



## Admission guidelines for doctoral education at the University of Helsinki in the doctoral programmes of the Doctoral School in Health Sciences

Applicants admitted to education leading to a postgraduate research degree are admitted to pursue a doctoral degree. The right to complete a degree may only be obtained through a selection process. The student admissions of doctoral programmes follow the general admissions policies for studies leading to a doctoral degree (Rector's Decision No HY/588/00.00.06.00/2020, appendix 1) and clarifications to these policies specific to doctoral programmes.

Pursuant to section 37 of the Universities Act (558/2009), eligible applicants for studies leading to a postgraduate research degree have completed:

- 1) An applicable second-cycle university degree,
- 2) An applicable second-cycle degree from a university of applied sciences, or
- 3) Applicable education at an institute abroad providing eligibility for equivalent higher education in the country in question.

Furthermore, the University may admit applicants for studies leading to a postgraduate research degree who are otherwise considered to have sufficient skills and knowledge for the studies. Applicants who have been admitted to pursue a licentiate degree in medicine and dentistry or a licentiate degree in veterinary medicine at a Finnish university or at a university from EU/EEA country.

Furthermore, applicants licensed as a healthcare professional by the National Supervisory Authority for Welfare and Health or veterinarians licensed by the Finnish Food Authority who have completed applicable education abroad in their home country equivalent to a second-cycle university degree or a second-cycle degree from a university of applied sciences can be admitted.

### Application periods

At the University of Helsinki, the right to pursue a doctoral degree can be applied for no more than five times per academic year. Decisions on the University's standardised application periods and the periods during which student places must be accepted are made by the director of the Teaching and Learning Services sector (Decision No HY/589/00.00.06.02/2020, appendix 2).

In the academic year 2020–2020, the application periods for the doctoral programmes of the Doctoral School in Health Sciences are as follows:

- 1–15 September 2020 and 2–16 February 2021 (two application periods)
  - Doctoral Programme Brain & Mind
  - Doctoral Programme in Biomedicine (DPBM)
  - Doctoral Programme in Integrative Life Science (ILS)
  - Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research (KLTO)
  - Doctoral Programme in Oral Sciences (FINDOS)
  - Doctoral Programme in Population Health (DocPop)
- 1–15 September 2020, 3–17 November 2020, 2–16 February 2021 and 1–15 April 2021 (four application periods)
  - Doctoral Programme in Clinical Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
- 1–15 September 2020, 3–17 November 2020, 2–16 February 2021, 1–15 April 2021 and 19–30 July 2021 (five application periods)
  - Doctoral Programme in Drug Research (DPDR)

### Application and admissions criteria

The applications of eligible applicants are assessed in the doctoral programmes on the basis of programme-specific admissions criteria confirmed by the faculty council of the coordinating faculty of the relevant programme. The admissions criteria for prospective doctoral students include the applicant's potential in succeeding in postgraduate studies, the quality and feasibility of their research plan, the applicant's motivation, and prior success in studies. In addition, the possibility of completing a doctoral



degree within the normative time of four years (dedicated study time) and the applicant's compatibility with the programme's research profile are assessed. Programme-specific admissions criteria are available on the programme websites.

In the Doctoral School in Health Sciences, the doctoral programmes assess applications for the right to pursue a doctoral degree and make proposals to the relevant faculties on granting the right to pursue a degree on the following grounds (English is the official language of the admissions criteria):

- Motivation and previous knowledge (e.g. CV or equivalent) of the applicant, success in previous studies (hakijan motivaatio ja aiemmin hankittu osaaminen (esim. CV tai vastaavat tiedot) sekä menestyminen aiemmissa opinnoissa)
- Demonstration of adequate knowledge in relevant fields and potential of the applicant to develop into an independent researcher (osoitus hakijan riittävästä tutkimusalan tuntemuksesta ja kyvystä kehittyä itsenäiseksi tutkijaksi)
- Scientific relevance and ambition of the research plan, use of relevant methodology (tutkimussuunnitelman tieteellinen merkitys ja tavoitteellisuus, tarkoituksenmukaisten tutkimusmenetelmien käyttö)
- Thematic fit of the research plan with the doctoral programme profile (tutkimusaiheen sopivuus tohtoriohjelman profiiliin)
- Funding plan and feasibility of the thesis project within the intended timeframe (net time 4 years) (väitöskirjaprojektin rahoitussuunnitelma ja toteutettavuus suunnitellussa aikataulussa [nettoaika 4 vuotta])
- Supervisory\* and follow-up of progress arrangements, quality of the research environment (hakijan ohjaukseen\*\* ja edistymisen seurantaan liittyvät järjestelyt sekä tutkimusympäristön laatu)

\* A doctoral candidate must have 1-3 thesis supervisors with doctorate degrees. At least one of the supervisors must in addition hold the title of docent or have equivalent academic qualifications. The application must be supplemented with a supporting statement signed by the proposed thesis supervisor/supervisors.

\*\* Tohtorikoulutettavalla tulee olla 1-3 tohtorin tutkinnon suorittanutta ohjaajaa, joista ainakin yhdellä tulee olla dosentin arvo tai sitä vastaavat tieteelliset ansiot. Hakemukseen on liitettävä väitöskirjatyölle lupautuneen ohjaajan/ohjaajien puolto.

In addition, the doctoral programmes reserve the right to administer an entrance examination and/or interview.

## Target degrees in the doctoral programmes of the Doctoral School in Health Sciences

### Doctoral Programme Brain & Mind

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Partner faculties: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Doctor of Science (Pharmacy)
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

### Doctoral Programme in Biomedicine

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Medicine

Partner faculties: Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences and Faculty of Pharmacy

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Science (Pharmacy)
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

### Doctoral Programme in Integrative Life Science

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences



Partner faculties: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and Faculty of Science

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Food Sciences
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Doctor of Science (Pharmacy)
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Science (Agriculture and Forestry)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

#### Doctoral Programme in Clinical Research

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Medicine

No partner faculties

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

#### Doctoral Programme in Clinical Veterinary Medicine

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine

Partner faculties: Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Food Sciences
- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Science (Agriculture and Forestry)

#### Doctoral Programme in Drug Research

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Pharmacy

Partner faculties: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Science

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
- Doctor of Science (Pharmacy)
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

#### Doctoral Programme in Oral Sciences

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Medicine

Partner faculties: Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

#### Doctoral Programme in Population Health

Coordinating faculty: Faculty of Medicine

Partner faculties: Faculty of Pharmacy and Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry

Target degrees:

- Doctor of Food Sciences
- Doctor of Science (Pharmacy)
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor of Dental Science
- Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Science (Agriculture and Forestry)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Psychology)

APPENDIX 1: General guidelines for the student admissions of doctoral programmes (Tohtorihjelmien opiskelijavalintojen yleiset linjaukset)



24 April 2018

APPENDIX 2: Doctoral programme student admissions: application schedules at the University of Helsinki in the academic year 2019–2020 (Tohtorihjelmien opiskelijavalinnat: hakuaikataulu Helsingin yliopistossa lukuvuonna 2020-2021)