contribution to the total costs of a co-funded project (i.e. the contributions of all other funding bodies have been deducted from the total costs).

Within the conditions for the use of funding, the organisation in question can finance its own share with, for instance, discretionary government transfers for overheads, returns from companies or business activity, donations or other external funds.

8.4. Mobility aid to project's researchers

Funding decisions by the Research Council of Finland (incl. research posts) may include mobility aid. The aid is mentioned in the decision under Funding for the project > Travel costs.

We grant mobility aid to cover a researcher's costs of working abroad. The aid is paid following the practices of the site of research, and the funding recipient must consult the site's personnel and financial administration for more information.

Before making a grant decision, the site of research must consult the tax administration concerning any tax consequences possibly arising from the

payment of the grant. The Research Council of Finland is not liable for any tax consequences arising thereof. Both the grant recipient and the awarding organisation are obliged to immediately notify the Farmers' Social Insurance Institution Mela (see www.mela.fi) of the grant. Grant recipients are also obliged to take out statutory insurance.

8.5. Funding for international researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements

The Research Council of Finland's mobility grants, mobility invitation funding, mobility seminar funding and mobility cooperation funding are based on bilateral agreements, which can be used to support research work abroad, researcher training and foreign researchers' work in Finland. The full cost model does not apply to the Research Council's mobility funding. The funding can only be used for the purpose specified in the funding decision. Mobility invitation funding, mobility seminar funding and mobility cooperation funding are paid to the sites of research on the basis of requests for payment submitted to the Research Council.

The mobility grant funding includes a monthly grant paid to the researcher. The funding may also cover travel costs. The travel costs of accompanying family members may be included in the funding decision, provided that such costs have been applied for and the researcher and the family stay abroad for at least six months. The funding does not include funding for settling-in costs.

The mobility grantee shall request payment of the grant in writing, with the payment request form that is available on our website under [How to use funding](#).

The signed request form must be mailed to the Registrar's Office no later than one month before the first payment date. The Research Council of Finland pays mobility grants on the 15th of each month. The start date (the 15th day of the month) for the payment of the monthly instalments must be indicated in the request for payment, as must the recipient's personal identity code and Finnish bank account number (IBAN).

Mobility grants awarded by the Research Council based on bilateral agreements are normally tax-exempt. Both the grant recipient and the awarding organisation are obliged to notify the Farmers' Social Insurance Institution Mela (see www.mela.fi) of the grant. Grant recipients are obliged to take out statutory insurance. In addition, they must check the visa requirements of their target country and apply for a visa, if necessary.

8.6. Travel expenses

Travel expenses related to the research plan are eligible costs in accordance with existing regulations by the Finnish Tax Administration:

- Decision of the Tax Administration on tax-exempt allowances for travel expenses
- Guidelines of the Tax Administration on allowances for travel expenses in taxation.

The maximum eligible cost amount must correspond to what is the normal level at the site of research.

9. Hiring staff

Staff hired with Research Council of Finland research grants must primarily be in an employment relationship to their site of research. We recommend that they be hired for a period of employment no shorter than the funding period, unless a shorter contract is necessary for special reasons dictated by the implementation of the research plan or action plan (or equivalent). Short-term research, studies or other assignments (max. duration six months) may also be carried out in the form of outsourced services. We also recommend that sites of research enter the reason for a shorter contract in the employment contract.

The collective agreements in force at the site of research and other regulations concerning the employment relationship conditions must be observed in the hiring and other employment relationship conditions of any staff hired with our funding. In all recruiting, we recommended that the principles of responsible assessment and the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) be followed.

9.1. Funding for research post as Academy Professor

When the Research Council of Finland grants funding for a research post as Academy Professor, the site of research must use the grant to fill the post in question. The site of research must hire the Academy Professor at least for the funding period. The site will be the Academy Professor's employer.

The cost calculation of the Academy Professor salary follows the additional cost model. In decisions following the additional cost model, the overheads percentage, calculated on top of other costs, is 14.29%, in which case the decisions include an overheads percentage of 12.5%.

The funding decisions include indirect employee costs to the tune of 28%. The Research Council of Finland will not be liable for any expenditure specific to the employer. The employer must, however, see to that the salary does not fall behind the general salary development at the site of research.

Academy Professorships are intended only for full-time research work and related tasks. In addition, an Academy Professor cannot be paid salary from another research project funded by the Research Council of Finland. Academy Professors are responsible for providing teaching related to their own research work. However, any other tasks not directly related to the researcher's own research must not impede the actual research work. The duties include

(without separate compensation) supervision of thesis and dissertation writers and teaching associated with the research, covering 5% of annual working hours. In all, no more than 10% of the annual working hours may be spent on teaching and other work not immediately associated with the researcher's own research.

The Academy Professor's site of research is an organisation based in Finland through which the funding is channelled and paid. During the funding period, the Academy Professor may work abroad for periods of varying durations, for example at foreign universities.

The salary of an Academy Professor may also be co-funded. In such cases, for instance, the applicant has indicated in the original application how large a proportion of their salary will be applied for from the Research Council of Finland. The situation may also change during the funding period. Of the funding granted by the Research Council of Finland, 0–100% may be used for the Academy Professor's salary. For example, the funding for the Academy Professorship may be linked to European Research Council (ERC) funding or to funding provided by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. For the payment of research funding, the working hours must be recorded based on real hours of work.

If there are changes in the employment relationship of the Academy Professor or the salary source, notify the changes in the online services ('My applications' > 'Decisions' > 'Additional information').

If a person who has been granted Academy Professor funding takes family leave, they must immediately notify us, either the presenting official directly or via the online services under 'My applications' > 'Decided' > 'Additional information'. If they apply for an extension to the funding period based on maternity, paternity, family or childcare leave, they must submit the application via the online services under 'My applications' > 'Decided' > 'Make an appeal'. Read more in Appendix 1 (item 2).

If a person who has been granted a research post as Academy Professor will not continue in the post, they must immediately notify us and give up the funding. The appeal is submitted in the online services under 'My applications' > 'Decided' > 'Make an appeal'. Read more in Appendix 1.

9.2. Academy Research Fellowships (first call in autumn 2022)

The task of an Academy Research Fellow is to fully carry out research in accordance with the proposed research plan. The funding supports the researcher so that they can increase their competencies and make significant career progress towards more demanding research positions and achieve an established position in the national and international research community. The site of research shall commit to seeing to that the recipient of the funding will be able to fully commit to the research and to non-research tasks that are important for the researcher's professional research career (see below).

These instructions do not apply to Academy Research Fellow funding granted in 2022 or earlier. Their funding terms are appended to the original funding decision.

The Academy Research Fellow's site of research is an organisation based in Finland through which the funding is paid. The funding period is four years. The Academy Research Fellow will be employed by the site of research for the duration of the funding period. The Finnish site of research will be the Academy Research Fellow's employer. During the funding period, the Academy Research Fellow may work abroad for periods of varying durations, for example at foreign universities.

The cost calculation for the salary and research costs of the Academy Research Fellow follows the full cost model. The salary is determined based on the pay system of the site of research. Funds can have been made available for payment of the researcher's salary and other costs associated with implementation of the research plan. Section 8.2. provides more detailed information on the costs for which the research appropriation granted by the Research Council of Finland can be used. Sites of research must also follow their internal regulations, provisions and instructions, if these are not in contradiction with the conditions issued by the Research Council of Finland.

The total cost estimate of the Academy Research Fellowship may include 0 to 46 months of the researcher's own salary. During the four-year funding period, the duties of the Academy Research Fellow will include four months in roles and tasks other than actual research yet relevant to the professional research career. These may include teaching and supervision, administrative duties, interaction or advocacy, or other tasks related to the organisation's core functions. The salary for a total of four months of work is implemented in such a way that a maximum of two months of the work can be included in the total cost estimate of the Academy Research Fellow.

In addition, an Academy Research Fellow cannot be paid salary from another research project funded by the Research Council of Finland. The site of research shall hire the Academy Research Fellow full-time. If the Academy Research Fellow is or will be employed at two or more sites, they shall still carry out full-time research in accordance with the proposed research plan. The aggregate proportions of different sites of research shall constitute a full-time employment relationship.

If there are changes in the employment relationship of the Academy Research Fellow or the salary source, notify the changes in the online services ('My applications' > 'Decisions' > 'Additional information').

If the Academy Research Fellow takes family leave, the Research Council must be notified immediately. The notification is made in the online services under the additional information of the funding decision. If the Academy Research Fellow applies for an extension to the funding period based on maternity, paternity, family or childcare leave, they must submit the application via the online services. Read more in Appendix 1, items 2 and 3.

The Academy Research Fellow shall refrain from the funding if they are unable to continue the research work in accordance with the proposed research plan. If you give up the Academy Research Fellow funding, submit an appeal in the online services. Read more in Appendix 1, item 5.

The principal investigator cannot be changed in this funding opportunity.

9.3. Salary of principal investigator

The Research Council of Finland's researcher-oriented and thematic funding is primarily intended towards the salaries of researchers who work full-time on the project and for other project costs. As a rule, funding is not granted for the salary of the project PI. This does not apply to Academy Professorships (see section 9.1) or Academy Research Fellowships (see section 9.2).

However, following the full cost model and the research plan, the PI's salary costs can be incorporated into the project costs to be funded. The funding for the PI's salary is granted for project management purposes. The salary costs, which must be entered in the project's cost estimate, must not be significant in relation to the project's total costs, unless the funding decisions states otherwise.

Unless otherwise stated in the funding decision, the PI's salary costs can be paid to an amount equivalent to about 1.5 months a year of effective working hours in four-year research projects.

However, we may grant funding for the salary of a PI of an Academy Project, a project within a Centre Of Excellence or a project funded through thematic funding for no more than a year for well-justified, research-related reasons (e.g. work abroad, return to Finland or transfer to another research organisation or a company in Finland).

Funding awarded for strategic research can be used to cover the salary of consortium PIs and coordinator for the duration of the funding period. However, the salary funding must not overlap with salary paid from other funding by the Research Council.

9.4. Funding for research post as Clinical Researcher

The funding for a research post as Clinical Researcher may be applied for by a medical doctor with a doctoral degree working in clinical practice or some other healthcare professional with a doctoral degree engaged in clinical practice. The funding is not intended for full-time university researchers. The funding is granted towards the post's salary costs to support **part-time research** (20–50% of working hours) by the Clinical Researcher. The researcher and the site of research must agree the salary in accordance with the pay system at the site of research. They must also agree the working-time arrangements in advance, particularly if the research and the clinical work will be conducted at different sites.

In addition to salary costs, the Research Council may also provide funding for research costs. Our contribution to funding for a project promoting a clinical research career comes to no more than 70% of the total project costs.

9.5. Teaching by hired staff

We recommend that Research Council-funded researchers with a doctoral degree provide teaching or supervision of thesis and dissertation writers to the equivalent of 5% of their annual working hours (as specified in the collective agreement), without separate remuneration. However, no more than 10% of the annual working hours should be spent on teaching and other work not immediately associated with the researcher's own research.

If doctoral candidates whom we have funded provide teaching, we recommend that this teaching be associated with their own research and equivalent to no more than 5% of their annual working hours. Teaching must not delay the completion of a doctoral dissertation.

10. Acquisitions with Research Council funding

The funding recipient is liable to clarify whether the Finnish Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts is applied to acquisitions made by the research project the Research Council of Finland has funded. The PI of the project is also liable to see to that contracts are put out to tender in compliance with the practices stipulated in the Act. When preparing procurements, the instructions of the site of research shall also be taken into account.

10.1. Managing fixed assets

Any supplies, equipment and literature acquired with funding from the Research Council of Finland will remain in the ownership and possession of the site of research. The parties can agree in writing on other procedures in the case of research infrastructures. The Research Council must be notified of such agreements at the application stage. In multi-site joint projects, the parties must conclude a written agreement on the use, ownership and location of the research infrastructure, even for the time after the funding period.

If the funding decision covers acquisition of equipment, the funds can be treated as an investment aid. Investment aid can be granted for acquisition of either tangible or intangible assets.

Research infrastructures shall be used for the purpose set out in the funding decision at least until the financed investment has been completely written off from the accounts or for a maximum period of ten years. Investment aid awarded by the Research Council cannot be used to finance leasing agreements. Nor can the ownership or possession right of any assets be handed over to anyone else during the time they are used, as specified in the decision on discretionary transfers.

11. Changes to funding decisions

Any significant changes in the content of a positive funding decision by the Research Council of Finland or in issues relating to the use of funds require prior approval by the Research Council. If necessary, we will change the funding decision based on the appeal. Changes to funding decisions cannot be applied for after the validity period of the funding has expired.

The application to change the funding decision is submitted by the PI in the online services under 'My applications' > 'Decided' > 'Make an appeal'. The application must include sufficient justifications and all information needed to handle the case. All necessary documents must be appended to the appeal.

See detailed instructions in Appendix 1.

Changes that require our approval include the following:

- 1) changing annual instalments in new funding decision (see section 7.1)
- 2) extending funding period
- 3) additional grant (i.e. compensation, decision according to additional cost model)
- 4) changing sites of research
- 5) declining research grant in full (when funds have not been used)
- 6) declining research grant midstream (when some funds have been used)
- 7) changing principal investigators
- 8) changing decision conditions or purpose of use, substantially changing the research plan
- 9) changing funding proportions of consortium subprojects (see section 7.2).

12. Control, discontinuation and clawback of funding

The Research Council of Finland has the right to monitor and control the use of funds it has granted. The Research Council also has the right to carry out any inspections of the finances and operations of the funding recipient that may be necessary for the control of the use of funds. Likewise, we have the right to inspect the implementation of the research, the accounting and the observance of the conditions set in the funding decision.

The site of research and the PI of the research project are obliged to submit to the inspector any necessary accounts and other documents and data and to assist in the inspection. Both the site of research and the PI must on request also submit information on the research and on the use of funds.

The PI and the site of research must without delay notify the Research Council of any changes affecting the use of funds, such as other funding or income received for the implementation of the research plan. If this other funding or income exceeds the amount presented in the cost estimate of the application submitted to us, we may require the site of research to return the proportion of

Research Council funding equivalent to the amount exceeding the cost estimate.

If our funding for a project covers 100% of the costs and the project receives income, for example from intellectual property rights, the project has to return the proportion exceeding that 100% to us. Alternatively, it can also be deducted from the eligible costs.

We may interrupt or order the payment of funds to be terminated, or recover the funds in full or partly, if there is justified reason to suspect that the PI or the site of research has done any of the following:

- used the funds for some other purpose than that for which they were granted
- presented erroneous or misleading information regarding a fact that may have affected the granting, amount or conditions of funding
- otherwise violated the regulations on the use of funds or the conditions set in the funding decision.

In addition, funding granted by the Strategic Research Council may be terminated if the project in question fails to achieve the objectives set for it.

The funding recipient must without delay repay any funds or any portion of funds received erroneously, in excess or evidently without grounds. The funds need not be returned if the sum is less than 100 euros. The funding recipient must contact the Research Council of Finland before the funds are returned. Contact the financial coordinator in the Division of Financial Services for more information.

The Research Council of Finland's decision number must be indicated in the repayment. Provisions on the repayment and clawback of discretionary government transfers have been laid down in section 5 of the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers.

12.1. Interest on transfers to be returned and recovered

In accordance with Section 24 of the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers, the recipient of discretionary government transfers must pay annual interest as from the due date according to the Finnish Interest Act Section 3, paragraph 2, increased by three percentage points, on the amount to be returned or recovered. If the transfer to be recovered has not been repaid by the date set by the Research Council of Finland, an annual interest must be paid on it according to section 4 of the Act. For the annual reference rate and interest for late payments, see the Bank of Finland's website at www.suomenpankki.fi/en.

13. Intellectual property rights

Intellectual property rights (IPR) include copyright, patent rights, rights to a trademark, utility model rights, design copyright, rights to a commercial name, protection of integrated circuits and layout designs (topographies) and plant variety rights. IPRs are structured as exclusive rights analogous to the right of ownership. They provide protection for creative work (e.g. copyright and patent rights) or commercial marks (e.g. rights in a trademark and rights to a commercial name).

All project partners and, if necessary, the sites of research of a project funded by the Research Council of Finland must agree on the rights of ownership and use concerning the project's research outputs. The agreement should be made in writing and as soon as possible after the funding decision has been issued. At the launch of the project, the partners should also agree on the rights of ownership and use of the materials and data to be used by the project. The copyright issues that concern peer-reviewed articles are described under section 5.5.1. If the project involves cooperation with business companies, see section 13.1.

At sites of research in which the Finnish Act on the Right in Inventions made at Higher Education Institutions apply, research funded by the Research Council of Finland is defined as commissioned research as referred to in the Act. In these cases, the higher education institution has the primary right to inventions produced by the research. Other sites of research follow the Finnish Act on the Right in Employee Inventions.

13.1. Cooperation with business companies

If a project funded by the Research Council of Finland involves cooperation with business companies, one of the following conditions must be fulfilled:

- Results that do not give rise to IPR may be widely disseminated and any IPRs resulting from the activities of research organisations or research infrastructures are fully allocated to the entities concerned.
- Any IPRs resulting from the project as well as related access rights are allocated to the different collaboration partners in a manner that adequately reflects their work packages, contributions and respective interests.
- The research organisations or research infrastructures receive a compensation equivalent to the market price for the IPRs that result from their activities and that are transferred to the participating companies. The absolute amount of the value of any contribution, both financial and nonfinancial, of the participating companies to the costs of the research organisations or research infrastructures' activities that resulted in the IPRs concerned, may be deducted from that compensation.

Where a project we have funded involves cooperation with business companies, the terms and conditions of the project, in particular as regards contributions to its costs, the sharing of risks and outcomes, the dissemination of results, and access to and allocation of IPRs, must be concluded in writing before the start of the project.

14. Reporting

It is a condition of Research Council of Finland funding that reports be submitted on outcomes from the funding. The scientific reports are submitted by the project PI and the financial reports by the site of research (i.e. the recipient of the government grant). The use of funds is monitored via our information systems. The two sets of data are combined to allow for comparisons between the use of funds and the results produced with those funds. We have separate guidelines for reporting on Centres of Excellence funding, Flagship Programme funding, research infrastructure funding, funding to strengthen university research profiles and funding based on the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF).

14.1. Reports on research

The PI must submit a final report to the Research Council of Finland no later than 1 June in the year following the end of the project's funding period. As for consortia, the consortium PI submits the research report on behalf of the whole consortium after all subprojects have ended their funding periods.

For projects related to the funding for researcher mobility (mobility grants, mobility invitation funding, mobility seminar funding, mobility cooperation funding) based on bilateral agreements, the PI must submit a final report on the project no later than three months after the end of the (last) visit.

If an application is submitted for research funding before funding for an ongoing project has ended, or after the funding has ended but before the final report has been submitted, applicants shall report on each unreported funding decision via the online services. This progress report does not substitute the final report. Read more about reporting on our website under [Report on your project](#). Some funding schemes have their own specific guidelines for reporting. Guidelines concerning reporting on peer-reviewed scientific articles are available under section 5.5.1. As a rule, final reports are public documents.

A funding application submitted to the Research Council will only be processed if the applicant has submitted final reports on their completed, Research Council-funded projects or progress reports on their ongoing Research Council-funded projects. This condition shall not apply where:

- the person is responsible for the funding application in a funding scheme in which the applicant is an organisation

- the person is responsible for the ongoing project in which the funding recipient is an organisation.

14.2. Auditor's report

If the total funding granted by the Research Council of Finland (individual decision or consortium in total) indicated in the decision on **Academy Programme funding** exceeds 1,000,000 euros, the PI must submit an auditor's report on the use of the research funds within the project. All funding decisions on strategic research funding, Finnish Flagships and funding to strengthen university research profiles come under an audit obligation, regardless of the total amount of funding granted. Separate guidelines apply to the submission of auditor's reports for Centres of Excellence. In **funding for research infrastructures**, the site of research and the PI together submit to the Research Council an auditor's report on the use of the research funds within the project.

The audit obligation is stated in the funding terms or in the special conditions of an individual decision. The auditor's report must be submitted to our Registrar's Office within three months of the end of the funding period. The cost of the auditing must be included in the last request for payment.

We may also request the report separately, if necessary. In addition, we may commission a sample-based project audit in accordance with our own annual audit plan.

Part 3: Payment of funds and project administration

15. Payment of funds

Before Research Council of Finland funds can be paid, the PI and the site of research must confirm that they will receive the funding (see section 6). The funding is paid based on invoices received. This applies to all sites of research that receive funding from the Research Council. The site of research is responsible for requesting advance payments and for submitting requests for payment. The financial administration must follow the principles of good governance. We accept requests for advances and requests for payment as e-invoices. The requests can also be submitted via the online services.

15.1. Advance payments

In accordance with Section 12 of the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers, an advance may be paid if this is justified by the use of the transfer and expedient with regard to the supervision of its use. Advance payments are justified in cases where the start-up or implementation of the project or activity in question, according to the schedule and scope referred to in the decision, requires that the recipient receives funding from a state aid authority.

Finnish universities and universities of applied sciences can request advances from the Research Council of Finland. The requests must be submitted in writing and include project-specific justifications. Based on the request for payment, we may for justified reasons pay advances referred to in the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers to universities and universities of applied sciences in accordance with the guidelines of the National Audit Office of Finland and the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture.

We do not pay advances to business companies or government accounting entities such as government research institutes. As a rule, the one-off advance accounts for 10% of our funding contribution. The minimum amount for advances paid is 10,000 euros.

Advances are not paid on grants and funding to strengthen university research profiles. Advances can be paid from research infrastructure funding. This can also be applied to previous and still valid decisions on infrastructure funding made by the Research Council. Here, we take into account the compliance audit report on central government transfers to universities (Yliopistojen valtionrahoitus (10/2018)) published by the National Audit Office of Finland, and its observations on universities' liquidity and self-sufficiency. **This can be applied retroactively to previous funding decisions.**

Advances can be applied for on reasonable grounds, and they are always paid in the year when the project starts. For projects starting at the beginning of the year, advances for the period 1 January–31 December may be applied for no later than 20 February. When applying for advance payments in the middle of the year, the start dates for the payment and the funding period must be the same. For example, if the project starts on 1 April, the request for advance payment must be for the period from 1 April to 31 December.

The advances for projects nearing completion must be returned to us either by delivering the advance refund invoice to us or by entering the paid advance as income for the project in the accounting report on the last payment requests. We recommend that advances be settled according to the latter option and well before the project ends. The period of the refund must be the same as the period of the original request for advance payment. In the online services, select advance refund invoice as the invoice type.

15.2. Requests for payment

Research projects submit payment requests to the Research Council of Finland in four-month periods: January–April, May–August and September–December. The requests are submitted as e-invoices or via the online services no later than 20 May, 20 September and 20 January (or the next workday), respectively. The Research Council's funding percentage will be the same in each request for payment and for each year through the entire funding period.

If the payment schedule for decisions in a specific call differs from the above, we will provide the sites of research with separate instructions. The differing schedule may also have been mentioned in the special conditions of an individual funding decision.

The coefficient for indirect employee costs and the overheads percentage approved in the funding decision are applied by the site of research for the duration of the funding period. An overheads percentage of 12.5% is applied to funding decisions made under the additional cost model.

The Research Council requests the total outturn data from the start of projects funded under the full cost model and the outturn data for the period in question for each type of expenditure. The corresponding figures must also be given on our funding contribution. The percentage indicating the funding contribution in the decision is used as a calculation ground for the funding contribution. Reporting on hours worked forms part of the request for payment.

The basis for the reporting done in connection with payment requests is derived from work time monitoring and project accounting based on business accounting. In addition, the calculated overheads and indirect employee costs to be entered for the projects are derived from the cost calculation of the organisation in question. The site of research (the recipient of the government grant) will commit to annually submitting separate reports based on the site's

financial statements in the online services, where the percentages are maintained. The information includes the percentages for indirect employee costs, overheads and effective working hours. If necessary, we may separately request the site of research to provide a report on how the percentages have been calculated.

If the funding recipient is unable to reliably calculate or otherwise provide a coefficient derived from accounting, we can accept a coefficient for indirect employee costs that is a maximum of 50% of the salaries for the project's effective working hours.

If the funding recipient is unable to reliably calculate or otherwise provide a coefficient derived from accounting, we can accept an overheads percentage that is a maximum of 20% of the salaries and indirect employee costs for the project's effective working hours.

15.3. Submitting payment requests in the online services

The guidelines in this section are intended for Finnish organisations. Submitting payment requests as e-invoices from the invoicing system of the site of research is a viable method only for mass submissions for organisations with, for example, more than ten projects funded by the Research Council of Finland.

Our online services can also be used to draft a single e-invoice with an accounting report and a specification of full-time equivalents. This method is best suited to organisations with 1–5 projects funded by us, for instance. Log in to the online services and go to 'Payments'. We grant main user rights, and our Registrar's Office can grant the necessary invoicing right to the site of research upon request. We recommend that sites of research that have not previously received Research Council of Finland funding contact a finance coordinator at the Division of Financial Services for more information. More information is available in the how-to guidelines of the online services ("Ohjeet suorituspaikan edustajille", in Finnish).

15.4. Repayment of discretionary government grant to the Research Council of Finland

The funding recipient must without delay repay any funds or any portion of funds received erroneously, in excess or evidently without grounds. The funds need not be returned if the sum is less than 100 euros. The funding recipient must contact the Research Council of Finland before the funds are returned. Contact the financial coordinator in the Division of Financial Services for more information. If we cancel the funding decision, the funding recipient is obliged, at our request, to repay all or part of the funding received on the basis of the funding decision.

The Research Council of Finland's decision number must be indicated in the repayment. Provisions on the repayment and clawback of discretionary government transfers have been laid down in section 5 of the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers.

16. Calculated coefficients

16.1. Indirect employee costs

Indirect employee costs are allocated to a project with a dedicated coefficient. As a rule, the coefficient is a percentage of the direct salaries allocated to the project. Costs that are covered with this coefficient include at least the following:

- salaries arising from paid absences
- holiday bonuses
- social security contributions
- pension contributions
- accident and unemployment contributions
- other similar employer contributions and returns on these.

The coefficient for indirect employee costs may also cover other personnel costs (e.g. occupational healthcare), if they have not been included in the overheads.

16.2. Paid absence

A paid absence covers all salary costs that result from statutory leaves of absence or other absences. This includes annual leave, family leave, sick leave, study leave, leave for trade unionism, occupational safety measures and cooperation procedures, as well as other paid leaves in accordance with the collective agreements and labour law.

16.3. Effective working hours

The term 'effective working hours' refers to the number of hours worked allocated to a specific cost item. The effective working hours do not include paid absences such as annual leave, sick leave, maternity and paternity leave, child-care leave or other indirect working hours. The proportion of a person's salary corresponding to that person's effective working hours on a project is eligible as a direct project cost. In the Research Council of Finland's budget model, the coefficient for effective working hours is 1.0, whereby the hours worked are budgeted only as months corresponding to effective working hours.

16.4. Direct costs

Typically, direct costs include direct salaries and the project's costs regarding special equipment and special premises, travel expenses and other relevant research costs (that can be directly allocated), for example chemicals or services purchased.

16.5. Overheads percentage

The term ‘overheads’ refers to project costs that are not allocated to a project directly but indirectly, using specific allocation grounds of the site of research in line with the matching principle. The division of project costs into direct and indirect costs must follow the principles normally applied by the site of research.

The overheads are allocated to the project with a dedicated coefficient. As a rule, the coefficient is a percentage of the total sum of indirect employee costs and salaries for effective working hours within the project.

Costs that are covered with the coefficient for overheads include costs arising from administrative services, eligible depreciations from machines and equipment, and costs for premises (if not treated as direct costs according to the organisation’s general calculation principles). The costs of making peer-reviewed, Plan-S-compliant articles immediately available are included in the overheads of the sites of research and thus form part of the costs of the basic facilities they provide. See more instructions under section 5.5.

In the online services, the calculated coefficients are effective working hours (%), indirect employee costs (%) and overheads (%). The site of research must maintain the percentages in the online services.

17. Acquisition costs covered by discretionary government grants

The Research Council of Finland requires that the general guidelines issued by the Finnish Accounting Board be applied to depreciations. The Board’s general guidelines (16 Oct 2007) on depreciations according to plan provide advice on how a book entry on investment transfers is made.

According to section 2.5 of the guidelines, an investment transfer received for acquisition of fixed assets is entered in the form of an expense transfer as a deduction of the acquisition cost. In the depreciation calculation, the depreciation base consists of the amount of the acquisition cost deducted with the transfer received. The whole acquisition cost of the fixed assets in question and the amount covered by the investment transfer are entered in the notes to the balance sheet’s passive side and following the materiality principle.

18. Provisions applicable to research funding

The use, payment and supervision of research grants are governed, among others, by the following provisions:

- Act on Discretionary Government Transfers
- State Budget Act and Decree
- Act on Public Procurement and Concession Contracts

- State Budget and the regulations regarding its application
- other general provisions and regulations regarding the use of state funds
- act to amend the Copyright Act (3 March 2023).

Sites of research must also follow their internal regulations, provisions and instructions, if these are not in contradiction with the conditions issued by the Research Council of Finland.

Appendix 1: How to apply for changes to funding decisions

Below are guidelines on the most common changes that can be applied for in funding decisions made by the Research Council of Finland. Please contact us if you cannot find the particular guidelines you are looking for below.

1. Changing annual instalments in new funding decision

Description: You can apply to change the annual instalments if the PI cannot commit to the instalments specified in the funding decision. The change must be significant (see section 7). The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services:

1. Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.
2. Fill in the new cost estimate on the tab 'New cost estimate'.

Appendices required: No appendices required

In which types of funding is this change possible? You can apply for this change in any decisions that have been made according to the full cost model as well as in mobility grants. In the **funding to strengthen university research profiles**, the annual deviation from the indicated annual instalments can be no more than 15%.

When can I apply for the change? Apply before confirming receipt of funding and within eight weeks of the funding decision (any exceptions are mentioned in the decision notification).

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? Yes.

NB! The proposed change must not exceed the Research Council's total funding granted for the project. The types of expenditure specified in the decision's cost estimate are indicative; deviation from them is allowed only if it supports the implementation of the proposed research plan. In the case of major deviations, please contact the presenting official.

If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

2. Extending funding period

Description: The funding period may be extended on the basis of a researcher's maternity, paternity, parental or childcare leave, or military or nonmilitary service, unless the special condition of the decision or the nature of the appropriation imposes restrictions. It may also be extended for other special reasons, such as long-term illness. The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services:

- 1) Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.
- 2) Fill in the new end date for the funding period on the tab 'New cost estimate'. Remember to update the costs according to the new funding period. The proposed change must not exceed the Research Council's total funding or contribution for the project.

Appendices required: Decision on release from work: Append to the application a copy of the employer's decision on release from work or some other employer certificate of the absence. In the case of sick leave and long-term illness, a certificate of incapacity for work issued by the employer is sufficient. You do not need to append a medical certificate or more detailed information on the reason for the incapacity for work. The document must indicate the start and end dates of the absence. **This can be applied retroactively to previous Research Council funding decisions.**

In which types of funding is this change possible? The change is possible in all funding decisions, unless the special condition of the decision or the nature of the appropriation imposes restrictions. However, the funding period cannot be extended in the case of funding to strengthen university research profiles.

Extensions to the funding period may be applied for for reasons caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Read more on our website at www.aka.fi/covid.

When can I apply for the change? The extension shall be applied for during the funding period and no later than two months before the end of the funding period. A subsequent appeal will be considered only if it is possible in terms of the application processing and decision-making process. As a rule, applications for changes received after the end of the funding period will not be considered.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? No.

NB! As a rule, this change requires that no substitute has been hired for the researcher and that the researcher will return to work on the same project, under the same funding decision. This can also be applied to previous and still valid funding decisions made by the Research Council. The maximum extension on the basis of childcare leave (also partial childcare leave) is one year per

child. Extensions to the funding periods of consortium subprojects may affect the consortium's reporting schedule. The funding period cannot be extended on the grounds that granted money has not been used. If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

An extension of the funding period may affect the granting of new funding. Check this in the relevant call text.

The Research Council of Finland follows the instructions for the processing of client health data in connection with the research funding process in accordance with its guidelines (AKA/7/07.01.10/2018).

3. Additional grant (i.e. compensation)

Description: A project may be granted additional funding on the basis of a researcher's maternity leave or long-term illness. The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services:

1. Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.
2. Fill in the application for the additional grant on the tab 'Cost estimate'. The funding period may start no sooner than on the date of the appeal and end no sooner than at the beginning of the calendar year following the year of the decision on the change.

Appendices required: Salary certificate. Append to the application a copy of the employer's salary certificate, showing the additional costs for the project incurred as a result of maternity leave or long-term illness and the compensation paid by Kela (Social Insurance Institution of Finland) to the employer. You do not need to append a medical certificate or more detailed information on the reason for the illness.

In which types of funding is this change possible? Decisions following the additional cost model

When can I apply for the change? Apply no later than three months before the end of the funding period. A subsequent appeal will be considered only if it is possible in terms of the application processing and decision-making process. As a rule, applications for changes received after the end of the funding period will not be considered.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? Yes.

NB! If you are applying for an extension to the funding period of a research post, you must do so with a separate application before applying for additional grants. If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

The Research Council of Finland follows the instructions for the processing of client health data in connection with the research funding process in accordance with its guidelines (AKA/7/07.01.10/2018).

4. Changing sites of research

Description: The site of research may be changed if the PI transfers to another site in the middle of the funding period. The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services:

- 1) Indicate whether project funding has been used at the original site of research. (Yes/No)
- 2) Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.
- 3) Fill in the costs incurred at the original site of research on the tab 'Realised costs'. Also give an estimate of the costs to be invoiced for the last payment period. Contact the financial administration of your site of research before submitting the request for amendment to obtain correct data on the costs.
- 4) On the tab 'New cost estimate', fill in the cost estimate for the funding to be transferred to the new site of research.

Use the button in the top corner of the form to copy the remaining costs. The total sum of the realised costs and the new cost estimate must not exceed the Research Council's funding amount mentioned in the original decision. The sum remaining in the counter must be 0, otherwise the application cannot be submitted.

The percentages for overheads and indirect employee costs may be updated according to the new site of research. If the percentages at the new site of research are lower than in the decision, and they have not been altered, the site of research still has to submit the payment requests to the Research Council according to the lower percentages based on the accounting. The PI must check with the new site that the funding is enough to carry out the research plan there. If the funding has been changed into a co-financed decision and the grounds for it remain the same at the new site, no new decision is needed in terms of the co-financing.

Appendices required:

- 1) Consent by original site of research. Append to the application a free-form letter with the original site's consent to the change.
- 2) Commitment by new site of research. Also append a free-form letter where the new site commits itself to overseeing and funding the project and to following the conditions for the use of funds.
- 3) If the funding has been changed into a co-financed decision and its grounds remain the same at the new site, append a document stating the other funding source (e.g. decision notification, employment contract or another free-form certificate).

In which types of funding is this change possible? You can apply for this change in all funding opportunities except for the Flagship Programme and the funding to strengthen university research profiles.

When can I apply for the change? Apply after the funding decision has been made and before the funding period starts, or during the funding period. As a rule, applications for changes received after the end of the funding period will not be considered.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research?

1. No, not in the case of the original site of research.
2. Yes, in the case of the new site of research.

NB! Changing departments etc. within the same university is not regarded as a change of site of research. Such a change is an internal affair at the site of research. Notify the change of department to our Registrar's Office. We will update the information in the online services. Even if the new department within the site of research has different percentages than the original site, the cost percentages will not be changed. If the percentages at the new department are lower than in the decision, the site of research still has to submit the payment requests to the Research Council according to the lower percentages based on the accounting.

If the project has been granted a change at the original site of research, the change in question shall also apply at the new site after the site change, if the reasons for the change have remained unchanged.

If funds have been used, the change of the site of research cannot be implemented in the middle of the payment period. The change must be scheduled to take place at the beginning of the next payment period, i.e., starting from January, May or September. The application to change sites can also be submitted earlier.

The decision to change sites of research is made afterwards only after the last payment request by the original site of research concerning the funding decision has been submitted to the Research Council and paid. Advance

payments are not regarded as using funds, since advances for projects nearing completion will be returned to the Research Council.

If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation. If necessary, contact us for more information.

5. Declining research grant in full

Description: You can apply to decline a research grant (incl. salaries for research posts) in full if you do not want to receive the funds or if you want to forgo the funds before they are used. Please notify us of this immediately. The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services: Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.

Appendices required: No appendices required

In which types of funding is this change possible? You can apply for this change in all funding decisions.

When can I apply for the change? Before the start of the funding period and during the same calendar year in which the decision was made.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? No.

NB! If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

6. Declining research grant midstream

Description: You can apply to decline a research grant midstream, i.e. while the funding period is still running. If a person who has been granted Research Council funding for a research post cannot continue in the post (e.g. because of a transfer to another task), they must immediately notify us and decline the funding. The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services:

1) Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.

2) Fill in the new end date for the funding period and the costs incurred so far on the tab 'Realised costs'.

Also fill in the costs incurred so far. Also give an estimate of the costs to be invoiced for the last payment period.

Appendices required: Account of costs incurred. Append to the application an account prepared by the financial administration of costs incurred in the project.

In which types of funding is this change possible? You can apply for this change in all funding decisions.

When can I apply for the change? Apply during the funding period.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? No.

NB! If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

7. Changing principal investigators

Description: You can apply to change principal investigators on exceptional and justified grounds. The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act. In funding schemes targeted at research organisations, the PI change is made by the main user of the organisation.

Guidelines for the online services: Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.

Appendices required:

1. Justifications signed by both the previous and the new PI as well as a consent by the site of research. Append to the application a free-form letter with justifications for the change, signed by the previous and the new PI, as well as a consent to the change from the site of research.
2. List of publications and CV for the new PI. Also append the new PI's list of publications and CV.

In which types of funding is this change possible? In all funding opportunities except Academy Professorships and Academy Research Fellowships, Clinical Researcher funding and personal grants.

When can I apply for the change? Apply during the funding period.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? Yes.

NB! The new PI must sign up to the online services. If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

If the PI takes a leave of absence from the post but still continues as head of the project, they must negotiate substitute arrangements with the site of research. In this case, an appeal is not required, but the PI must include in the online services (My applications > Decided > Additional information) a document on the person designated as the substitute and on the arrangements for the management of the project.

8. Changing decision conditions or purpose of use, substantially changing the research or action plan (etc.)

Description:

1. Changes in decision conditions or purpose of use can be applied for only on special grounds.
2. Substantial changes in research or action plans can be applied for only on special grounds.

The application for the change is submitted by the project PI in the online services. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services: Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.

In which types of funding is this change possible? You can apply for this change in all funding decisions.

When can I apply for the change? Apply after the funding decision has been made and before the funding period starts, or during the funding period. As a rule, applications for changes received after the end of the funding period will not be considered.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? Yes

NB! Please always first contact us for more information. If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation.

9. Changing funding proportions of consortium subprojects

Description: You can apply to change the funding proportions of consortium subprojects. The total funding for the consortium must not change. The application for the change is submitted by the consortium PI in the online services. The consortium PI must have the consent to do so from the subproject PI(s) and the site(s) of research. In exceptional cases, the application can also be submitted by the site of research or some other party as referred to in the Administrative Procedure Act.

Guidelines for the online services:

1. Fill in the new funding proportions (the Research Council of Finland's portion) for the consortium parties.
2. Justify the proposed change in the free-text field.
3. On the tab 'New cost estimate', change each consortium party's cost estimate (by type of expenditure) in accordance with the proposed change. The sum remaining in the counter must be 0, otherwise the application cannot be submitted.

Appendices required:

1. Consent by the PI and the site of research of the subproject that will forgo the funding. Append to the application a free-form letter with the original site's and the PI's consent to the change.
2. Commitment by the site of research of the subproject that will receive funds. Also append a free-form letter where the site of research commits itself to overseeing and funding the project and to following the conditions for the use of funds.

In which types of funding is this change possible? You can apply for this change in the case of Academy Programme funding, funding for research infrastructures and programmes by the Strategic Research Council (SRC).

When can I apply for the change? Apply after the funding decision has been made and before the funding period starts, or during the funding period. As a rule, applications for changes received after the end of the funding period will not be considered.

After the decision on the change, do I need an electronic approval by the site of research? Yes.

NB! If funds have been used, the decision on the proposed change cannot be made in the middle of the payment period. The appeal must be scheduled to the beginning of the next payment period, i.e. 1 Jan–30 Apr, 1 May–31 Aug or 1 Sep–31 Dec. The change can be made as of 1 Jan, 1 May or 1 Sep, respectively.

The decision to change funding proportions is made afterwards only after the payment request for the ongoing payment period by the original site of

research concerning the funding decision has been submitted to the Research Council and paid.

If necessary, we may consult the site of research or other parties before making the decision. The procedure for processing appeals may differ from the one presented here, if so required by the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act or any other legislation. If necessary, contact us for more information.

Information about the funding terms and conditions

These terms and conditions are based on a document approved by the Board of the Research Council of Finland presenting the criteria for research funding decisions, last adopted on 27 April 2023. These funding terms and conditions apply to the Research Council of Finland's funding calls opened between 1 June 2023 and 31 October 2023 and to funding decisions made on such calls.

Riitta Maijala, Vice President for Research, approved the Finnish-language terms and conditions on 22 May 2023.

How to contact us

Postal address	PO Box 131 FI-00531 Helsinki
Street address	Hakaniemenranta 6
Switchboard	+358 295 335 000
Fax	+358 295 335 299
Registrar's Office, phone	+358 295 335 049
Registrar's Office, office hours	8.00–16.15
Email address	kirjaamo@aka.fi
Website	www.aka.fi/en
Additional decision details	Contact persons named in the decision notification (presenting official), emails: firstname.lastname@aka.fi
Do you have questions or want to give feedback?	See the feedback form on our website.