

## FINLAND

### Academy of Finland (AKA)

The following call topics of the joint call are supported by AKA:

#### Call topic 4: Social Sciences and the Humanities

- Demography, conflicts and security issues
- Traditional and non-traditional cultural values
- Opportunities for and challenges to regional development and social cohesion

#### Who can apply?

Funding is primarily granted to research teams that are composed of researchers who have already earned their doctorate. In principle, a project to be funded shall serve Finnish research and society or international collaboration.

The applicant (the principal investigator of a research project) must have the qualifications of a professor or an adjunct professor or be a researcher with a doctorate.

Academy funding is allocated to the researcher's host organisation. Academy funding to organisations outside the national economy (non-governmental organisations e.g. universities) is classed as discretionary Government transfers. Since these funds are allocated not to individual researchers but to their host organisation, the host organisation is regarded as the recipient of the transfer in accordance with the Act on Discretionary Government Transfers, and will accordingly be required to assume all related obligations. The decision to grant a discretionary Government transfer is subject to specific conditions, in that the organisation receiving the transfer is permitted to use the transfer in question solely for funding research carried out by the principal investigator named in the application.

Staff to be hired with the research funding must have an employment relationship with the site of research or the organisation that has received the funding.

The Academy of Finland will provide funding for research projects only insofar as the institution serving as the site of the research undertakes to provide the project with the necessary basic facilities, which are the same as those available for other research staff at the institution, such as office and laboratory premises, equipment (incl. computer equipment), and telecommunications, telephone, mailing, copying and library services.

**Academy funding to non-research organisations:** The primary goal of non-research organisations is related to other activities than independent research or dissemination of research results. As a rule, the Academy does not grant funding to support economic activity. Economic activity is defined as all activity where goods or services are offered on an open market. The Academy may also grant funding to non-research organisations, but only if it can be granted in

keeping with the EU's state aid rules in the form of de minimis aid. All aid granted by authorities in an EU country to such organisations that does not exceed 200,000 euros per three fiscal years can be regarded as de minimis aid. The funding also comes under the Finnish Act on Discretionary Government Transfers and, where applicable, the Academy's general funding conditions.

**Business collaborators in Academy-funded projects:** If an Academy-funded project involves cooperation with business companies that are not funded by the Academy, the project must follow special terms and conditions regarding business cooperation. The aim of the terms and conditions is to prevent indirect state aid to business companies. Read more in the Academy's general funding conditions (item 10.1). Where an Academy-funded project involves cooperation with business companies, the terms and conditions of the project, in particular as regards contributions to its costs, the sharing of risks and outcomes, the dissemination of results, and access to and allocation of IPRs, must be concluded in writing before the start of the project.

## What types of costs are eligible for funding?

### *I. Eligible costs as direct costs*

- a. Costs of personnel
- b. Costs of durable equipment
- c. Consumables and supplies
- d. Subcontracting
- e. Other costs

*Events*

*Travel*

*Subsistence allowance*

### *II. Indirect Costs: Overheads*

## Additional national eligibility criteria for the proposal beyond the general criteria in the Terms of Reference of the joint call

Calls for Academy research funding and the preparation, drafting and execution of Academy funding decisions are all carried out under the full cost model. This affects the application for research grants, budgeting, the allocation of research grants as well as accounting and reporting. The full cost model does not apply to personal grants.

Academy research funding is by nature a joint venture in which the funds to finance the costs of each project always come from at least two sources. When applying for Academy funding, universities, research institutes and other research organisations commit to contributing a certain percentage of the project costs.

When the full cost model is applied, the Academy's funding contribution comes to a maximum of 70 per cent. The percentage is equally applicable to all project costs, that is, to both direct and indirect costs, including overheads.

The Academy has adopted a payment procedure for all organisations that receive Academy funding. In the use of funds, funding recipients shall follow both relevant legislation and the

Academy's separate guidelines. In the use of the funds, the valid general conditions and guidelines of the Academy of Finland shall be adhered to, unless otherwise decided.

Research grants from the Academy can be used only for the purpose for which they have been granted. This is the responsibility of the site of research that has received the funds and the principal investigator of the research project.

Any supplies, equipment and literature acquired with Academy funding will remain in the ownership and possession of the site of research. In the case of research infrastructures, the parties can agree in writing on other procedures and notify the Academy at the application stage. The guidelines for the acquisition procedure at the site of research in question shall be followed.

The general conditions and guidelines are an integral part of the Academy's funding decisions and are sent to the funding recipient and the principal investigator together with the funding decision.

The Academy recommends that Academy-funded social-science research data be delivered to the Finnish Social Science Archive (FSD), based at the University of Tampere.

Funding recipients should also read the Academy's research-ethical guidelines, equality plan (PDF) and IPR handbook for researchers.

All applicants are obliged to contact the National Contact Point, and requested to read the general conditions for funding decisions of the Academy of Finland prior to submitting their application. These conditions will be applied.

<http://www.aka.fi/en-GB/A/Funding-and-guidance/Use-of-funding/>

### **Upper funding limits for eligible costs?**

A realistic amount of funds to be applied from AKA per one project is around € 100 000 per year. Project duration is 24 or 36 months.

### **National Contact Point**

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