Incentive scholarships

Aalto University awards incentive scholarships to doctoral candidates according to the following principles. Please note that the scholarship categories have changed in 2022.

- The new incentive scholarship principles for 2022-2025. The new principles are used in cases in which the scholarship criteria were met after 1.1.2022.
- If the criteria were met by 31.12.2021, we follow the old principles.

Please note that the application has to be submitted within six months from when the scholarship criteria were met.

It is possible to get some scholarship based on the old criteria and some based on the new criteria, but one student cannot get more than two 500 euro scholarships and one 2000 euro scholarship from Aalto incentive scholarship scheme.

Applying for the scholarship

The School of Electrical Engineering shall award scholarships based on the application made by the doctoral candidate. The application has to be submitted within six months from when the scholarship criteria were met. Scholarships are not granted retrospectively. Your application as well as the details of your studies and degrees will be checked and certified as true in the student services of the doctoral programme.

Decisions on scholarships are made approximately once a month. Some of the scholarships are processed after the meetings of the doctoral programme committee, some (scholarships on the first refereed articles) more evenly during each month. Students are informed of the decision via the online application system and the sum awarded will be paid into the bank account the applicant has indicated on the application form within two months, depending on the day of the decision in respect to the payroll dates of the university.

The time spent on maternity and parental leave as well as national military or non-military service completed (documents required) may be excluded from the calculated duration of study. However, if the scholarship is age related no deduction is granted.

Application form

All scholarships are applied for via online application system. Before applying, please check that you have acquired the required appendices:

| 500€ first refereed published article(s) | Confirmation from you supervising professor, see definition of criteria below |
| 500 € doctoral studies (40 credits) completed within 18 months, and by 31.12.2021 | Transcript of records (from SISU) |
| 2000 € Completed degree | Transcript of records (from SISU) |

Application form and instructions

Criteria for awarding scholarships for doctoral students

- The new incentive scholarship principles for 2022-2025. The new principles are used in cases in which the scholarship criteria were met after 1.1.2022.
- If the criteria were met by 31.12.2021, we follow the old principles.

Please note that the application has to be submitted within six months from when the scholarship criteria were met. Scholarship applications based on the criteria of the old principles and submitted after 30.6.2022 will not be processed.

500 euro scholarship for the first refereed article(s)

for the first refereed (i.e. peer-reviewed) article(s) included in the doctoral thesis published in an international publication forum. The student must be one of the main authors in the publication.

The publication may not be older than six months when scholarship is applied for.

Definition of criteria for first refereed article scholarship until 31.12.2021 (criteria are met on the publication date)

The EUR 500 scholarship shall be granted for the first scientific research article that has been published in a publication forum specified by the school and is part of the candidate’s doctoral thesis. The applicant must be one of the article’s main authors. Based on the President’s decision, the doctoral programme committee has verified the following definition of criteria for the EUR 500 research article scholarship.
1) The supervising professor must confirm that the doctoral candidate is one of the article’s main authors.
2) The supervising professor must confirm that the article is part of the doctoral candidate’s doctoral thesis.
3) The article must be published in a forum that has been rated in category 2 or 3 in the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies’ Publication Forum.
4) The published article or a link to the electronic publication must be attached to the application.

Definition of criteria for first refereed article scholarship starting from 1.1.2022 (criteria are met on the publication date)

The EUR 500 scholarship shall be granted for the first two scientific articles to be included in the doctoral thesis, in which the doctoral student is one of the main authors, published on a publication forum specified by the school. Based on the President’s decision, the doctoral programme committee has verified the following definition of criteria for the EUR 500 research article scholarship:

1) The supervising professor must confirm that the doctoral candidate is one of the article’s main authors.
2) The supervising professor must confirm that the article is part of the doctoral candidate’s doctoral thesis.
3) The article must be published in a forum that has an impact factor (IF).
4) The DOI link to the electronic publication must be attached to the application.

500 euro scholarship for completing theoretical studies until 31.12.2021 (criteria are met on the date of last study attainment)

to doctoral student, who has, within one year and six months of the date of admission to pursue doctoral studies, completed the theoretical studies (40 credits) in accordance with his/her individual study plan confirmed by the Doctoral Programme Committee/Chair of the committee. Information on confirmation of studies is available on page Study plan. Please note that you need to apply for this scholarship within six months from when the scholarship criteria were met.

2,000 euro scholarship for completing the doctoral degree until 31.12.2021 (based on the date when pre-examiners were appointed)

for completing the doctoral degree, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled: The theoretical studies were completed according to the confirmed study plan and the pre-examiners were appointed (the date of the Doctoral Programme Committee meeting) in no more than eight full semesters from the date the study right was granted. The pre-examiners need to be appointed at the latest during the eighth full semester.

or

for completing the doctoral degree, provided the degree was earned by the end of the calendar year the doctoral candidate turns 30.

The time spent on maternity and parental leave as well as national military or non-military service completed (documents required) may be excluded from the calculated duration of study. However, if the scholarship is age related no deduction is granted.

The scholarship can be granted only after the doctoral degree has been awarded. Please note that you need to apply for this scholarship within six months from your graduation date.

2,000 euro scholarship for completing the doctoral degree starting from 1.1.2022 (based on the date when pre-examiners were appointed)

for completing the doctoral degree, provided the following conditions are met within four years of being admitted to doctoral programme: The doctoral student has completed the studies in accordance with his/her doctoral personal study plan approved for the doctoral degree and the Doctoral Programme Committee has appointed the preliminary examiners for the doctoral thesis manuscript. The pre-examiners need to be appointed at the latest on the same date when the applicant was admitted four years before.

or

for completing the doctoral degree, provided the degree was earned by the end of the calendar year the doctoral candidate turns 30.

The time spent on maternity and parental leave as well as national military or non-military service completed (documents required) may be excluded from the calculated duration of study. However, if the scholarship is age related no deduction is granted.

The scholarship can be granted only after the doctoral degree has been awarded. Please note that you need to apply for this scholarship within six months from your graduation date.

Taxation

Mainly incentive scholarships are considered tax-free. However, the scholarship receiver needs to give a TIN code (Taxpayer Identification Number), which is a personal combination of letters or numbers issued by the country of residence of the person used to identify the person involved in the tax procedure in that country. The code is called in different countries under different names, for example, a personal identification number or a civil identity or fiscal number. In Finland, the social security number is a TIN-code.
The TIN code is needed if you are subject to taxation at source. In case you have both a Finnish ID code and a TIN code, please provide both. You can find more information of the TIN code on https://ec.europa.eu/taxation_customs/tin/tinByCountry.html (EU countries) or https://www.oecd.org/tax/automatic-exchange/crs-implementation-and-assistance/tax-identification-numbers/ (non-EU countries). If you do not have the system of TIN code in the country of your residence, please note that to the form as “no TIN code”.

These scholarships are granted retrospectively. Condition for tax-free scholarship is that it is granted for recognition of scientific, artistic or non-profit activity retrospectively (TVL 82 § subsection 1, section 2).

More information: vero.fi