Today’s programme

1. Academy of Finland
2. What’s new?
3. Funding opportunities in September 2018 call
4. Responsible science
5. Ask our science advisers
ACADEMY OF FINLAND IN A NUTSHELL

Key public funding agency for scientific research, major player in science policy in Finland

Strategic Research Council

Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee

Research funding budget 2017

€444m

136 employees

• to support scientific research
• to improve framework conditions for research

Three research councils
• Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment
• Research Council for Culture and Society
• Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering

Part of our funds come from proceeds of Finland's national gaming company Veikkaus. In 2018, these proceeds account for 70.7 million euros of our total funding for scientific research.
ACADEMY FUNDING IN 2017, BY INSTRUMENT

- **Organisation-oriented funding**
  - €66.9 m
  - Funding for research infrastructures
  - Funding to strengthen university research profiles

- **Thematic funding**
  - €99.1 m
  - Academy Programmes and international cooperation
  - ICT 2023 programme
  - Strategic R&D funding

- **Researcher-oriented funding**
  - €246.8 m
  - Academy Professors
  - Academy Research Fellows
  - Postdoctoral Researchers
  - Research costs of the above researchers
  - Academy Project funding
  - Centres of Excellence

- **Other targeted funding**
  - €28.6 m
  - International membership fees
  - Researcher mobility
  - Application review, Academy Programme coordination, development and maintenance of research funding information systems

**Others** 6.5%
# Decision-Making at the Academy

## Finnish Government
Ministry of Education, Science and Culture

## Board of the Academy of Finland

<table>
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<th>Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee</th>
<th>Chair, 15 members</th>
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<td>Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment</td>
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<th>Research Councils</th>
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## General Subcommittee

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<th>Strategic Research Council</th>
<th>Chair, 8 members</th>
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OUR ROLE AS AN EXPERT IN SCIENCE POLICY

WE PROMOTE

• cutting-edge and ethically sustainable research
• research impact and science renewal
• utilisation of research results and expertise

WE SUPPORT

• opportunities for international research collaboration
• multidisciplinary and novel approaches to research

WE STRENGTHEN

• internationally attractive research environments
• Finnish and international research infrastructure activities
We fund high-quality scientific research based on international peer review

Funding criteria

• quality, impact and renewal
• multidisciplinary, phenomenon-based and international research

Advantages of peer review and open competition

• International peer review shows the quality of research compared to the international level in the field concerned.
• Allows us to support the best researchers and identify novel initiatives

We also promote

• the further development of research environments
• increased independence of early-career researchers
• utilisation of research knowledge across societal sectors as well as evidence-based policy
SEPTEMBER 2018 CALL: 10 SEP–1 OCT
WHAT’S NEW?
REFORMS BASED ON COLLABORATION

The Academy of Finland develops and improves its own operations **proactively**, to better meet the challenges of the 2020s.

- renewal of science
- new ways of doing research

Reforms will be implemented based on the needs and wishes of applicants, research services and reviewers.
OUR RESEARCH COUNCILS STARTING ON 1 JAN 2019

- Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment
- Research Council for Culture and Society
- Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering

- The research fields will not change

- Why three research councils?
  - broader areas of activity
  - easier to identify new scientific initiatives
  - better processing of multidisciplinary applications
OUR RESEARCH COUNCILS STARTING ON 1 JAN 2019

- Biosciences, health and environmental researchers will address their applications to the new Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment.

- We’ve made some minor tweaks to the research councils’ research fields. Check the fields on our website: www.aka.fi/researchcouncils.
We’re improving our call processes based on feedback from applicants and reviewers.

The revised research plan structure helps applicants to highlight aspects that are important for the review.
TWO-STAGE DECISION-MAKING

- Applications that receive rating 1–4 will be processed faster than before
WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

• Simplified CV guidelines that better match the ERC model

• Import publications from the VIRTA publication information service
  – Search faster with ORCID (will be in use by 20\textsuperscript{th} September)
WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

• Applicants can authorise other people to fill in or view parts of the application (will be in use by 20th of September)
WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

• We’ve removed overlaps between the online form and the research plan:
  
  – **Mobility** †  only in the online form
  – **Budget** †  only in the online form
  – **Collaborators** †  only in the research plan

• You can update the **public project description** after the decision has been made (but before you accept the funding).
IN A NUTSHELL

1. Three research councils as of 1 January 2019. The research fields will not change. Biosciences, health and environmental researchers address their applications to the new research council.

2. The research plan is filled in on a separate tab in the online services.

3. The revised research plan structure helps applicants to highlight aspects that are important for the review.

4. Decisions in two stages: As a rule, applications that receive rating 1–4 will not proceed past the first stage. For these applicants, the decisions will come much faster than before.
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES
September 2018 call
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

For researchers:
- Academy Professor
- Academy Researcher
- Postdoctoral Researcher
- Clinical Researcher
- Researcher mobility

For research environments:
- Research infrastructures
- University research profiling
- Flagship programme

Groups:
- Academy Project
- Centre of Excellence

Thematic funding:
- Academy Programmes
- Targeted Academy Projects
- Strategic research funding
SCIENCE POLICY PRINCIPLES

More information on science policy principles is available on the research councils’ web pages:

• Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment
• Research Council for Culture and Society
• Research Council for Natural Sciences and Engineering
ACADEMY PROJECT FUNDING

- promotes the quality and diversity of research and its capacity for regeneration by providing funding for scientifically ambitious research
- science-driven, bottom-up
- granted to leading-edge researchers and research teams for:
  - salaries
  - materials and equipment
  - travel
  - international collaboration
- granted for four years
ACADEMY RESEARCH FELLOWS

- have successfully been engaged in scientific research and publishing after earning the doctorate
- are qualified for advanced research tasks or other expert tasks
- carry out independent scientific work
- provide teaching and supervision in their field
- funding for five years

Mobility requirement
Mobility is of particular importance to early-career researchers in improving the quality of their research and supporting their career development.

Apply for funding
- for a post in a research environment other than the one in which you worked while completing their doctoral thesis

OR

- in the same research environment, provided that you have at least six months of work experience from some other organisation after PhD completion.

Real mobility benefits your career development
ACADEMY RESEARCH FELLOWS – FEEDBACK FROM RESEARCH COUNCILS

- Career planning is important
- International mobility after PhD completion is highly recommended
- Independence is crucial
FUNDING FOR RESEARCH POSTS

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS

- have recently earned their doctorate, are gaining qualifications as professional researchers
- carry out their own research plan, supervise thesis writers
- eligibility: primarily no more than four years since doctorate
- receive funding for salary and research costs
- are granted funding for three years
- postdoctoral period abroad possible (2 + 1 years)

Mobility requirement
POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHERS – FEEDBACK FROM RESEARCH COUNCILS

• Career planning is important

• International mobility after PhD completion
  - importance of the mobility plan

• Clear aim to gain independent position
FUNDING FOR RESEARCH POSTS

CLINICAL RESEARCHERS

- the aim is to promote clinical research careers and to encourage medical doctors and other researchers working in clinical practice to engage in research

- funding for part-time salary (20–50%) and research costs

- at least 50% in clinical practice doing patient work

- receive funding for four years

- no limitations for academic age, funding terms or mobility
CLINICAL RESEARCHERS – FEEDBACK FROM RESEARCH COUNCIL

• The nature of clinical work must be well described, even though it is not covered by the Academy of Finland

• Mobility a bonus but not required

• Remember to describe your methods in sufficient detail (power calculations, statistical analysis, etc., if relevant)
RESPONSIBLE SCIENCE
The term research ethics is a general concept that covers all ethical viewpoints and evaluations that are related to science and research.

In order for research to be ethically acceptable and reliable and its results credible, the research must be conducted according to the responsible conduct of research.

The Academy of Finland is committed to the guidelines of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK).
OPEN SCIENCE

The Academy is committed to promoting and implementing Finland’s national Open Science and Research Roadmap 2014–2017.

Goal: to make research publications, data and material, metadata and methods widely available for reuse. (NB good scientific practice and law)
OPEN SCIENCE

• **open access publishing** – the research plan must include a publication plan
  – **green** open access
  – **gold** open access
  – **hybrid** open access

• data are stored and made available when possible

• open data: **data management plan (DMP)**
Open science in applying for funding

Data management plans required

Open data and methods required
- Depends on research ethics & law

To improve the overall quality and impact of research and promote good scientific practice

Openly available research results required
- Peer-reviewed articles (others recommendable)

Funding for publishing costs provided
- gold, hybrid

Recommended archives and storage services
- FSD, FIN-CLARIN, CERN Zenodo, EUDAT, AVAA, Etsin, IDA

www.aka.fi/openscience
GENDER EQUALITY

The Academy promotes gender equality both in the contents of research (mainstreaming gender perspective) and in women’s careers (equal participation and opportunities)

– both are essential parts of responsible science

Goals:

• scientific excellence

• inclusive research and science policy
  – gender equality and anti-discrimination in general
RESEARCH IMPACT
Impact

Society

Science

Sustainable development
SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

- scientific impact, potential for scientific breakthroughs and for promoting scientific renewal

SOCIETAL IMPACT

- reach, potential utilisation value and application areas of research results beyond the scientific community
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

• We require that Academy-funded projects consider the principles of sustainable development

• Part of the societal impact description: how the project will promote sustainable development objectives

• Not a funding criterion
THANK YOU!

firstname.lastname@aka.fi

www.aka.fi/en

#askapply