

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAMME 2018–2025, SECOND STAGE

Aim

The aim of the Academy of Finland's Centre of Excellence (CoE) programmes is to strengthen Finnish research by raising its level, contributing to its regeneration and promoting its societal impact.

The CoE programmes contribute to the renewal of science by supplying new research teams, topics, methods and approaches. Thanks to the long-term funding provided in collaboration with CoE host organisations, the funding instrument effectively works as an incentive for risk-taking and new initiatives in research. CoEs should help implement the research strategies of their host organisations. In addition, they should effectively use and develop research infrastructures.

A Centre of Excellence is a research community that is already at rather than striving for the international cutting edge of research in its field. CoEs may consist of one or more research teams working closely together under one joint research plan.

The Academy of Finland selects CoEs to be funded based on international reviews and science policy objectives. The CoE term is eight years. There are three primary review criteria: the scientific quality of the research plan, contribution to science renewal, and scientific impact.

The CoE call is open to all scientific disciplines.

Read more about the review criteria on our website under [Centres of Excellence](#).

Second-stage applicants

This second stage of the CoE call is open only to those applicants who have been invited to submit full applications based on their plans of intent.

Funding

The CoE funding is divided into two periods: a five-year period (1 Jan 2018–31 Dec 2022) and a three-year period (1 Jan 2023–31 Dec 2025). The centres will go through a full scientific evaluation after the first four years. The evaluation will determine the funding levels for the last three years. The Academy may decide to cease funding entirely after the first five years, if the CoE has failed to achieve the objectives set in the research plan.

The funding covers the research costs of the CoE. The funding is a joint undertaking between the Academy of Finland and the CoE host organisations (i.e. universities and research institutes).

In this call, the cost estimate in accordance with the full cost model is drafted differently than in other calls:

- *In the cost estimate in the online services*, enter only the funding applied for from the Academy and the funding that comes from the sites of research (for the five-year term 2018–2022). The Academy's contribution to funding comes to no more than 70 per cent.
- *In the research and action plan*, describe the project's total budget for eight years and specify the funding contributions of all other funding bodies.

Funding period

The first funding period has been set at 1 January 2018–31 December 2022.

Appendices

Obligatory appendices to the application, separately defined for this call:

- research and action plan for the proposed CoE for 2018–2025, no more than 20 pages (see separate guidelines)
- lists of publications for the CoE director, vice director and team leaders; list no more than ten of the most important publications for the project per person; the publication lists may include links to longer lists
- data management plan

Case-specific appendices:

- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation (if relevant); the ethical aspects must always be specified in the research plan
- progress report on all Academy-funded projects headed by the applicants that have not submitted final reports (this does not apply to currently ongoing CoEs)

Please append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the guidelines, see [Appendices required](#) and [Application process](#) on our website. Also make sure not to exceed the maximum length of appendices. Draft the appendices in English and append them to the application in the online services under *Appendices*. The only exception is the curriculum vitae, which is appended under *Personal data/CV*.

How to apply

The non-negotiable deadline for this second stage of the CoE call is 1 February 2017 at 16.15. Draft the application in [the Academy's online services](#). Select *Open calls > Centre of Excellence Programme 2018–2025, second stage*). The call is open 7 December 2016–1 February 2017.

The application must be submitted as a consortium application. The principal investigator (PI) of the consortium (i.e. the CoE director) can submit the application only after all consortium subprojects (vice director and team leaders) have tagged their applications as complete. The composition of the consortium may be supplemented between the first and the second call stage only if the supplementation has been suggested in the first-stage review report.

The CoEs to be included in the 2018–2025 programme will be decided and announced in June 2017.

More information

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