

National funding rules of the Academy of Finland:

The call follows the funding rules of the Academy of Finland's Academy Project funding.

The Academy of Finland has reserved EUR 800,000 to fund the participation of successful Finnish research groups in the joint projects. The Academy aims to fund up to 4 projects.

Who is eligible to apply?

The funding for the Finnish sub-project can be applied for by individual research teams or consortia. In addition to a doctoral degree, the leader of the Finnish sub-project (the principal investigator, PI) must also have other significant scientific merits. Usually the PI is a researcher at the professor or docent (adjunct professor) level. In addition, the PI must have a close connection with Finland to support the implementation of a multi-year project.

Funding

Academy funding is primarily intended towards the salaries of researchers who work full-time on the project and for other project costs. Academy funding can be used to cover e.g. the following direct research costs: research team salaries, salaries of researchers returning to Finland, essential implementation costs, travel expenses, collaboration and mobility in Finland, international collaboration and mobility, and preparation of international projects. The PI's salary costs may, under certain limitations, be incorporated into the total project costs. Academy funding cannot be used for economic activity. Academy research funding is granted to Finnish sites of research (usually universities or research institutes).

Research team salaries

As a rule, staff hired with Academy research funding must have an employment relationship. The Academy recommends that they be hired for a period of employment no shorter than the funding period, unless a shorter contract is necessary for special reasons dictated by the implementation of the research project. Short-term research, study or other assignments may also be carried out in the form of outsourced services, if it is determined to be necessary for the project.

Salary costs of principal investigator

Academy funding for research projects is primarily intended for the salaries of full-time researchers working on the projects and for other research costs. As a rule, funding is not granted for the salary of the PI. The PI's salary costs may, under certain limitations, be incorporated into the total project costs.

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

The PI's salary costs may be incorporated into the total project costs. The salary costs must not be significant in relation to the project's total costs. For example, a three-year research project must not include more than 4.5 months of the PI's effective working hours. This is equivalent to approximately 1.5 months a year.

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

The Academy may grant funding for the PI's salary for no more than a year for well-justified reasons, such as working abroad, returning to Finland or transferring to another research organisation or a company in Finland. The research-related reasons and the PI's tasks must be clearly presented in the application.

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 explain how their salary will be covered during the funding period. Retired researchers can be granted funding on the same grounds as other researchers.

Full cost model

The application must contain a funding plan drafted in line with the full cost model, including the funding to be applied for from the Academy (up to 70% of the total project costs). [Read more about the full cost model.](#)

Requirements from the site of research

The Academy requires that the site of research (e.g. university) 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. When accepting the funding, the site of research is responsible for ensuring that necessary statements and permits from ethics committees have been obtained before the start of the project. The site of research also commits to ensuring that the data management plan can be implemented at the site of research, and that the measures to be taken comply with good data management practice. Read more in the [guidelines on the commitment by site of research](#).

In the application, provide a cost estimate including an estimate of the annual amount of funding needed, itemised by type of expenditure. 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. Only costs that pass through the books of the site of the research must be included in the total costs. Applicants must check with their own organization whether the funding planned as the own funding contribution suits this purpose. The funding applied for from the Academy must not exceed 70% of the total project costs. The cost estimate must be realistic. The Academy allocates the funding to the researcher's host organization (site of research).

Full guidelines of the Academy Project funding are available on the Academy of Finland's website at: <https://www.aka.fi/en/>