Financing and promoting your research work

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Possible funding resources for doctoral studies

Doctoral candidates can avail of various alternatives to finance their studies and research work. Major funding sources are research projects, Aalto ENG funded doctoral student positions and grants. It is also possible to apply for scholarships from Aalto University scholarship funds. It is worth discussing this with the supervising professor.

Aalto University research projects

The university primarily employs its own doctoral candidates for university research projects. Doctoral candidates can work in school departments or in other research units. Private enterprises often form the second party in research projects. The supervising professor can give more information about research projects in the research field.

Open positions at Aalto University

Other suggestions for how to find funding for your doctoral studies:
- International or national doctoral programmes funded by EU or Finnish government
- Grants given by other governments for their citizens, such as CSC in China.
- Grants given by your home university to pursue for doctoral degree at abroad.
- International and national foundations provide funding for doctoral studies
- Aurora database lists all Finnish foundations http://www.aurora-tietokanta.fi/

International and national foundations provide funding for doctoral studies

- The Emil Aaltonen Foundation (Emil Aaltosen säätiö)
- Fortum Foundation (Fortumin säätiö)
- Suomen Kulttuurirahasto - Finnish Cultural Foundation (Central Fund application call at October)
- Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation (Jenny ja Antti Wihurin säätiö)
- Koneen Säätiö / Kone Foundation
- Finnish Academy of Science and Letters (Suomalaisen Tiedeakatemian nuorten tutkijoiden apurahat)
- Suomen luonnonvarain tutkimussäätiö
- Väisälä Fund (Vilho, Yrjö ja Kalle Väisälän rahasto)
- Tapani Järvisen ympäristöteknologian apuraha (approx. Nov.)
- Walter Ahlström Foundation (applicants must be under 35 years of age, with Finnish soc. security number)
- Academy of Finland
- Sitra
- Finnish Foundation for Technology Promotion

National and international research projects

Doctoral candidates may work on large national or international research projects which are related to their research field. Major funding for these projects comes from Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation, the Academy of Finland and the European Union. Usually, the accountable project leaders of national and international projects at Aalto are professors, and doctoral candidates would do well to discuss with the accountable professor about taking part in a research project. More information in Aalto Inside.

Individual Grants and scholarships

Individual Grants and Scholarships from national and international trusts and other sources make a significant source of funding for doctoral studies. The doctoral candidate can finance international visits and conference trips or longer periods of studies with grants. More information can be found from the application calls.

Grants and Scholarships administered by Aalto University
Grant bulletin board
Student travel expense reimbursement
Incentive scholarships for all doctoral students

Aalto University has incentive scholarships for all doctoral students.

Student financial aid

If you are permanently living in Finland you might be entitled to student financial aid. The eligibility criteria are available on the webpage of kela: http://www.kela.fi/in/internet/english.nsf

Websites and databases in Finnish

Aurora database can be used for searching for funding opportunities in sciences, arts and culture. The database includes Finnish and foreign funding organisations and programmes, which are available for Finns or those residing in Finland. The database lists some 800 funding organisations and new funding opportunities are constantly added on to keep the database up to date. The information on Aurora is collected directly from the funding organisations. The database is available for use free of charge. Users should verify all information from the funding organisations e.g. through their websites which will also provide more detailed application information.

Säätiöpalvelu (Foundation service) Includes information about various foundations and their ongoing scholarships.

National Union of University Students in Finland - SYL database on scholarships for students.

Foundation for Aalto University Science and Technology grants

Foundation for Aalto University Science and Technology (former The Research Foundation of Helsinki University of Technology) is a foundation established by Finnish industry. Its goal is to support the scientific research and teaching of technical disciplines at the Aalto University schools of technology. Foundation awards e.g. travel grants, grants for doctoral studies and post doc visits. More information is available at: https://www.aalto.fi/fi/aalto-yliopiston-teknikan-tukisaatio.

Aalto University scholarship funds

Aalto University has got scholarship funds in the field of Technology for study visits and for assisting research. Criteria for awarding the scholarships will be described on application calls during application periods on university websites.

Ideas for the promoting of your own research work and academic researcher career

- Aalto Current Research Information System (ACRIS) is Aalto University’s research information system - a free platform for publishing research activities. The system contains the university’s up-to-date research and artistic activity. Note that your consent is needed for the full use of ACRIS features.
- Research Gate profile
- Linkedin profile
- Research group’s internet page
- Social media, such as video clips of your research

Funded doctoral programme positions in AaltoENG

The next application period will take place in 1 September 2022 - 20 September 2022 at 3 pm.

The Dean of the Aalto University School of Engineering has opened the call for applications for funded four-year positions in Doctoral Programme starting in January 2022. The number of open positions is 5-8, and EUR 33,000 per year has been allocated for each position.

Funded doctoral student positions are open for students having a study right for doctoral degree in Aalto ENG and for those applying for study in right in the autumn 2022 application period. More information on applying for a study right is presented on the Application instructions web page. Positions are primarily intended for students who are in the early stages of their doctoral dissertation. Only one of each professor’s applicants can be admitted for a funded position this year.

The doctoral programme positions will be filled in parts: 24 months + optional 24 months, based on mid-term evaluation. New Aalto ENG Doctoral Programme positions will be available every year.

The following admission criteria will be emphasized:

- Study performance (B.Sc. and M.Sc.) – M.Sc. average grade clearly above the general average
- M.Sc. thesis – grade 4 (very good) or higher
- Time used for Bachelor’s and Master’s studies
- Applicant has been deemed by the supervising professor (in his or her statement) as having true potential for earning the degree within 4 years from getting study right (this statement should be e-mailed directly to ritva.viero@aalto.fi)
The applicant is requested to present in the application documents that he/she meets the requirements listed above.

Required application documents:

1. Application form / Hakulomake (open 1 September 2022 - 20 September 2022)
2. Transcript of records
3. Research and publication proposal and planned timetable
4. CV and list of publications
5. Motivation letter
6. Report on previous funding (if granted)
7. Statement by the supervising professor. The statement should include an account of all the projects for which additional compensation is paid. Professors who supervise several applicants must rank their applicants in order of preference. This document should be e-mailed by the professor to ritva.viero@aalto.fi.

Applications for funded doctoral student positions are submitted using the electronic Studyinfo-form (Opintopolku-form). Note! If you are applying for both a doctoral study right and a funded position, you should fill out BOTH forms in Studyinfo.

The deadline for applications is on 20 September 2022 at 3 p.m. All the application materials must be submitted in electronic format (pdf).

For additional information on the application procedure, please contact Planning officer Ritva Viero, ritva.viero@aalto.fi, +358 50-597 0610.