

Two Doctoral students in Psychology

Åbo Akademi University invites applications for two positions as doctoral students in psychology to the research project BrainTrain. The employment is fixed-term for the period 1.2.2015-31.12.2016.

[The official advertisement in Swedish can be found here.](#)

Åbo Akademi University (ÅAU) invites applications for two positions as doctoral students in psychology to the research project BrainTrain. The positions are located in the Faculty of Arts, Psychology and Theology. The employment is fixed-term for the period 1.2.2015-31.12.2016. There is a possibility for an extension of the employment of an additional 2 years. Any extension will, however, be dependent on the successful evaluation of the project's achievements and the possibility to acquire further funding.

The BrainTrain project studies working memory training, its cognitive and neural mechanisms, and the mental architecture of executive functions. One of the doctoral students is expected to focus on behavioral studies while the other one would concentrate on neural and neurological aspects of working memory training. The Department of Psychology at the Åbo Akademi University and its research partners, Center for Cognitive Neuroscience and the Turku Brain and Mind Center at the University of Turku, offer an active and inspiring research milieu with a wide range of neurocognitive research methodology (behavioral methods, fMRI, PET, EEG, TMS, DCS).

Qualification requirements

Eligible for the positions as doctoral students in the research project, are those who have a Master's degree in psychology or a related subject. Admission to the PhD program at Åbo Akademi University is a prerequisite for an employment as doctoral student (in accordance with the Personnel regulations of ÅAU). Applicants that have not yet been admitted to pursue doctoral studies at Åbo Akademi University will also be considered for the positions. A shorter term employment contract might come into question between completion of the recruitment and admission to the PhD program.

Work tasks

The doctoral student's main tasks are to carry out independent scientific research and to pursue a doctoral dissertation. In addition, employed doctoral students are assigned tasks in connection with teaching, supervision or other tasks in accordance with the current general collective agreement for universities and individual work plans.

Terms of employment

Doctoral students belong to the system of total working hours with an annual working time of 1,600 hours. Annual work plans are made. Doctoral students work plans, as well as their supervision and study agreements, will be evaluated on a yearly basis. The employment may be terminated if the doctoral student does not follow his/her supervision and study agreement.

The salary for doctoral students will be based on levels 1–4 of the job demand level for teaching and research personnel in the salary system of Finnish universities. In addition, the doctoral student will be paid a salary component based on personal work performance. See the [salary chart for teaching and research staff](#).

A trial period applies to new employees.

Assessment

In addition to being evaluated on the successes of previous studies, also relevant methodological competences, previous research experience and/or clinical skills will be taken into consideration. The doctoral student is furthermore expected to show good cooperation skills, motivation to fulfil his/her research plan and have good communication skills in English.

Additional information

For additional information about the positions, please contact project leader, Professor Matti Laine (matti.laine@abo.fi) and deputy project leader Docent Minna Lehtonen (minna.lehtonen@abo.fi).

How to apply

Interested applicants are asked to send an application that includes:

- An academic portfolio, applicants are welcome to follow the recommended guidelines by the university:
<http://web.abo.fi/personal/uniportfolj/composinganacademicportfolio.pdf>
- A copy of the Master's degree certificate
- A Curriculum Vitae (max. 4 pages)
- A freely formulated description of the applicant's merits for the specified duties (max. 2 pages)
- A copy of the thesis, and if applicable copies of previous publications
- Contact details for potential references.

During the recruitment process, interviews with the candidates can be initiated.

Applications, with all enclosures, should be submitted by Monday, January 19th 2015 at 3 p.m. (CET +1). The applications are addressed to project leader, Professor Matti Laine and sent *either* electronically to the university registry on: Registrator@abo.fi or by post to Åbo Akademis kansli, Registrator, Domkyrkotorget 3, 20500 Åbo, Finland. Please

state "Application / BrainTrain: Doctoral student" in the subject field in the email or on the envelope.

Åbo Akademi University is working for equal gender distribution in all staff categories, and therefore wishes to receive applications from both women and men.