ACADEMY OF FINLAND

APRIL 2015 CALL

7–29 April 2015

The Academy of Finland funds cutting-edge and innovative research aiming at significant scientific breakthroughs. We are Finland's leading expert organisation in science and science policy. In that role, we focus on strengthening the position of science and research. Our funding is based on open competition and independent peer review.

The April 2015 call also includes calls by the Strategic Research Council. As a general rule, these calls are subject to the same principles as those governing the Academy's calls. See Appendix 3 for the special guidelines concerning the SRC's calls.

In 2015, we will make funding decisions worth about 405 million euros. As a funding agency, we are committed to promoting equality in research.

Read more about us on www.aka.fi/en.

CONTENTS

Appendix 1: Appendices required in different types of applications
Appendix 2: Calculation of support to international researcher mobility
Appendix 3: Guidelines for calls by the Strategic Research Council

AT-A-GLANCE GUIDE TO APPLYING

When?

The Academy of Finland has two main application rounds each year: September and April.

In September, we invite applications, for instance, in the following funding opportunities: Academy Projects, Targeted Academy Projects and research posts (i.e. Academy Professor, Academy Research Fellow, Postdoctoral Researcher and clinical researcher).

In April, we invite applications within research programmes and for targeted Academy Project funding, for example.

The deadlines of the following funding opportunities may differ from our main deadlines: research programmes, research infrastructures, two-stage calls and calls within international or national research collaboration.

Please check the deadline for each call in the call text. We will not process applications that have not arrived by the deadline.

What?

Our funding opportunities are presented on our website under Our funding opportunities.

How?

We post open calls on our website under Apply now. Detailed guidelines on how to submit applications are also available on our website:

1) call texts for the September and April calls, describing all funding opportunities open for application at that particular time
2) guidelines on how to draft and submit applications
3) guidelines on how to draft appendices (structure and length)
4) programme memoranda for research programmes
5) how-to guide to our online services.

We require that you carefully read the general guidelines, the call text and the other guidelines mentioned above before submitting your application.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

1   GENERAL GUIDELINES

1.1   FOR APPLICANTS

Who is eligible to apply?

The applicant for Academy of Finland research funding (i.e. the principal investigator of a research project) must be a researcher at the professor or docent level or with a doctoral degree, unless the call text indicates otherwise. In some of our funding opportunities, the applicant is a university or a research institute.

The Academy allocates funding on the basis of peer review to the best researchers and research teams and to the most promising young researchers to support them in carrying out scientifically ambitious projects. In principle, the projects we fund must benefit Finnish research and society or international collaboration.

Within the same application round, we will review only one application per applicant in one of the following funding opportunities:

- Funding for Academy Projects (PI of project)
- Funding for Academy Projects (PI of consortium or consortium subproject)
- Postdoctoral Researcher funding
- Academy Research Fellow funding
- Funding for clinical researchers.

However, if you do submit more than one application for one or several of the above funding opportunities, we will only review the first application to arrive. In the case of targeted Academy Project funding, this limitation will be indicated separately for each call.

An application consists of an online application and its appendices (usually a research plan, a curriculum vitae, etc.).

What does the funding cover?

What the funding covers depends on the funding opportunity. You can apply for Academy funding to cover, for example, the following direct research costs:

- the research team's work (salaries)
- research costs
- travel
- national and international collaboration and mobility
- preparation of international projects
- publishing costs (e.g. open access publishing using the golden route).

The funding can also cover VAT costs, but only on certain conditions; read more on our website under Value added tax.

In calls implemented under the full cost model, Academy funding can be used to cover both direct project costs (e.g. direct salaries) and indirect costs (e.g. costs for

premises). Both types of costs are covered with the same percentage. Read more on our website under Full cost model.

We require that the site of research (e.g. university department) provides the research project with all **necessary basic facilities**. These are determined based on the nature of the research and are the same as those available to other research staff at the site: office and laboratory premises, equipment (incl. computer equipment), and telecommunications, telephone, mailing, copying and library services, etc.

In the application, give a **cost estimate** including an estimate of the annual amount of funding needed, itemised by type of expenditure. Also include a **funding plan**, that is, all funding granted to the project in question and funding that will be provided by the site of research if the project is launched. **The cost estimate must be realistic and justified by type of expenditure in the research plan**.

Support to international researcher mobility

The Academy also funds international researcher mobility. As of September 2014, *the mobility allowance, applied for as a research cost for the project* (e.g. Academy Projects, projects within research programmes, targeted projects, research costs in research posts), *no longer depends on the target country or the duration of the stay*.

We support international mobility:

- in research projects
  - **as a mobility allowance** for mobility from Finland as part of a project's research costs:
    • researchers with dependants €1,500/month
    • researchers without dependants €1,050/month
  - **as grants** to non-EU researchers coming to Finland to work for periods shorter than a year.
- with our funding opportunity *International researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements* as research grants or personal grants.

Read more in Appendix 2 of the April 2015 call for applications and on our website under Calculation of support to international researcher mobility.

In addition to this special funding, international researchers can be hired to work on Academy-funded research projects.

Salary costs of principal investigator

Academy funding for research projects (Academy Projects, targeted projects and research programme projects) is primarily intended **for the salaries of full-time researchers working on the projects and for other research costs**. The salary costs of the PI can, with certain limitations, be incorporated into the total project costs (see below).

1   Including PI's salary (for project management) in total project costs

The salary costs of the PI can be incorporated into the total project costs in accordance with what is stated in the research plan. However, the salary costs must

not be significant in relation to the project's total costs. For example, a four-year research project must not include more than six months of the PI's effective working hours. This is equivalent to approximately 1.5 months a year.

The PI's tasks must be clearly described in the research plan (section 6, Implementation). In the application, indicate the salary under *Project funding*, *Salaries*.

2   Applying for funding for PI's salary (for research)

The Academy can grant a maximum of twelve months of funding towards the salary of a PI for conducting research. The funding is intended to support project implementation and is granted only **for well-substantiated research-related reasons** (e.g. work abroad, return to Finland and transfer to another research organisation or a company in Finland).

The well-substantiated reasons and the PI's tasks must be clearly presented in the research plan (section 6, Implementation). In the application, indicate the salary under *Project funding*, *Salaries*.

3   Granting salary funding to PI with no employment relationship

If the PI does not have an employment relationship with, for example, a university or research institute, they must give an account of how their salary will be covered during the funding period. These details must be accounted for at the application stage.

While retired researchers cannot be granted salary funding or personal grants, they can be granted other funding on the same grounds as other researchers.

NB! The calls of the Strategic Research Council follow different principles. Please see Appendix 3 of the April 2015 call for applications.

Individual project or consortium?

In calls concerning personal funding (e.g. research post as Academy Research Fellow, Academy Professor and Postdoctoral Researcher or funding for clinical researchers), researchers **independently** apply for funding with their own research plan. In these cases, the Academy treats each application as a separate application.

In calls concerning Academy Projects, research programmes and targeted funding, principal investigators apply for funding **for their own research teams**. Any research collaboration is described in the research plan of each application. In these cases, the Academy treats each application as a separate application.

In calls intended for research teams, funding may also be applied for by **a consortium composed of research projects**. A consortium is a fixed-term body of independent subprojects that work under a joint research plan with a view to generating greater scientific added value through systematic collaboration than through normal collaboration. The scientific added value of the consortium must be described in the research plan. The consortium's cost estimate and funding plan must be as realistic as possible. The consortium subprojects may work at different sites

(e.g. at different universities or at different departments of the same university) and vary in size.

The Academy treats the consortium PI's and the subprojects' joint consortium application as one application and makes one decision on it. The funding, however, is granted to each subproject separately.

The consortium application is started in the online services by the consortium PI, who must send the consortium code generated by the system to the other members of the consortium. The members then use that code to attach their subprojects to the consortium. They will have to sign up to the Academy's online services to do so.

The application of the whole consortium can be processed only if the applications of all subprojects have been submitted by the deadline. The deadline is non-negotiable. The composition of a consortium cannot be changed after the deadline. Consortium PIs should make sure that the subprojects submit their applications in good time.

Read more under Guidelines for consortium application on our website.

NB! The calls of the Strategic Research Council are only open to so-called SRC consortia, which are different from regular consortia. Please see the SRC guidelines in section 2.2 of the April 2015 call for applications.

Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation

The Academy's funding opportunities also promote leading-edge scientific research at Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation (Finnish acronym SHOK).

Such research may be either directly affiliated with a specific strategic centre or scientific research that serves the thematic area of a strategic centre. If your research plan is tied in with a thematic area of one or several strategic centres, please follow the guidelines below.

When submitting your application, select on the list in the online services the strategic centre with whose thematic area the research is affiliated.

1   If the application is **directly affiliated** with a strategic centre, attach a statement issued by the centre:
    -   confirming the project's affiliation with the centre
    -   describing the project's role in and significance to the centre's operations
    -   describing the form and contents of the collaboration between the project and the centre.
2   If the application is not directly affiliated with a strategic centre, but it **has relevance** to the centre's thematic area, justify this in the research plan.

The applications are reviewed in line with the Academy's general practices and criteria. Read more on our website under Review criteria and Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation as well as at www.shok.fi/en.

When is an application reviewed, and when is it not?

Academy funding is based on a scientific review of the research plan and the applicant. We mainly enlist foreign experts as reviewers. Applicants have the right to submit their application in Finnish or Swedish, but **we ask you to submit it in English** in order to:

- facilitate international peer review
- ensure an equal preparation of funding decisions
- ensure a smooth processing of applications.

To ensure a successful review, it is important that – in addition to the **correct research council and research fields** – you also enter **keywords** describing your research and research methods. For more information, see Research fields of the research councils and Research field classification on our website.

Our review process is presented on our website under Peer review and Guides for reviewers. The criteria applied in the review are presented under Review criteria. Please read these guidelines as well as any additional guidelines on the research councils' pages.

For the SRC's calls, please see separate review guidelines in Appendix 3 of the April 2015 call for applications.

For justified reasons, we may decide not to review an application. The reasons that are considered in these cases are presented on our website under Review criteria.

Guidelines on required appendices

You can make your application easier to review by drafting the appendices according to the guidelines we have provided.

For detailed guidelines on how to draft applications, see Appendices required on our website (e.g. Research plan guidelines, Curriculum vitae guidelines and Guidelines for list of publications).

Curriculum vitae

We ask that applicants draft their CV in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity and the guidelines of the Academy, taking into account the nature of the call, the research career stage and the practices of the scientific discipline. The CV guidelines help in drafting a CV so that it presents the researcher's merits as comprehensively and truthfully and in such a way that it facilitates comparisons between applicants. Enter your most important scientific merits briefly and concisely. Normally, 3–7 pages will be enough, even for established researchers.

Research plan

To guarantee the uniformity and quality of the review, applications must follow a comparable structure. The applicant's research plan should provide answers to the

questions raised in the review. Therefore, research plans should follow the structure provided.

Below you will find a description of some of the parts of the research plan. Read more under Research plan guidelines on our website.

Publication plan

The application must include a publication plan as part of the research plan.

We recommend that researchers publish their articles and other publications in *open-access publication archives*, either provided or recommended by the site of research.

We further recommend that researchers publish their results in *open-access scientific journals*, if there are such journals in the field in question that are at least of the same high quality as traditional subscription journals. Parallel copies should also be saved *in open-access electronic archives*.

Funding is also available for research costs arising from publishing of research results (e.g. open access publishing using the golden route; hybrid forms are not recommended). This funding is applied for in the online services under *Funding for the project/Services* and justified in the research plan.

Read more in our guidelines: Publishing open access and making data available.

Data management plan

We also require that the research plan includes a data management plan, describing:

- how the project will obtain and use research data
- how the rights of ownership and use pertaining to the data used and generated by the project will be distributed
- how the data produced by the project (or through research infrastructures) will be stored and subsequently made available to other researchers
- how the data will be protected if necessary.

We recommend that Academy-funded researchers also investigate the possibility of long-term storage of data. Our recommendation is that research data is stored and made available through major national or international archives, such as:

- the Finnish Social Science Data Archive
- the FIN-CLARIN consortium
- the CSC's IDA Storage Service and its Kata metadata catalogue and AVAA open-access publishing platform
- CERN's Zenodo service.

Read more in our guidelines: Publishing open access and making data available.

Ethical issues

The ethical issues of the research must always be described in the research plan, as they are reviewed as part of the scientific review. The **ethical issues and duties** to

be considered at the application stage are listed on our website under Ethical issues and applying for funding. We require that all Academy-funded research is conducted following the guidelines of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity.

Mobility plan and partners, use of infrastructures

You must describe the mobility, the partners and the use research infrastructures both in the application (in detail) and in the research plan.

In the application (under *Mobility*), describe how the project's researchers intend to be mobile in Finland and abroad during the funding period. The mobility must support the research project. If you are applying for funding for a research post as Postdoctoral Researcher or Academy Research Fellow, also give an account of your previous mobility (under *Previous mobility*).

In addition (under *Partners*), describe how other Finnish or foreign researchers working with their own funding will contribute to the project.

Under *Research infrastructures*, describe which international and national infrastructures will be used and how this will be of benefit to the project. Read more about research infrastructures under Roadmap for 2014–2020 on our website.

1.2   FOR SITES OF RESEARCH

Terms and conditions of funding

The Academy of Finland will fund a research project only if the site of research undertakes to provide the researcher with the necessary basic facilities for research.

The Academy allocates the funding to the researcher's host organisation. Grants for research abroad (mobility grants) may also be allocated directly to the researcher.

Academy funding to organisations outside the central government (e.g. universities) is seen as a discretionary government transfer. Since the funding is allocated not to individual researchers but to their host organisations, the organisation – not the researcher – is regarded as the recipient of the transfer (as per the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers), and will accordingly be required to assume all related obligations. The host organisation receiving the transfer is permitted to use it solely to fund the research carried out by the PI named in the application.

Staff to be hired with Academy research funding must have an employment relationship with the site of research or the organisation receiving the funding.

For detailed conditions and guidelines (revised annually) on use of funding and reporting, see How to use the funding on our website.

Co-funding, full costing and additional cost model

Academy research funding is a form of **co-funding** in which the funds to finance the costs of a project come from at least two sources. When Academy funding is applied for, universities, research institutes and other research organisations commit to the

co-funding by contributing their percentage of the costs. In calls of the Strategic Research Council, exceptionally, the Academy's funding contribution is 100%.

In your application, you must include a funding plan in accordance with the full cost model, including the amount of funding applied for from the Academy. Draft the online application so that the Academy's contribution to funding comes to no more than the percentage indicated in the call text.

In calls where cost calculation follows the principles of full costing, the Academy's contribution usually comes to no more than 70% of the total costs.

Before submitting your application, you must agree with the administration at your own organisation on the contribution of the site of research to the funding of the project. As the total project costs must not include any costs that do not pass through the books of the site of research, you must check with your own organisation whether the funding planned as the own funding contribution suits this purpose. When calculating the total projects costs at the application and decision-making stage, we will only take into account funding that has been confirmed (e.g. through a decision by the body that has granted the funding).

The maximum funding percentage is applied to the calculation of **estimated** total costs both at the application and decision-making stage, and to the calculation of **real** total costs during the course of the project (payment procedure). The percentage is applied to all project costs, that is, to both direct and indirect costs, including overheads.

Read more under Full cost model and Full cost model: principles and definitions on our website.

Full costing was introduced on the proposal by the Finnish Ministry of Finance in 2009. Earlier, the Academy compensated overheads using the additional cost model. That model is still applied to the salary funding in research posts as Academy Research Fellow and Academy Professor. In applications following the additional cost model, the system will calculate (in addition to other costs) 14.29% as overheads costs, in which case the decision includes an overheads percentage of 12.5%.

Commitment by site of research

The Academy will fund a research project only if the application includes a commitment by the site of research. You must agree on this commitment **in advance** with a representative of the site of research. After the call has closed, we will request the commitment by the site of research from the person indicated in the application. Read more on our website under Commitment by site of research.

In calls where full costing is applied, you must – before submitting your application – determine from your own organisation **the funding contribution, the coefficients and the VAT practice of the site of research**, and agree on them with the commitment issuer. The coefficients will be valid during the entire funding period.

If there are no other funding sources, the site of research must cover **at least 30%** of the costs of a project under full costing. If there are other sources, their contributions must also pass through the books of the site of research.

The competent person of the site of research issues the commitment in the Academy's online services on behalf of the site. By issuing the commitment, the site of research undertakes to, for instance:

- secure the necessary basic facilities for the project, which are the same as those available to other research staff at the site: office and laboratory premises, equipment (incl. computer equipment), and telecommunications, telephone, mailing, copying and library services
- fund the project (in accordance with full costing) with the funding contribution presented in the funding plan.

In the case of applicants for funding for research posts as Academy Professor and Academy Research Fellow, the commitment by the site of research also applies to the use of the researcher's working hours for purposes other than research, and to salaries and other circumstances surrounding the researcher's work.

At the application stage, the site of research must check that the following information is entered correctly:

- the coefficients (overheads, indirect employee costs and effective working hours) of the site of research (regarding projects to which full costing is applied)
- the VAT practice
- the Business Identity Code.

A prerequisite for Academy funding is that both the applicant and the site of research commit to the guidelines issued by the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity on responsible conduct of research and procedures for handling allegations of misconduct in Finland.

If the funding is a discretionary government transfer awarded to organisations outside the central government (e.g. universities), the site of research also undertakes to act as the recipient of the transfer on behalf of the applicant and will accordingly be required to assume all related obligations.

1.3   HOW APPLICATIONS ARE SUBMITTED AND BECOME PENDING, PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC DESCRIPTION

How applications are submitted and become pending

Applications for the Academy of Finland's April 2015 call can be drafted and submitted in the online services as of Tuesday 7 April 2015. The non-negotiable deadline (which also applies to consortium subprojects) for applications is Wednesday 29 April 2015 at 16.15, unless the call text indicates otherwise. Please note that international calls may have other deadlines. To ensure smooth drafting and submission, please submit your application as early as possible.

You must submit your application in your own name and with your own user ID.

According to section 17 of the Finnish Administrative Procedure Act and section 8 of the Act on Electronic Services and Communication in the Public Sector, the sender is responsible for the application arriving by the set deadline.

An application becomes pending at the Academy when the online application and the obligatory appendices have been **submitted in the online system**. The system will indicate the successful submission by sending an email to the address provided by the applicant.

Please note that you cannot submit a full-costing-based application in which the Academy's contribution to funding is higher than the percentage indicated in the call text. Nor will the system accept applications that lack obligatory appendices.

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure not to exceed the maximum lengths indicated in the guidelines.

For guidelines on how to submit an application in the Academy's online services, see the How-to Guide. If you run into problems in the online services at the time of submission, please contact us before the deadline (the contact persons are named in the call text), either by phone or via Questions and feedback on our website.

Supplementing the application

You can make changes (e.g. change appendices) in an application you have submitted to the Academy, but you must make them **before the deadline expires**. To do this, log in to the online services, open the application, make the necessary changes and resubmit the revised application by the set deadline. The resubmitted application will replace the earlier version.

If you notice that your application lacks important information **after the deadline has expired**, immediately get in touch with the call's contact person, who can open the application for your supplementary additions. The additions will be taken into account insofar as it is possible in view of the review and decision-making process. An important addition is, for instance, an invitation by a foreign university.

Do not submit any new appendices via the so-called additional information feature; such appendices will not be saved as part of the application.

You must immediately notify us if you receive funding from other sources for the same purpose after your application to the Academy has been submitted.

Applications are public documents

Under the Finnish Act on the Openness of Government Activities, an application and its appendices are public information; research plans, plans of intent, abstracts and progress reports are not. For example, the CV is a public document and as such must not include any confidential information.

Public project description

The popular description of the project is an important part of the application. The description is a way for the Academy and researchers to disseminate information on

Academy-funded research to the research community, stakeholders and the public at large. The description should therefore be as readable as possible, written for a non-scientific audience. It must give the reader a brief summary of the key points of the research. Read more under Public description of project on our website.

If a project is granted funding, we will publish the description of the project on our website. The description is written by the applicant when drafting the application. **We cannot edit project descriptions – it is the applicants themselves who are responsible for the content, clarity and style of the descriptions.**

Finnish- or Swedish-speaking applicants write their descriptions in Finnish or Swedish. All applicants must also write a description in English to facilitate international peer review.

1.4   INFORMATION ON DECISIONS

The dates for Academy funding decisions are posted on our website under Funding decisions. You can also search our decisions for the funded projects, their public descriptions and the call-specific fact sheets.

Applicants will receive an automatic **email message** after the decision has been made. After receiving this message, you can **log in to the online services** with your user ID to view the decision. You can also read the conditions for the decision and read the expert reviews on your application, if such reviews have been drafted.

1.5   HOW TO RECEIVE THE FUNDING

After being granted funding, you must check and accept it in the online services without delay. The system will then send a notification to the commitment issuer at the site of research. That person must also accept the granted funding, after which the system will notify the funding to the finance administration of the site of research, whereupon the funds will be made available for use.

The funds can be paid only after both the applicant and the representative of the site of research have accepted them as received.

Funding open for application in April 2015

2 FUNDING FOR RESEARCH

2.1   ACADEMY PROGRAMME: DIGITAL HUMANITIES

Digital humanities is a concept used to refer to the application of novel technology in humanities and social sciences research. The Digital Humanities Academy Programme, a research programme funded by the Academy of Finland, is designed to address novel methods and techniques for the use of digital technology and state-of-the-art computational science in collecting, managing and analysing data in the humanities and social sciences.

Further development of research in these areas will require broad-based collaboration involving not only researchers in the field but also technology experts, cultural memory organisations and database administrators and developers. The premise of the Digital Humanities Academy Programme is firmly based on the needs of basic research. However, technological developments in this area also have great potential for practical applications that warrant research.

Funding will be granted to projects that address the programme's objectives:

- promoting collaboration between producers, processors and users of humanities and social sciences data
- improving research methods
- promoting the development of ethical analysis in the field
- advancing use and knowledge of data.

The programme also aims to advance multidisciplinary cooperation in digital humanities, and will therefore only fund multidisciplinary projects that seek new perspectives.

Top-level expertise in information technology, which supports the research directly, will be of key importance in the programme. The IT or data analytics components of the proposed research must be clearly indicated in the research plan.

The programme consists of three interconnected and nonexclusive thematic areas:

- research into digital interactions and services: linguistic, cultural and societal phenomena and their transformation
- employing open, multiform and/or real-time data in research: use of open data and open source systems in humanities and social sciences research; combination and novel applications of data (e.g. geographic information and register data)
- data-based analysis and modelling of phenomena and processes in the humanities and social sciences: historical trends, linguistic change, linguistic and cultural encounters; use of big data and open data to understand the individual and the society.

The contents and goals are described in more detail in the programme memorandum.

Who can apply?

Funding can be applied for by individual research teams and consortia composed of two or several teams. The Academy of Finland's funding amounts to a maximum of 500,000 euros per individual project. Consortia can apply for a maximum of 1.2 million euros, where each subproject can receive no more than 400,000 euros.

Funding period

The programme will provide research projects with funding for four years, starting on 1 January 2016. Additional calls may be opened at a later stage.

Programme memorandum

The programme memorandum contains more details on the programme's background, aims, thematic areas and review criteria. It is available on our website at www.aka.fi/digihum > EN. Carefully reading through the memorandum ensures that you are able to submit a competitive application.

How to apply

This is a single-stage call. The non-negotiable deadline for applications is 29 April 2015 at 16.15. Draft the application in the Academy's online services. Select *Open calls > **Digital Humanities 2015***.

Draft the application so that the Academy's contribution to funding comes to no more than 70% of the estimated total project costs. Read more on our website under Full cost model.

If the applicant is a consortium, see detailed guidelines on our website under Guidelines for consortium application. The consortium application will be processed only if the applications of all subprojects have been submitted by the deadline.

Appendices

The required appendices are listed in Appendix 1 A of the April 2015 call for applications.

Contacts

- Programme Manager Risto Vilkko (Academy Programme Unit), tel. +358 295 335 136
- Programme Manager Mikko Ylikangas (Academy Programme Unit), tel. +358 295 335 143
- www.aka.fi/digihum > EN

2.2   CALLS BY THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) was established at the Academy of Finland as part of the Finnish Government's comprehensive reform of research institutes and research funding in Finland.

The SRC provides funding to solution-oriented and phenomenon-based research. Each year, based on the SRC's proposal, the Finnish Government decides a number of themes, which the SRC then builds into research programmes. In order to receive funding, the research must be societally significant and scientifically high-quality.

Interaction with society will be of key importance during the course of the funded projects. In the research plan, applicants should describe the societal relevance and impact of the research as well as the interaction with society.

In December 2014, the Finnish Government adopted three main themes for 2015. In February 2015, the SRC announced that it had formulated three strategic research programmes around these themes. The Academy of Finland's April 2015 call includes the following three themes and programmes:

- Theme: Utilisation of disruptive technologies and changing institutions
  Programme: Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions

- Theme: A climate-neutral and resource-scarce society
  Programme: A Climate-Neutral and Resource-Scarce Finland

- Theme: Equality and its promotion
  Programme: Equality in Society

The plan is that the programmes will run for six years. The SRC has 55.6 million euros to distribute in 2015. As a rule, the funding will be evenly distributed between the three programmes. In 2015, funding will be granted for the first term. The funding for the second term is based on a midterm evaluation. The funding for the second term is dependent on the Finnish Parliament's decision on continued funding.

The SRC's programmes also aim at collaboration with other funding agencies.

2.2.1   SRC PROGRAMME: DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND CHANGING INSTITUTIONS

The Finnish Government adopted the strategic research theme "Utilisation of disruptive technologies and changing institutions" on 18 December 2014.

The research under the theme focuses on identifying and utilising disruptive technology and on what kinds of changes this will require in human activity, institutions and operational methods. The theme involves seeking solutions with which to tackle the identifiable obstacles to export of goods and services and to competence-based growth.

The focus areas are transition and risk management, resilience and sustainable growth. In these areas, key consideration should be given to the effects on industry, services, labour markets and working life, consumer habits, health behaviour, competence needs and education. In addition, the solutions and competence utilised in innovation activities form the basis for sustainable growth.

Based on this thematic framework, the Strategic Research Council adopted the SRC programme *Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions* on 9 February 2015.

Disruptive technologies deeply affect society and the economy. Examples of disruptive technology are digitalisation-related areas such as mobile and cloud technology, automatisation of knowledge work, Internet of Things, big data analytics, robotics, 3D printing, geographic information, nano- and biotechnology, advanced materials and new energy technology. Making the best possible use of disruptive technologies requires a change in operational methods and institutions. Disruptive technologies may initiate changes that improve productivity and competitiveness as well as boost economic growth. Institutional structures must adapt to meet and support the wave of disruptive technology.

Programmatic questions: Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions

In its research plan, the consortium must address questions A and B, and can choose to address either or both of questions C and D.

Under each question, we have listed a number of examples of possible perspectives on and approaches to the research.

A. In the case of a concrete disruptive technology, how is it manifested in Finland and what are its potential benefits?

> Possible premises: How will the disruptive technology improve productivity, create competence-based growth, and promote competitiveness and exports? How can disruptive technologies be harnessed to promote sustainable growth and a sustainable society? How will the disruptive technology influence the environment and society at large? Under which conditions can Finland best develop and utilise new technologies, and what are the main obstacles to those conditions?

B. In order to make the best possible use of that particular disruptive technology, what changes are required in human activity, institutions and operational methods?

> Possible premises: How can institutional structures, i.e. established norms (legislation, administrative decisions, and interpretations by individual officials) and social and cultural norms, hinder or help the comprehensive utilisation of the disruptive technology? How should institutions supporting the transition be developed, and what kinds of new institutions will perhaps be needed? How will the changes in human activity, institutions and operational methods affect the utilisation of other disruptive technologies? What obstacles related to manufacturing and the competence base will eventually lead to an adherence to old operational ways and inhibit the adoption of new solutions and practices? What obstacles are there to exports, innovative domestic markets and competence-based growth, and how should these obstacles be

addressed? What kinds of skills will Finland need to make the best possible use of disruptive technologies?

C. In what ways can the public sector best support a well-managed transition and thus create the best possible conditions for Finland to utilise disruptive technologies?

Such ways can include innovative experimentation, such as pilot projects, learning by experimentation and institutional change. How will disruptive technologies affect industry, services, labour markets and working life, consumer habits, health behaviour, competence needs and education? Are there any risks involved in this transition, and how can they be anticipated and managed? How will the costs resulting from the transition be distributed between different business companies and the public and private sectors? How can we ensure national-level value creation in global value networks? How do we promote innovation processes and opportunities for competence-based growth in Finland?

D. How can we ensure that businesses, employees, the public sector and consumers possess the resources and skills that promote an ability to adapt to the changes and risks brought about by disruptive technologies?

2.2.2 SRC PROGRAMME: A CLIMATE-NEUTRAL AND RESOURCE-SCARCE FINLAND

The Finnish Government adopted the strategic research theme "A climate-neutral and resource-scarce society" on 18 December 2014.

The research under the theme focuses on improving resource efficiency and on the circular economy. This involves efficient recycling of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources, making full use of material and energy flows, and moving towards a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society as a result of changes in consumption, lifestyles and human activity. The theme involves seeking solutions with which to address identifiable obstacles to exports and competence-based growth.

The focus areas are transition and risk management, resilience and sustainable growth. In these areas, key consideration should be given to a well-managed transition to a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society, and to responding to those obstacles that lead to an adherence to existing manufacturing methods and technologies and that inhibit the adoption of new solutions. In addition, the focus areas will involve analysing climate change and self-sufficiency in resources and energy especially from the perspective of safety and supply security. Solutions and skills that support climate neutrality and resource efficiency form the basis for sustainable growth.

Based on this thematic framework, the Strategic Research Council adopted the SRC programme *A Climate-Neutral and Resource-Scarce Finland* on 9 February 2015.

The sustainable use of natural resources and the mitigation of climate change require a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society. We must decrease our use of resources and improve efficiency in manufacturing, as we are moving towards increasingly sustainable consumer habits and lifestyles. A circular economy involves

efficient recycling of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources and making full use of material and energy flows. The circular economy also improves national-level self-sufficiency and is therefore essential in terms of safety and supply security. A sustainable bioeconomy, which uses renewable natural resources in the production of food, energy, products and services, is an essential part of a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society. The climate is changing and will continue to do so. This will require a particular focus on resilience and risk management

Programmatic questions: A Climate-Neutral and Resource-Scarce Finland

In its research plan, the consortium must address questions A and B, and can choose to address either or both of questions C and D.

Under each question, we have listed a number of examples of possible perspectives on and approaches to the research.

A. How can we improve resource efficiency and support the move towards a circular economy, which will serve to boost exports and competence-based growth in Finland?

Possible premises: What kinds of combinations of technology and business models can help in moving towards an economy where renewable and nonrenewable natural resources are recycled efficiently and where value is retained and cumulative? How can we make full use of material and energy flows by renewing existing systems and creating new operational models? What kinds of services and new applications for the general public, businesses and policy-makers will the circular economy require? What obstacles are there to exports, competence-based growth and innovative domestic markets, and how should these obstacles be addressed? How will disruptive technologies influence the environment, natural resources and carbon sinks, that is, enable a climate-neutral society?

B. What are the requirements for climate neutrality and resource efficiency in society?

Possible premises: What changes in consumption, lifestyles, education and other human activity are needed in order to transition to a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society? How can we further support these changes? Which institutional factors prevent us from moving towards a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society, and how should these obstacles be addressed? What obstacles related to manufacturing and the competence base, for instance, will lead to an adherence to existing manufacturing methods and technologies, and inhibit the adoption of new solutions? What kinds of skills are needed to support the implementation of climate neutrality and resource efficiency in society? What alternatives are there for energy production, and what are the risks in terms of, for instance, health, the climate, biodiversity and the economy?

C. In what ways can the public sector best support the overall transition so as to maintain a well-managed move towards a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society?

Such ways can include innovative experimentation, such as pilot projects, demos, learning by experimentation and institutional change. Are there any particular risks

involved in this transition, and how can they be anticipated and managed? How will the risks, investments, costs and benefits resulting from the transition be distributed between businesses, the public and private sectors and different countries? In the transition, how do we ensure self-sufficiency in resources and energy production, especially in terms of supply security and safety? What kinds of information structures and new information interfaces will the management, follow-up and evaluation of the transition processes require?

D. How can we ensure that businesses, employees, the public sector and consumers possess the resources and skills that best promote adaptation to climate change and the transition to a climate-neutral and resource-scarce society?

2.2.3　SRC PROGRAMME: EQUALITY IN SOCIETY

The Finnish Government adopted the strategic research theme "Equality and its promotion" on 18 December 2014.

The research under the theme focuses on providing solutions to better understand mechanisms of inequality, formulate answers and support policy-making. The research will improve knowledge of the equality impacts of basic public services (e.g. in terms of different age groups, cultural and religious divides, regional differences and inequality in working life).

The research must seek solutions to support the sustainable and equal renewal of basic public services and benefit schemes.

The focus areas are transition and risk management, resilience and sustainable growth.

In these areas, key consideration should be given to the most vulnerable population groups and new forms of inequality. In addition, of key importance are solutions and expertise to combat inequality, increase the use of human resources, increase citizen inclusion and trust, improve democracy and security, and ease tensions due to differences.

Solutions and expertise that promote economic and ecological sustainability as well as social sustainability for different population groups form the basis for sustainable growth.

Based on this thematic framework, the Strategic Research Council adopted the SRC programme *Equality in Society* on 9 February 2015.

Society is changing faster than ever, and this affects citizens' resources, functional capacity, self-perceived wellbeing, and health inequalities and disparities. To understand the mechanisms of inequality and support policy-making, society needs multidisciplinary research that simultaneously addresses different dimensions and sectors of wellbeing. In this programme, the focus is on how basic public services and benefit schemes can contribute to equality promotion.

Programmatic questions: Equality in Society

In its research plan, the consortium must address questions A and B, and can choose to address either or both of questions C and D.

Under each question, we have listed a number of examples of possible perspectives on and approaches to the research.

A. What are the mechanisms of inequality in Finland today?

   Possible premises: How do the mechanisms simultaneously function in different sectors (housing, education, health, income and employment) and different groups (e.g. age groups, cultural and religious divides, regional differences and inequality in working life) of wellbeing? How do we promote social cohesion and avoid polarisation between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots'? How can side effects of public measures further increase inequality in Finland? How does increasing inequality bring costs to society?

B. How can equality be promoted in connection with the renewal of basic public services and benefit schemes?

   Possible premises: How should the reduction of inequality be implemented, particularly accounting for the needs of different groups (e.g. age groups, cultural and socioeconomic differences, religious divides, regional differences and inequality in working life)? How do we renew our basic public services and benefit schemes in an economical and socially sustainable way? What are the means with which we can influence the mechanisms of inequality? What is the role of steering by information, and what is its efficiency in terms of impacts versus costs?

C. In what ways can the public sector best support innovative experimentation, learning by experimentation and institutional change so as to maintain a well-managed transition and successfully renew basic public services and benefit schemes?

   For example, how do we ensure that the most vulnerable population groups are a target for innovative experimentation and new solutions? In change management, how do we ensure that all groups are included and that all human resources are utilised? In these processes, how do we increase citizen inclusion and trust, improve democracy and security, and ease tensions due to societal differences and divides? How do we best take into account a user-centred approach in the renewal of basic public services?

D. How can we best ensure that individuals, groups and institutions possess the capabilities and resources that facilitate equal adaptation to the renewal of basic public services and benefit schemes?

   Possible premises: How do we see to that the most vulnerable population groups in particular have access to adaptation-enabling resources? How do we support the resources that promote active inclusion and lay the foundation for trust? How do we help public officials to implement changes in behaviour and consumption that promote health and wellbeing?

2.2.4 GUIDELINES FOR THE SRC'S CALLS

As a general rule, calls by the Strategic Research Council (SRC) are subject to the same principles as those governing the Academy's other calls. See Appendix 3 of the Academy's April 2015 call for applications for the special guidelines concerning the SRC's calls.

Who can apply?

Funding can be applied for by consortia only. The guidelines for these so-called SRC consortia are different from those for regular consortia. The application by the SRC consortium is submitted by the principal investigator of the consortium. The PI must be a researcher with a doctoral degree and at least at the docent level.

Criteria for SRC consortia:

- They must consist of at least three or more research teams.
- The teams must be from at least two different organisations (e.g. universities, research institutes or business companies).
- The researchers must represent at least three different scientific disciplines.

The applicant can only apply for funding for one SRC consortium. However, if the applicant (i.e. the consortium PI) does submit more than one application in the same call, we will only review the first application to arrive. Directors of the Academy of Finland's Centres of Excellence may apply for SRC funding, but not as consortium PIs.

Funding

According to current plans, the projects will run for six years. It is estimated that the funding will amount to 4–8 million euros per consortium. Each SRC programme will provide funding to 3–4 consortia.

The funding decisions will be made on 14 September 2015 (estimate). The funding period can start retroactively as of 1 May 2015. This means that the proposed costs in the funding plan of the application can start from 1 May 2015.

Applicants are expected to draft the research plan, the interaction plan and the funding plan to cover the entire six-year period. At first, the funding can be granted for the first term. The funding for the second term is based on a midterm evaluation.

The funding covers all costs, that is, the Academy's contribution comes to 100% of the estimated total project costs. The funding is granted under the full cost model, but host organisations need not contribute to the costs with their own funding.

The terms and conditions for SRC funding are in line with the Academy's general funding conditions, with a few exceptions and specifications (e.g. PI's salary, coordinator's salary and 100% funding percentage).

Review of applications

Applications for SRC funding will be reviewed in two stages. At the first stage, 'relevance panels' will review the projects for their societal relevance and impact. They will also consider how well the applications match the programme objectives. Based on the reviews from the first stage, the SRC will decide which applications will move on to the review of scientific quality. The scientific quality of the research plans will be reviewed by panels composed of international scientific experts. The projects to be funded will be selected by the SRC based the reviews of the relevance panels and the scientific panels.

All applications will be reviewed using the same criteria (societal relevance and impact, and scientific quality). For more information on the review process, please see Appendix 3 of the Academy of Finland's April 2015 call for applications.

Appendices

The consortium application and its appendices are submitted by the principal investigator of the consortium.

Obligatory appendices:

- research and interaction plan, no more than 19 pages
- CVs for the consortium PI and the team leaders (i.e. the leaders of the consortium's research teams that are applying for funding); if necessary, the CVs may be combined into a single file
- lists of publications by the consortium PI and the team leaders; in each list, clearly indicate the ten most important publications for the project; if necessary, the lists may be combined into a single file

Case-specific appendices:

- CVs for persons essential to the interaction, if these are not included in the above CVs
- letters of commitment from the most important organisations named in the research and interaction plan
- statement by an ethics committee (if relevant); the ethical aspects must always be specified in the research plan
- progress report (a single, combined report) on all Academy-funded research projects headed by the consortium PI and the team leaders that have not submitted final reports
- descriptions of collaboration with business and industry, if relevant (e.g. statement by a Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation)
- extract from the Register of Companies for any companies receiving research funding within the consortium
- invitation by foreign university or research institute, if the research will be conducted abroad

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the Academy's guidelines. See Appendix 3 of the April 2015 call for

applications for the specific guidelines on appendices to applications for SRC funding. The guidelines for other appendices are available on our website under Appendices required.

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 consortium PI's CV, which is appended under *Personal data/CV*.

How to apply

This is a single-stage call. The non-negotiable deadline for applications is 29 April 2015 at 16.15.

Draft the application in the Academy's online services. Select *Open calls > SRC 2015: Disruptive Technologies and Changing Institutions*, *Open calls > SRC 2015: A Climate-Neutral and Resource-Scarce Finland*, or *Open calls > SRC 2015: Equality in Society*. Make sure to select the correct call.

In the SRC's calls, the Academy's contribution to funding comes to 100% of the estimated total project costs.

For more information, please see Appendix 3 of the April 2015 call for applications or the Q&A page on our website.

Contacts

- Strategic Research Unit
- Senior Science Adviser Paavo-Petri Ahonen, tel. +358 295 335 005
- Senior Science Adviser Tiina Jokela, tel. +358 295 335 046
- Senior Science Adviser Tiina Petänen, tel. +358 295 335 091
- Science Adviser Laura Kitti, tel. +358 295 335 152
- Science Adviser Jussi Vauhkonen, tel. +358 295 335 153

2.3   TARGETED ACADEMY PROJECTS

A Targeted Academy Project is an Academy Project with a predetermined target for funding. The Academy Board or research councils may decide to direct funding to specific areas, considering objectives such as strengthening a particular discipline (e.g. as a result of a discipline or research field assessment), securing breakthrough research, promoting the internationalisation of research or supporting Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation.

The funding can be targeted at, for example, international calls for joint projects (based on international agreements), ERA-NET calls and any other research field, problem, method development or networking that is deemed important.

As a rule, the guidelines for Academy Projects also apply to Targeted Academy Projects. However, the call texts may include additional instructions. Participation in a targeted call does not mean that applicants cannot submit a simultaneous application

to another call, provided that the research plans are different. Applicants affiliated with a Centre of Excellence should check with the call's contact person if they are eligible to apply.

2.3.1 ICT 2023 PROGRAMME: THIRD AND FOURTH THEMATIC CALLS FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

The Academy of Finland and Tekes, the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation, are committed to implementing the research, development and innovation programme ICT 2023. According to the report of the ICT 2015 Working Group (*Paths to a Frictionless Finland*), the aim of the ICT 2023 programme is to improve Finland's scientific expertise in computer science and digital content development. The programme brings together universities, research institutes, business companies and funding bodies.

The Academy and Tekes have agreed to open parallel calls under the programme's themes. The first call was opened in 2013 and the second in 2014.

The theme of the third thematic call is **Methods and applications for management and analysis of big data and open data**.

The theme of the fourth thematic call is **Advanced microsystems: from smart components to cyber-physical systems**.

The content and aims of these thematic calls are described in more detail in the memorandums that will be posted on our website before the call opens. Tekes will launch a parallel call for business companies under the same themes and with the same deadline. More information on that call is available on Tekes' website.

Besides scientific quality, the review of applications will pay special attention to:

- international cooperation
- business collaboration
- cross-sectoral mobility by leading-edge researchers
- use of universities' and research institutes' own resources to carry out research.

Who can apply?

Academy funding can be applied for by individual research projects and consortia composed of two or several research teams. Applicants can only submit one application to the ICT 2023 calls in the Academy's April 2015 call.

Funding period

The funding is granted for two years. As a rule, the funding period will start on 1 January 2016. The Academy's funding for the third and fourth thematic calls within the ICT 2023 programme is a total of €10 million.

Memorandums

The memorandums of the thematic calls contain more detailed information on the calls' backgrounds, aims, thematic areas and evaluation criteria. The memorandums will be available on our website (www.aka.fi/ict2023 > EN) by the launch of the call at the latest. Carefully reading through the memorandum ensures that you are able to submit a competitive application.

Appendices

The required appendices are listed in Appendix 1 B of the April 2015 call for applications. In addition, applicants must append to their application a collaboration plan if the project involves collaboration with companies. See the memorandum for guidelines on how to draft the collaboration plan.

How to apply

The calls have two stages. The non-negotiable deadline for letters of intent is 29 April 2015 at 16.15. Draft the application in the Academy's online services. Select *Open calls > **ICT 2023: big data and open data 2015, letters of intent**, or *Open calls > **ICT 2023: Advanced microsystems 2015, letters of intent**. Make sure to select the correct call.

Draft the application so that the Academy's contribution to funding comes to no more than 70% of the estimated total project costs. Read more on our website under Full cost model.

Based on the plans of intent, the Academy will decide which projects will proceed to the second stage. Those selected to the second stage will be asked to submit full applications in the Academy's online services by 17 September 2015 at 16.15. The deadline is non-negotiable. Applicants may be invited for interviews during the review process.

If the applicant is a consortium, see detailed guidelines on our website under Guidelines for consortium application. However, please note the nonstandard procedure. In ICT 2023 calls, also consortium subprojects submit letters of intent, not only the consortium PI. The applications of all subprojects must be submitted by the deadline. The consortium application will be processed only if the applications of all subprojects have been submitted by the deadline. The composition of the consortium cannot be changed after the deadline for letters of intent. If the consortium includes business companies, see the specific guidelines in the call memorandum.

Contacts

- Senior Science Adviser Juha Latikka (Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 058
- www.aka.fi/ict2023 > EN

2.3.2   ERA-NET HERA: USES OF THE PAST

The ERA-NET network HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) has opened a call within its Joint Research Programme "Uses of the Past". The call is a joint transnational call between the EU and research funding organisations from 22 participating countries. The Academy of Finland is prepared to contribute to the programme's funding. Applications for funding from the programme must include parties from at least four countries participating in the programme.

Aims and themes

The Uses of the Past programme recognises that in order to understand the pressing societal questions of identity, integration, political legitimacy, creativity and cultural dynamics across Europe we need new, more complex understanding of how individuals and societies use and reflect upon the past, taking into account how cultural ideas, traditions and practices are constructed, transferred and disseminated among different agents and regions. An awareness of the past and its profound effects on present-day decision-making and cultural practice can assist in building effective policies to encourage societal resilience, creative thinking, responsible citizenship and intelligent responsiveness to new challenges.

The programme invites applications that make use of approaches and methods from several fields of the humanities. Applicants are also encouraged to utilise approaches from other disciplines, if relevant in terms of the research topic.

More information on the call's aims and themes is available on the programme's website.

How to apply

Please note that **the call has already been opened. The deadline is 9 April 2015** (confirm the exact date and time on the call website).

The call has two stages. At the first stage, applicants submit outline proposals. Successful applicants will be invited to submit full proposals. Finnish applicants draft their applications following the Academy of Finland's guidelines.

Applications are submitted to the handling agency (NOW, Netherlands) electronically via the HERA website. The application guidelines and forms are available on the HERA website at www.heranet.info.

Contacts

- Science Adviser Otto Auranen (Culture and Society Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 141

3   FUNDING FOR RESEARCHERS

3.1 FUNDING TO NSF GRADUATE FELLOWS FOR RESEARCH IN FINLAND

Aim

The US National Science Foundation (NSF) awards Graduate Research Fellow (GRF) grants to talented US researchers working on their doctoral thesis for research spells in Finland or some other country included in the Graduate Research Opportunities Worldwide (GROW) programme. The NSF and the Academy of Finland have agreed that Graduate Research Fellows can come to work on a research team of an Academy Centre of Excellence, an Academy Professor or an Academy Research Fellow. Funding can be applied for from the Academy for grants to be paid to Graduate Research Fellows coming to Finland.

Who can apply?

The funding is applied for by the Academy Professor, the Academy Research Fellow or the Centre of Excellence receiving the Graduate Research Fellow.

Funding

The funding comes to a maximum of €1,700 a month. The site of research will allocate the funding as a grant to cover the Graduate Research Fellow's accommodation and other living costs in Finland.

The funding period will start between 1 June and 1 December 2015. The grant can be awarded for a maximum of twelve months over a two-year period. The decisions will be made in May 2015.

Appendices

- invitation by the host to the Graduate Research Fellow
- curriculum vitae for the Graduate Research Fellow
- GRF research plan jointly drafted by the Graduate Research Fellow and the Finnish host

How to apply

The funding does not include any overheads. The non-negotiable deadline for applications is 29 April 2015 at 16.15. Draft the application in the Academy's online services. Select *Open calls* > ***NSF Graduate Research Fellows***.

Contacts

- Coordinator Kristiina Helansuo (Culture and Society Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 022
- Senior Science Adviser Tiina Jokela (Academy Programme Unit), tel. +358 295 335 046

4 FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ENVIRONMENTS

FIRI 2015 CALL FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

Aim

The Academy of Finland provides funding for the acquisition, establishment or strengthening of nationally significant research infrastructures that promote scientific research. Research infrastructures form a reserve of research facilities, equipment, materials and services. As such, they enable research and development at various stages of innovation, while supporting organised research, researcher training and teaching. They also support and develop research and innovation capacity. Research infrastructures may be single-sited, distributed or virtual.

The aim of the Academy's research infrastructure call is to upgrade the quality and improve the renewal, competitiveness and interdisciplinary approach of Finnish research. Another aim is to increase the appeal of Finnish research environments and boost the national and international collaboration of Finnish universities, research teams and researchers. The aim is also to support researcher training and the creation and application of scientific knowledge and intellectual capital. Funding needs arising from memberships in national and international research infrastructures (e.g. membership fees) will also be taken into account in the call.

The Academy of Finland's Finnish Research Infrastructure Committee (FIRI Committee) and its tasks are regulated by the Finnish Act on the Academy of Finland. The FIRI Committee started operations in 2014, replacing the previous expert group and subcommittee for research infrastructures. The FIRI Committee makes the funding decisions on FIRI calls.

In April 2015, the Academy will open three FIRI calls targeted at different research infrastructure groups:

1 **Call for invited applicants: research infrastructures where Finland is a member state**
2 **Call for research infrastructures included in Finland's research infrastructure roadmap**
3 **Call for new research infrastructure initiatives and/or non-roadmap infrastructures**

Each of these calls has specific guidelines concerning eligibility, funding and funding period. See pages 32–33 of the Academy of Finland's April 2015 call for applications for the guidelines on reviewing, appendices and submission.

FIRI 2015 funding

The applicant is a university or some other research organisation. Joint projects of several organisations must have one responsible party; the mutual responsibilities of the parties are presented in the joint project plan in connection with the application.

In this call, the Academy is prepared to fund research infrastructures with a maximum of €23 million in total.

The funding is primarily allocated to investment costs (acquisition of equipment and systems and creation of services) at the construction phase and to significant upgrading of existing infrastructures. Permanent operating expenses should mainly be covered by funding from the host organisations. Funding for salary costs is granted only in special cases, however, taking into account research-field-specific differences. The costs must be justified in the application. The Academy does not fund operating costs of research infrastructures.

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.

Any infrastructure acquired with Academy funding will remain in the ownership and possession of the site of research. The parties can, however, mutually agree in writing on other arrangements. The Academy must be notified of the agreement at the application stage.

The Academy's funding contribution comes to no more than 70% of the total costs of the acquisition, establishment or strengthening of an infrastructure. No advances are paid from infrastructure funding.

If applicants have ongoing Academy funding for research infrastructures, they can be granted funding for the same infrastructure only for very special reasons.

4.1   CALL FOR INVITED APPLICANTS: RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES WHERE FINLAND IS A MEMBER STATE

ESFRI (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) is a strategic forum established by the European Commission's and EU Member States with a view to improving cross-border research integration and competitiveness in Europe. Large-scale, multinational research infrastructures are complex structures and their administration is challenging. To harmonise judicial practices, ESFRI has established various legal frameworks for research infrastructures, such as ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium).

Research infrastructure membership agreements entail economic obligations for each member country. The adoption of treaties and committing to them for five years, as a rule, requires careful consideration from the participating countries.

The Academy of Finland's funding call for research infrastructures where Finland is a member state provides funding to cover the coordination costs relating to membership obligations.

Who can apply?

This call is for invited applicants only. Applications may be submitted by host organisations for the Finnish coordination of ESFRI research infrastructures. The Academy will notify eligible organisations by the end of March 2015.

Funding

This is a targeted call to fund coordination activities in ESFRI research infrastructures.

The funding period will start on 1 January 2016 at the earliest. It runs until the end of the first five-year term of the membership agreement of each research infrastructure.

4.2 CALL FOR RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES INCLUDED IN FINLAND'S RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ROADMAP

Finland's roadmap for national research infrastructures is a plan for key research infrastructures in Finland, which are either under development or will be newly required over the next 10–15 years. The plan also concerns a major upgrade of existing research infrastructures. The 2014–2020 roadmap contains 31 national research infrastructures. There are a set of key criteria for inclusion in the roadmap: the importance to the Finnish scientific community and to the research strategies of host organisations, the scope of the user community, the need for funding, and the long-term commitment by funding bodies. When making funding decisions related to roadmap research infrastructures, the Academy of Finland takes into account the development needs of the infrastructures.

Who can apply?

Applications may be submitted by those host organisations of international research infrastructures that are mentioned in Table 3 (p. 14) and Table 5 (p. 18) of Finland's roadmap for national research infrastructures.

Funding

In this call, the Academy is prepared to fund research infrastructure projects with a total of some €10 million over five years. An individual funding decision is at least €400,000.

The funding can be granted for the activities mentioned in the section FIRI 2015 funding on pages 29–30 of the Academy's April 2015 call for applications.

The funding period will start on 1 January 2016 at the earliest and end on 31 December 2020 at the latest.

4.3 CALL FOR NEW RESEARCH INFRASTRUCUTRE INITIATIVES AND/OR NON-ROADMAP INFRASTRUCTURES

A high-quality, state-of-the-art research infrastructure is an absolute requirement for cutting-edge research. The systematic development of research infrastructures and the launching of new initiatives are of crucial importance to the advancement of science in all disciplines.

Who can apply?

Applications can be submitted by host organisations of research infrastructures.

Funding

This is a targeted call to fund new initiatives and non-roadmap infrastructures with a total of some €3 million over three years. The funding covers, for instance, planning of new infrastructures or improving existing, large-scale national infrastructures.

The funding period will start on 1 January 2016 at the earliest and end on 31 December 2018 at the latest.

4.4 FIRI 2015: REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Review of applications

In deciding on research infrastructure funding, the Academy will (in addition to the general funding criteria) take into account the following:

- national and international scientific significance and added value of the research infrastructure
- the project's links to the research strategy of the host organisation/s and the commitment by the organisation/s to the project
- links to projects that have been presented in Finland's strategy and roadmap 2014–2020 or ESFRI's roadmap for research infrastructures (2010)
- openness in the use of the infrastructure.

Attention will also be paid to:

- systematic and broad utilisation of the infrastructure
- quality and scope of potential user community
- technological and other advancement of the infrastructure
- economic capacity and stability of the infrastructure during its lifespan.

In the call for invited applicants (research infrastructures where Finland is a member state), focus will also be on:

- significance of the membership to Finnish science
- significance of the membership to the internationalisation of Finnish science.

Appendices

Obligatory appendices:

- project plan, no more than 15 pages; in the calls for roadmap infrastructures and new initiatives, the project plan must also include a plan for the acquisition of equipment
- curriculum vitae for the PI (coordinator) of the project
- list of publications by the PI (coordinator) of the project
- prioritisation list: in the calls for roadmap infrastructures and new initiatives, the university or research institute must prioritise its infrastructures in order of preference (prioritisation is not required in the call for invited applicants)

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 project plan
- statement by a Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation (if relevant), confirming the application's affiliation with the centre and justifying the project's significance to the centre's operations

How to apply

The non-negotiable deadline for applications is 29 April 2015 at 16.15. The deadline also applies to consortium subprojects. Draft the application in the Academy's online services. Select *Open calls* > **FIRI 2015: State membership infrastructures**, *Open calls* > **FIRI 2015: Finland's roadmap infrastructures**, or *Open calls* > **FIRI 2015: New initiatives, non-roadmap infrastructures**. Make sure to select the correct call.

Draft the application so that the Academy's contribution to funding comes to no more than 70% of the estimated total project costs. Read more on our website under Full cost model.

If the applicant is a consortium, see detailed guidelines on our website under Guidelines for consortium application. The consortium application will be processed only if the applications of all subprojects have been submitted by the deadline. The composition of a consortium cannot be changed after the deadline.

Contacts

- Senior Science Adviser Merja Särkioja (Planning and Management Support Unit), tel. +358 295 335 111
- www.aka.fi/firi

5   ADVANCE INFORMATION ON CALLS

The Academy of Finland will participate in three international funding calls to be opened in spring 2015. See below for more details.

The Academy's next main application round is in September 2015. The call for applications (in Finnish, Swedish and English) will be posted on our website in July. Applications can be submitted in the online services between 1 and 30 September 2015 (TBC).

Please note that calls within research programmes and international calls may open earlier. Applications may also be invited for other funding than indicated below.

The information below is preliminary. For open calls, see Apply now on our website (information on international calls is also available on the calls' own websites).

CALL BY THE ACADEMY OF FINLAND (SPRING 2015)

Call for joint projects: New Learning Environments and Technologies (Academy of Finland and CONICYT, Chile)

The Academy of Finland and the Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICYT) are preparing a joint call under the theme New Learning Environments and Technologies. The call is connected to the Academy Programme *The Future of Learning, Knowledge and Skills* (TULOS). The Academy is prepared to fund 3–4 three-year joint projects with a maximum of €1 million in total. The Finnish and the Chilean research teams are expected to submit a joint research plan.

The call will open **in April–May 2015** (TBC). The exact thematic framework of the call will be announced when the call launches.

Contacts

- Programme Manager Risto Vilkko (Academy Programme Unit), tel. +358 295 335 136
- Science Adviser Satu Huuha-Cissokho (Culture and Society Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 075

INTERNATIONAL CALLS WITH THE ACADEMY AS FUNDING PARTNER (SPRING 2015)

Joint Programming Initiative: More Years Better Lives – The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change

The Academy of Finland will participate in the first call of the Joint Programming Initiative More Years, Better Lives (JPI MYBL). The theme of the call is Extended Working Life. Only transnational projects will be funded. Each application must involve a minimum of three eligible applicants from at least three countries participating in the call. Funding will be available for three years. The Academy is prepared to provide funding to successful Finnish applicants.

The call theme, application guidelines and forms will be posted on the JPI MYBL website on 10 March 2015. The Academy organised a briefing on the call on 16 March.

The call will open in **April–May 2015**. Applications are submitted at www.jp-demographic.eu. Applicants should contact the Academy when drafting the application.

Contacts

- Science Adviser Tiina Forsman (Culture and Society Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 013
- Senior Science Adviser Sirpa Nuotio (Health Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 082

Nordic NOS-HS Exploratory Workshops in the humanities and social sciences

The Joint Committee for the Nordic Research Councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS) funds exploratory in the humanities and social sciences. Funding is available for international, high-level workshop series consisting of two to three workshops held in the Nordic countries in 2016–2017. The funding amounts to a maximum of €50,000 per workshop series.

The application must be submitted doctoral-level researchers representing at least three different Nordic countries. The workshops must be targeted at a wide range of Nordic researchers at different research career stages. Funding cannot be applied for already established or ongoing activities. More information is available in the call text to be published when the call opens.

The call will be open **between 17 March and 21 April 2015** (TBC). Applications are submitted according to NOS-HS' guidelines through the Swedish Research Council's grant application and management system Prisma. Applicants must create an account in Prisma as early as possible, because the processing time for approving new administrating organisations is approximately two weeks. For more information, please see www.nos-hs.org and the Academy of Finland website.

Contacts

- NOS-HS Secretary Anni Järvelin, Swedish Research Council, anni.jarvelin(at)vr.se, tel. +46 8 546 44 013
- Senior Science Adviser Päivi Messo (Culture and Society Research Unit), tel. +358 295 335 074

OTHER EUROPEAN CALLS

ERC funding for researchers

The European Research Council (ERC) will launch the following calls in 2015:

- ERC Starting Grants (deadline Feb 2015)

- ERC Consolidator Grants (deadline 12 Mar 2015)
- ERC Advanced Grants (deadline 2 Jun 2015).

ERC invites applications from all fields of research. See more details on the ERC website.

Contacts

- Science Adviser Maiju Gyran, Academy of Finland, tel. +358 295 335 015
- Science Adviser Hannele Lahtinen, Academy of Finland, tel. +358 295 335 055

Marie Skłodowska-Curie mobility funding

Within the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, researcher mobility is funded through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA). Funding is available for:

- *research projects involving mainly two-year mobility* to any country for a researcher with a doctoral or Master's degree with at least four years' full-time research experience (Individual Fellowships)
- *short-term international and inter-sectoral mobility* of research and innovation staff (Research and Innovation Staff Exchange)
- *networks* of universities, businesses and research institutes that implement international and innovative training programmes (Innovative Training Networks)
- *extra financial support to research funding programmes for doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers* (Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes).

Contacts

- MSCA national contact point, Science Adviser Satu Huuha-Cissokho, Academy of Finland, tel. +358 295 335 075
- MSCA website

OTHER HORIZON 2020 CALLS

More information on Horizon 2020 calls is available from, for instance:

- the Participant Portal
- Tekes' Horizon 2020 website
- national contact points.

ACADEMY CALLS IN SEPTEMBER 2015

The Academy of Finland's September 2015 call for applications will be published in July 2015 (TBC). The call will be open between 1 and 30 September 2015. The call will include at least the following funding opportunities:

- Academy Project funding
- Funding for development research

- Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FiDiPro)
- Academy Professors
- Academy Research Fellows
- Postdoctoral Researchers
- Funding for clinical researchers
- Researcher mobility grants (agreement-based):
    - Mobility from Finland (China, Germany, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, Taiwan)
    - Mobility to Finland (India, Russia, Taiwan)

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 A: APPENDICES TO APPLICATION

The appendices listed below are required when an application concerns the following funding opportunities:

- Academy Project funding
- Targeted Academy Project funding
- Academy Research Fellows or Postdoctoral Researchers
- Funding for clinical researchers
- research programmes (second application stage)
- Academy Professors (second application stage).

In Targeted Academy Project funding, other appendices may also be requested. These guidelines do not apply to calls by the Strategic Research Council.

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the Academy's guidelines, see Appendices required 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*.

1   Research post, individual project or project collaboration applications

Obligatory appendices:

- research plan, no more than twelve pages
- CV for the applicant
- list of publications by the applicant; clearly indicate the ten most important publications for the research plan
- Finnish degree certificate or English-language degree certificate of a doctoral degree obtained abroad (only in the applications for research posts as Academy Research Fellow and Postdoctoral Researcher)

Case-specific appendices:

- invitation by foreign university or research institute, if the research or part of it will be conducted abroad
- statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation (if relevant); the ethical aspects must always be specified in the research plan
- statement by a Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation, confirming the application's affiliation with the centre and justifying the project's significance to the centre's operations
- progress report on all Academy-funded research projects headed by the applicant that have not submitted final reports

2   Consortium applications

Consortium applications can be considered only in funding calls for Academy Projects, Targeted Academy Projects and research programmes. For detailed guidelines, see Guidelines for consortium application on our website. The appendices, drafted in line with the guidelines, are appended only to the consortium PI's application.

2.1 Application by consortium PI

The principal investigators of consortia apply for funding only for their own research team. The PIs append their curriculum vitae under *Personal data/CV*.

Obligatory appendices:

- research plan drafted in line with consortium guidelines, no more than 15 pages
- curricula vitae for PIs of consortium subprojects
- list of publications by consortium PI and subproject PIs; in all lists, clearly indicate the ten most important publications (by each PI) for the project

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 research projects headed by the consortium PI and the subproject PIs that have not submitted final reports
- invitation by foreign university or research institute, if the research or part of it will be conducted abroad; if needed, several invitations combined into a single file
- statement by a Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation, confirming the application's affiliation with the centre and justifying the project's significance to the centre's operations

2.2 Application by subproject PI

The principal investigators of consortium subprojects apply for funding only for their own research team. No appendices are appended to the application of the subproject; the consortium PIs append them to their own application. However, the online application is completed in full.

APPENDIX 1 B: APPENDICES TO LETTER OF INTENT

The appendices listed below are required when an application is submitted for the first stage of two-stage calls:

- Academy Professors (first application stage)
- research programmes (first application stage)

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the Academy's guidelines, see Appendices required 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*.

1 Letter of intent by Academy Professor applicant or by principal investigator of individual project in a research programme

- plan of intent, no more than four pages
- curriculum vitae for PI
- list of publications by PI; clearly indicate the ten most important publications for the research plan

2 Letter of intent by research programme consortium

For more on how to draft a consortium application, see Guidelines for consortium application on our website. The letters of intent are submitted only by the consortium PIs, who append their curriculum vitae under *Personal data/CV*.

- plan of intent for the consortium, no more than six pages
- curricula vitae for subproject PIs
- lists of publications by consortium PI and subproject PIs; in all lists, clearly indicate the ten most important publications (by each PI) for the research plan

APPENDIX 1 C: APPENDICES IN INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR JOINT PROJECTS

When an application is submitted within an international call for joint projects, it must include the appendices listed below. These guidelines do not apply to calls by the Strategic Research Council.

Append only the requested appendices to the application and make sure to draft them in line with the Academy's guidelines, see Appendices required 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 Finnish PI's curriculum vitae, which is appended under *Personal data/CV*.

In some international calls, we may also request other appendices, or the content of the requested appendices may differ from that indicated in the guidelines below. Any exceptions are mentioned in the call text under *Appendices*.

1   Application by a foreign research team and a Finnish research team

Obligatory appendices:

* research plan, no more than 15 pages, including:
  - a clear description of the proposed research and research collaboration (distribution of work and methods of implementation) and the added value to be expected from the collaboration
  - a joint budget, including separate budgets for both parties
  - a justification for the funding applied for
  - a description of any researcher training to be carried out within the project
  - a mobility plan detailing the project's national and international mobility plans during the funding period; describing the involvement of foreign researchers in the project; and explaining other ways in which the project transcends international, national, institutional and public/private sector boundaries
* curricula vitae for the Finnish applicant and the foreign partner; the CV for the Finnish applicant is appended under *Personal data/CV*
* lists of publications by the Finnish applicant and the foreign partner; in both lists, clearly indicate the ten most important publications for the research plan

Case-specific appendices:

* invitation by foreign university or research institute, if the research or part of it will be conducted abroad
* statement by an ethics committee or the Committee on Animal Experimentation (if relevant); the ethical aspects must always be specified in the research plan
* statement by a Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation, confirming the application's affiliation with the centre and justifying the project's significance to the centre's operations
* progress report on all Academy-funded projects headed by the applicant that have not submitted final reports
* any other appendices indicated in the call text under *Appendices*

2   Application by a foreign research team AND a consortium of two or several Finnish research teams

In international joint project calls, applicants can consider submitting a consortium application only if their research team working in Finland, **in addition to** a foreign partner, has close collaboration with at least one other team working in Finland.

For detailed guidelines on how to draft consortium applications, see Guidelines for consortium application on our website. The appendices, drafted in line with the guidelines, are appended only to the consortium PI's application.

In addition, the following guidelines are applied to **consortium applications in international calls**:

Consortium PIs also append to their application **the curriculum vitae for and the list of publications by the foreign applicant**. The foreign applicant must clearly indicate the ten most important publications for the research plan.

The research plan must include **both a joint cost estimate for the project and separate cost estimates for all parties**.

APPENDIX 2:   CALCULATION OF SUPPORT TO INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHER MOBILITY 2014–2015

The Academy of Finland supports the international mobility of researchers:

- in research projects
  - as **a mobility allowance** for mobility from Finland as part of a project's research costs (see Appendix 2 A of the April 2015 call for applications)
  - as **grants** to non-EU researchers coming to Finland to work for periods shorter than a year (see Appendix 2 B of the April 2015 call for applications)
- with our funding opportunity International researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements as research grants or personal grants (see Appendix 2 B and Appendix 2 C of the April 2015 call for applications).

APPENDIX 2 A: CALCULATION OF MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

The amount of the mobility allowance, applied for as a research cost, *depends neither on the target country nor on the duration of the stay*. It is a taxable benefit and indirect employee costs will be deducted from it:
a researcher with dependants: €1,500/month
a researcher without dependants: €1,050/month

Mobility allowance is applied for **as a research cost for implementing the research plan** and as part of the original application of the project (e.g. Academy Projects, research programmes, research posts). The recommended amount should be enough to cover the costs of higher living expenses from living abroad.

The mobility allowance is applied for in the Academy's online services under *Other costs*. Travel costs for travel abroad are entered under *Travel costs*. If researchers and their families stay abroad for at least six months, funding can also be applied for to cover family travel costs.

The amounts, applicable as of September 2014, are recommended by the Academy and form the basis of the funding decision.

APPENDIX 2 B: CALCULATION OF GRANTS TO FOREIGN RESEARCHERS WORKING IN FINLAND

This table is used both for applications for funding of research costs of projects and researchers and in the funding opportunity *International researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements (Mobility to Finland)*.

Short-term visits:
Grants with compensation for accommodation €80–185/day (incl. personal grant €39 and maximum compensation for accommodation €147)

Visits longer than one month, including compensation for accommodation:	
Master's degree or equivalent	€1,600–1,800/month
PhD or equivalent	€1,800–2,500/month
Professor	€2,500–4,100/month

A particularly outstanding visiting professor may be awarded a larger grant than indicated above.

The following guidelines apply to funding **in research projects**:

- Grants can be awarded to non-EU researchers for a maximum of one year's research spell in Finland. Grants are not paid to EU citizens. While working in Finland, they must have an employment relationship.
- Grants are applied for in the Academy's online services under *Other costs*. Travel costs are entered under *Travel costs*.

The following guidelines apply to funding for **mobility to Finland**:

- Grants can be awarded to non-EU researchers for a maximum of one year's research spell in Finland.
- Travel costs are entered under *Travel costs*.

The grants awarded take into account the grantee's obligation to take out pension, accident and life insurance. For more information, see Grant and scholarship recipients on the Farmers' Social Insurance Institution's website.

We recommend that the grantee and the site of research consult the tax administration concerning any tax consequences possibly arising from the payment of the grant.

APPENDIX 2 C: CALCULATION OF GRANTS FOR RESEARCHER MOBILITY (FROM FINLAND) BASED ON INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The funding opportunity *International researcher mobility based on bilateral agreements* is open for application only in September. These personal grants are based on the international agreements signed by the Academy of Finland. **The special conditions and additional information concerning this funding opportunity are listed in the September call for applications.**

Country or region	Researchers without any grant or salary, €/month	Researchers with grant or partial salary, €/month	Researchers with full salary, €/month
China	2,300	1,600–2,000	1,000–1,400
Germany	2,000	1,200–1,700	1,000–1,200
India	2,000	1,200–1,700	1,000–1,200
Italy	2,300	1,600–2,000	1,000–1,400
Japan	2,800	1,900–2,500	1,300–1,700
Russia (Moscow)	2,800	1,900–2,500	1,300–1,700
Russia (other)	2,000	1,200–1,700	1,000–1,200
South Africa	2,000	1,200–1,700	1,000–1,200
Taiwan	2,000	1,200–1,700	1,000–1,200
USA	2,300	1,600–2,000	1,000–1,400
Other	1,000–2,300	500–1,700	300–1,000

In determining the grant amount, the sum may be increased by:

- 15% if the researcher holds a doctorate and receives no other salary or fee
- 20% if the researcher has minor dependants
- a maximum of 20% if the local cost of living is exceptionally high and the researcher receives no other salary or fee.

Exceptional fluctuations in currency exchange rates can be taken into account in determining the grant amount.

Grants for Mobility from Finland are intended to cover accommodation and living costs in the target country. Funding can also be applied for to cover travel costs (entered under *Travel costs*). If researchers and their families stay abroad for at least six months, funding can also be applied for to cover family travel costs.

This funding does not come under the full cost model. Depending on the agreement, it is paid either as a grant directly to the researcher's own bank account, or as a research grant via the financial administration of the site of research.

The grants take into account the grantee's obligation to take out pension, accident and life insurance. Read more under Grant and scholarship recipients on the Farmers' Social Insurance Institution's website. For more information on grant taxation, see the Finnish Tax Administration's website (in Finnish) and their Memorandum of 27Jan 2010, New Universities Act and international situations (in Finnish).

APPENDIX 3: GUIDELINES FOR CALLS BY THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

The terms and conditions for funding by the Strategic Research Council (SRC) are in line with the Academy of Finland's general funding conditions, with a few exceptions and specifications. This appendix details the special guidelines applicable in the SRC's calls in April 2015. These guidelines supplement section 2.2 of the April 2015 call for applications.

See the Academy website for a list of frequently asked questions about the SRC call.

Contents

Appendix 3 A: SRC consortia as applicants
Appendix 3 B: What does the funding cover?

The following appendices to applications for SRC funding differ from the appendices to applications for Academy funding:

Appendix 3 C: Research and interaction plan guidelines
Appendix 3 D: Curriculum vitae guidelines

Appendix 3 E: Review process and questions for SRC applications

APPENDIX 3 A: SRC CONSORTIA AS APPLICANTS

The SRC's calls are not open to applications from individual projects. Only consortia (so-called SRC consortia) are eligible.

- The consortia must consist of three or more research teams.
- The teams must be from at least two different organisations (e.g. universities, research institutes or business companies).
- The researchers must represent at least three different scientific disciplines.

Applications by SRC consortia differ from normal consortium applications submitted to the Academy of Finland in that they are submitted only by the consortium PI. An SRC consortium has one joint research and interaction plan and a funding plan (i.e. budget).

The information on the team leaders of the SRC consortium is listed under *Research teams* on the application. The deputy PI for the consortium must be named at the application stage. The consortium PI must be a researcher with a doctoral degree and at least at the docent level.

The applicant can only apply for funding for one SRC consortium. However, if the applicant (the consortium PI) does submit more than one application in the same call, we will only review the first application to arrive. Researchers can participate in more than one consortium.

As a rule, the projects to be funded must benefit Finnish research and society or international collaboration. This rule also applies when there is a foreign organisation involved in the consortium. Business companies, too, can apply for SRC funding. The general conditions of the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers apply to

all parties of an SRC consortium, and companies also come under the EU's state aid rules.

As an exception to the Academy's rule, the funding for SRC consortia is granted in full to the organisation of the consortium PI. All monetary transactions will thus be channelled via the PI's organisation to the organisations of the team leaders. The PI of the SRC consortium and the organisation are also fully responsible for reporting on the research and for the use of funding.

The consortium PI's organisation defines the overheads coefficient and the percentage for indirect employee costs to be entered in the application. All organisations included in the application must agree in advance on the coefficient and the percentage and on how they will be used to distribute the funding between the organisations.

APPENDIX 3 B: WHAT DOES THE FUNDING COVER?

The SRC's funding covers costs in full and is granted under the full cost model. Participating organisations need not contribute to the costs with their own funding.

You can apply for SRC funding to cover, for example, the following direct research costs:

- the research team's work (salaries)
- the consortium PI's salary
- salary costs for coordination, either as coordinator salary **or** as part of the PI's salary
- other coordination costs
- research costs
- travel
- national and international collaboration and mobility essential to the project
- preparation of international projects
- publishing (e.g. open access publishing using the golden route)
- auditing.

The funding can also cover VAT costs, but only on certain conditions; read more on our website under Value added tax.

The Academy funds research infrastructures with a dedicated funding opportunity (FIRI funding, see chapter 4 of the April 2015 call for applications). The Academy will not grant overlapping funding to research infrastructures.

Staff to be hired with Academy research funding must have an employment relationship with the site of research during the funding period. The funding is granted primarily to teams of researchers with doctoral degrees.

The research and interaction plan and the funding plan are drafted to cover the entire six-year period. The funding plan justifications are listed under section 7 (Implementation) of the research and interaction plan.

The funding decisions are made as two separate decisions for each project. Although the funding plan, drafted as part of the research and interaction plan, is outlined for six years, *applicants can enter the funding to be applied for in the application form for a maximum period of 1 May 2015–31 December 2017.*

The project-specific terms or agreements drafted after the funding decisions will outline the projects' objectives and the follow-up methods. The projects will go through a midterm evaluation before the end of the first period. After a successful evaluation, the projects can be granted funding for the remaining period. If the SRC judges that a project has failed to achieve its objectives, it can discontinue the funding.

APPLICATION APPENDICES SPECIFIC TO CALLS BY THE STRATEGIC RESEARCH COUNCIL

APPENDIX 3 C: RESEARCH AND INTERACTION PLAN GUIDELINES

The SRC consortium must draft a joint research and interaction plan for a six-year period. The guidelines for the research plan used in SRC calls (see below) differ from the Academy of Finland's usual research plan guidelines.

The research and interaction plan must not exceed 19 pages (Times New Roman 12 pt or corresponding). The research plan is a maximum of 15 pages and the interaction plan a maximum of 4 pages. The plan should provide clear answers to the questions raised in the review (see Appendix 3 E of the April 2015 call for applications).The plans should follow the structure provided.

The SRC supports research that is aimed at finding solutions to the major challenges facing Finnish society. The joint interaction plan of SRC consortia is drafted for a six-year period following the instructions listed under section 11 of the SRC research plan guidelines.

The interaction plan should be as concrete as possible and include the following information:

- means and objectives of collaboration and interaction between producers and relevant users and beneficiaries of knowledge
- means of interaction with which challenges and solutions are dealt with together with policy-makers, administrative representatives, stakeholder organisations, communities and citizens
- abilities of the researchers in the research teams and/or consortium to create and participate in fruitful interaction
- available resources (incl. people and expertise)
- project's initial contacts and collaboration with users and beneficiaries; any letters of commitment must be appended to the application
- description of how the data produced in the project will be made available for later use.

STRUCTURE OF THE RESEARCH AND INTERACTION PLAN

The research and interaction plan *will be reviewed by international experts* and must include the following information:

1   Principal investigator (PI) of the consortium, team leaders, sites of research, name of consortium (and abbreviation), date of research plan

2   Rationale

- Significance of the project in relation to current knowledge: How is the project linked to previous international and national research? How will the project advance such research?
- How is the joint consortium project linked to previous or other concurrent research by the team leaders or their teams?
- What special added value will the consortium collaboration generate?

3   Societal significance and impact

- How does the research address programmatic questions A and B?
- What is the input of the research to programmatic question C and/or D?
- How can the results be made use of in society?

4   Objectives, expected results

- Objectives of the research
- Hypotheses
- Potential for scientific breakthroughs
- Effects on the regeneration of science and research
- Applicability and utilisation potential of the research results
- Critical points for success, alternative implementation strategies
- *Publication plan*: publishing of research results, dissemination and communication to the scientific community, users and beneficiaries, and the general public

5   Research methods and material, support from research environment

- Research methods, described so as to explain how they will contribute to answering the research questions
- Research material
- *Data management plan*, describing:
  - how the research data will be obtained
  - how the data will be used
  - how the data will be stored and protected
  - how subsequent data use will be facilitated, and how the data will be made available to others
  - how the rights of ownership and use to the data will be distributed.
- What kind of tangible support will the project receive from local, national and international research environments?

- Use of research and/or technology infrastructures, description of how the project benefits from such use (the infrastructures are also entered in the online application under *Infrastructures*)

6 Ethical issues

Description of ethical issues (e.g. ethical governance procedures, informed consent, anonymity of subjects) concerning the chosen topic, methods and data, as well as any research permits or information on pending permit applications

7 Implementation: schedule, budget, distribution of work

- Schedule for the SRC consortium's research
- Cost estimate for each team (total costs and funding plan) and cost justifications by type of expenditure; costs that do not pass through the books of the sites of the research must not be included in the total costs
- Distribution of work: names, tasks and salary costs (with justifications) of SRC consortium staff. If the names are not known, enter N.N. Also include an estimate of each team leader's working hours on the project.
- Costs of interaction activities

8 Research teams, collaboration

- Merits of research team members of the SRC consortium
- National and international collaboration and its significance for project implementation. The partners (other than consortium parties) are entered on the online application under *Partners*.
- Potential cooperation with other stakeholders: describe the cooperation and how the project can benefit from it (also entered on the online application under *Partners*)

9 Mobility plan

Description of possible researcher mobility from Finland (or to Finland or between organisations in Finland), including information on the objectives and duration of visits and on whether the visits have been agreed. Also justify how the visits or work periods elsewhere contribute to the implementation of the research and interaction plan. (This information is also entered on the online application under *Mobility*.)

10 Key literature or bibliography

11 Interaction plan

11.1 Objectives of interaction

11.2 Target group/stakeholders/partners

- Who are the key actors in terms of the theme, the programme and the mobilisation and application of the research results during the different stages of the project? What kind of information do users and beneficiaries need, and how have such needs been charted?

- In what ways can these actors use the information they receive, and how will they benefit from interacting with the project? In what area of society and how will the change occur?

11.3 Means of interaction

- What are the means and channels of interaction at various stages of the project?
- How will the interaction processes be designed to achieve an optimal timing from the users' and beneficiaries' perspective (e.g. in terms of law drafting)? The events organised by other relevant actors around the same topic should be taken into account.
- How will the project interact with the media (incl. social media)?

11.4 Responsibilities and implementation

- How will the interaction be implemented, and who is in charge of the implementation? In their applications, projects should earmark sufficient resources for implementing the interaction (as outsourced services, if necessary).
- What are the research team's/consortium's previous merits in interaction (CV, in particular sections 12–14; the CVs for persons essential to the interaction must be appended to the application)? The requirements of interaction should be taken into account when selecting partners.

11.5 Schedule

- How will the interaction be scheduled at the start of the project and during the course of the programme?
- How will the project ensure that the data produced can be utilised both during and after the funding period?

APPENDIX 3 D: CURRICULUM VITAE GUIDELINES

Applicants must present their scientific merits as comprehensively and truthfully as possible and in such a way that they facilitate comparisons between applicants. We therefore ask you to draft your CV in accordance with the model of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity.

Your CV should be a concise presentation of your scientific merits and other achievements relevant to the implementation of the research plan. Fill in your CV taking into account the nature of the call, your research career stage and the practices of your own scientific discipline. Normally, 3–7 pages will be enough, even for established researchers. Please write your CV in English.

Contents and structure

In applications submitted to calls by the Strategic Research Council, we will pay more attention than usual to sections 12 (Societal impact of research), 13 (Positions of trust in society and other societal merits) and 14 (Other merits) of the CV.

To ensure an equal and fair evaluation of the researcher's merits, we recommend the following order of presentation in the CV:

1   Full name and date

- surname (also earlier surnames), first names
- gender
- date of writing the CV

2   Date and place of birth, nationality, current residence

- date and place of birth
- citizenship
- current residence (contact details, if necessary)

3   Education and degrees awarded

- degree title (most recent first), educational institution, major subject, date and place of graduation (contact details to facilitate verification of the highest degree earned)
- title of docent: field, university and date when conferred

4   Other education and training, qualifications and skills

- other studies aiming at a degree, qualifications or supplementary education and training: name of educational or training programme, extent, organiser, start and completion (estimated) date of education or training
- other skills

5   Languages

- mother tongue

- other languages: achieved proficiency and certificate date or self-assessment of proficiency

6   Current position

- current position, employer and place of work, start and end date of employment relationship (possible part-time nature of work must be stated, brief job description if necessary)
- research career stage, if not directly evident from the foregoing: 1) early-career researcher or doctoral student; 2) postdoctoral researcher; 3) independent researcher; or 4) leading researcher (professor, research director)
- grant researcher: source, purpose and period of grant
- full-time student: institution and major subject
- secondary occupation, additional work experience, other commitments relevant to the application (e.g. commitments in a company)

7   Previous work experience

- earlier employment relationships and grant periods (most recent first), including longer-term visits abroad: job description, employer and place of work or funding organisation, start and end date of the employment (possible part-time nature of work must be stated, brief job description if necessary)
- earlier secondary occupations, additional work experience, other commitments relevant to the application (e.g. commitments in a company)
- career breaks: family leaves, military or nonmilitary service terms, other leaves of absence (with start and end dates), other reasons
  NB! The inclusion of the above data is optional, but it may have a positive impact on the review and the eligibility of the researcher, for instance, when the call presumes a specific career stage.

8   Research funding, leadership and supervision

- major research funding (grants and appropriations): source of funding, funding period and amount of funding
- role in the preparation of funding applications for a research team (name of principal investigator)
- leadership in research work
- supervision of postdoctoral researchers (number of supervised researchers or their names and graduation dates), supervisory role (main/primary/responsible or secondary supervisor)
- experience as officially appointed supervisor to undergraduate and postgraduate students/doctoral students (cf. above)

9   Merits in teaching and pedagogical competence (if necessary, supplemented with teaching portfolio)

- pedagogical training and competence
- involvement in curriculum planning and the implementation of courses: subject, study hours, course level and duration
- development of teaching methods

- supervision of theses
- merits in the training of responsible conduct of research and innovation practices (subject, study hours, course level and duration)
- teaching awards

10 Awards, prizes and honours

- awards, prizes and honours granted for scientific, artistic or research merits or on the basis of the recipient's academic career

11 Other scientific or academic merits

- service as a pre-examiner or as an opponent of a doctoral dissertation, as a member in dissertation committees (abroad)
- evaluation of academic/scientific or artistic competence (e.g. title of docent)
- member of international peer review panels for funding applications (e.g. European Research Council)
- memberships and positions of trust in scientific and scholarly societies
- membership in national or international expert groups, evaluation or steering committees, as well as other expert duties
- positions as editor-in-chief, editor, or member of editorial boards of scientific and scholarly journals and publication series
- referee for scientific and scholarly journals
- administrative responsibilities at higher education institutions or at research organisations, responsibilities in the higher education community
- invited keynote lectures abroad

12 Societal impact of research

- merits related to the application of research results
- participation in societal preparatory and policy-related processes
- merits related to the production and distribution of research results and data
- merits related to science communication, science popularisation and media appearances as an expert
- invention disclosures, patents and other commercialisation-related merits (e.g. spin-off companies and trademarks)

13 Positions of trust in society and other societal merits

- significant positions of trust, expert duties and assignments (also scientific policy advice tasks)
- other societal merits, honours, medals, decorations, and Finnish military rank (optional)

14 Other merits

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 3 E: REVIEW PROCESS AND QUESTIONS FOR SRC APPLICATIONS

REVIEW PROCESS

The review process in calls by the Strategic Research Council includes reviewing the proposed projects both for their societal relevance and impact and for their scientific quality. Each SRC programme will thus involve reviewing applications in two panels: a relevance panel and an international scientific panel.

The *societal relevance and impact* of the projects will be reviewed first. The relevance panel will review each application according to sections 1–3 of the review form and give a final rating. Based on the relevance reviews, the SRC will decide which applications will move on to the review of scientific quality.

The *scientific quality* of the applications will be reviewed following [the Academy of Finland's normal review practices](). The scientific panel will review each application according to sections 4–5 of the review form and give a final rating.

The projects to be funded will be selected by the SRC based the reviews of the relevance panels and the scientific panels.

REVIEW QUESTIONS (2015 CALL)

1　　RELEVANCE PANEL

The relevance panel will review the projects for their societal relevance and impact. They will also consider how well the applications match the programme objectives.

- **In the research and interaction plan**, the relevance panel will review three sections: Rationale, Societal significance and impact, and Implementation: schedule, budget, distribution of work.
- **The interaction plan, which forms part of the research plan**, is an essential part of the application when reviewing the project's societal relevance and impact. The quality and feasibility of the interaction plan will be reviewed in full.
- In reviewing **curricula vitae**, special attention will be paid to sections 12 (Societal impact of research), 13 (Positions of trust in society and other societal merits) and 14 (Other merits).

SOCIETAL RELEVANCE AND IMPACT: Project's relevance to the programme

1.1 Match with the programme

Guiding questions: How do the proposed solutions and the knowledge base of the project match the challenge formulated in the theme and the programme? (Consider programmatic questions A and B.)

1.2 Match with the focus areas of the programme

Guiding questions: Does the research address the focus areas required by the programme? (Consider programmatic questions C and D.)

1.3 Timeliness and importance of the research to society

Guiding questions: Are the contents and/or the implementation of the research particularly novel and interesting societally?

1.4 Research aimed for societal use

Guiding questions: Are the effects and scope of the expected research results relevant and realistic from a societal perspective and as required in the call for strategic research applications?

SOCIETAL RELEVANCE AND IMPACT: Project's impact on society

2.1 Attaining stakeholders

Guiding questions: Does the interaction plan recognise the most important stakeholders? Is the plan plausible for identifying and reaching stakeholders?

2.2 Dialogue and communication of research results

Guiding questions: How well has the project organised the dialogue and communications on the research results? How well has the project organised the management of data and its wider use?

2.3 Use of research results during the project

Guiding questions: How effective will the dialogue be with relevant actors to utilise and share research results during the course of the project? Will this dialogue bring instant effects, or will it take some time for the effects to be realised?

2.4 New networks and support to decision-making

Guiding questions: Are the expected results sound in terms of supporting societal (incl. new) actors and establishing collaborative networks? How will the research support decision-making in the public or private sector?

SOCIETAL RELEVANCE AND IMPACT: Implementation and feasibility

3.1 Competence and expertise of applicants

Guiding questions: What are the merits and expertise of the applicants? Are they appropriate and sufficient for the proposed project? Are there solid competences of the applicants in terms of delivering knowledge to relevant stakeholders in a timely manner? In terms of research implementation, are the subtasks and resources appropriate in content and quantity?

3.2 Research team, significance of research collaborations

Guiding questions: Does the consortium bring complementary and novel/surprising combinations of expertise to the project? Is the consortium involved in national and/or international research collaborations that can significantly contribute to the success of the project?

APPENDICES

3.3 Appropriateness and quality of management and coordination

Guiding questions: What is the appropriateness and quality of the research management and coordination? How does the application address risk management and intellectual property rights?

OVERALL ASSESSMENT, FINAL RATING (SOCIETAL RELEVANCE AND IMPACT)

Main strengths and weaknesses of project, additional comments and suggestions

2   SCIENTIFIC PANEL

The scientific panel will review the projects for their scientific quality.

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY: Research plan

4.1 Project's relevance to the programme

Guiding question: How does the application contribute to achieving the objectives of the programme?

4.2 Scientific quality and innovativeness of research plan

Guiding questions: Is the project scientifically significant and innovative? Is the project ambitious and does it have potential for breakthroughs? Does it have potential for exceptionally significant outcomes?

4.3 Feasibility of research plan

Guiding questions: Are the objectives and hypotheses appropriately presented and is the research plan realistic? Are the research methods and materials appropriate? Does the applicant acknowledge potential scientific or methodological problem areas and how are alternative approaches being considered? Is the management of the proposed plan appropriate and well-planned? Does the research environment support the project, such as with appropriate research and/or technology infrastructures?

4.4 Ethical issues

Guiding question: Are there any ethical issues involved and, if so, how are they taken into account?

SCIENTIFIC QUALITY: Competence of applicant, quality of research collaborations

5.1 Competence and expertise of applicants

Guiding questions: What are the merits and scientific expertise of the applicants? Are they appropriate and sufficient for the proposed project? What is the quality of the publication records?

5.2 Research team, significance of research collaborations

Guiding questions: Do the research consortium partners bring complementary expertise to the project? Is the project involved in national and/or international research collaborations that can significantly contribute to the success of the project?

5.3 Researcher mobility (if applicable)

Guiding question: How does the mobility plan support the research plan?

5.4 Research consortium

Guiding question: What is the significance and added value of the consortium for the attainment of the research objectives?

OVERALL ASSESSMENT, FINAL RATING (SCIENTIFIC QUALITY)

Main strengths and weaknesses of project, additional comments and suggestions

APPENDICES

About this call for applications

This call for applications is based on the criteria for research funding decisions by the Academy of Finland, annually approved by the Academy Board. The calls that will open in April 2015 come under the criteria adopted on 27 October 2014. The document presenting the criteria is available on our website (in Finnish).

The call for applications is prepared by a working group responsible for communication on the Academy's funding calls. Vice President for Research Marja Makarow approved the Finnish-language call for applications on 2 March 2015.

If any questions arise concerning the accuracy of the information presented in the translated version of the call for applications, please refer to the official Finnish version.

Contact details

Postal address	POB 131, 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	kirjaamo@aka.fi
Website	www.aka.fi/en
More information	Contacts listed in this call for applications (firstname.lastname@aka.fi)
Questions and feedback	Questions and feedback on our website

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APPENDICES