

Åbo Akademi University Research Services Domkyrkotorget 3 20500 Åbo Finland

## ÅAU research grants 2023

## **Evaluation process and criteria**

- The applications are evaluated for each faculty by the professor members in the Strategic Council for Research (FoR) at Åbo Akademi University.
- The specific scholarship fund applications are evaluated per faculty according to how/within which faculty the grants are awarded
- The evaluator does not assess any applicant which he/she supervises or any projects in which he/she is involved.
- Apart from the above-described process, separate external experts will evaluate the Donner and Polin applications.
- The research plan is evaluated according to the following criteria: academic quality (scale 1-6) and feasibility (within the allotted time) (scale 0-2)
- Academic quality
  - 1 = Poor: Very few strengths and several major weaknesses
  - 2 = Fair: Some strengths, but at least one major weakness or a number of minor weaknesses.
  - o 3 = Good: Some strengths and some weaknesses
  - 4 = Very good: Strong plan with minor weaknesses
  - o 5 = Excellent: Very strong plan with negligible weaknesses
  - 6 = Outstanding: Exceptionally strong plan with negligible weaknesses
- Feasibility (within the allotted time)
  - $\circ$  0 = Not feasible
  - 1 = Partially feasible
  - $\circ$  2 = Feasible
- If the research plan is evaluated as *Not feasible*, the academic quality will be evaluated as 0. If the research plan is evaluated as *Partially feasible* or *Feasible*, the academic quality will be evaluated on the scale 1-6.



Additional criteria that will affect the final decision for the doctoral research grants:

- Progression (doctoral candidate advances in studies according to a time schedule which will allow graduation in 4 years)
- Previous funding will be taken into account before the final order of preference (general principle: doctoral candidates can get a total funding of max 48 months for a doctoral degree)

## **Decision process**

- The evaluators grade each application individually, without discussing the grades with other evaluators.
- The grades are sent to Research Services, where an overall average will be calculated for each applicant.
- Based on the overall average grades, a list with an order of preference is made for the applicants for each scholarship fund; the order of preference will be used in case the available total grant amount is not big enough to award a grant to all eligible applicants.
- The decision proposals are put together by ÅAU Research Services, after which they will be processed and approved according to the regulations of each scholarship fund (also taking into consideration the ÅAU general scholarship regulation).
- As a rule, working grants from the scholarship funds are issued by the Rector of ÅAU, or by the ÅAU Foundation.
- The Donner, Polin, Jacobsson and Klingendahl research grants will be discussed in the Donner, Polin and FSE grant committee respectively. Each committee makes a proposal that has to be approved by the Board of the Åbo Akademi University Foundation. The Board of the ÅAU Foundation meets on November 14, 2022.

When all the grant decisions have been made and have been made available to the ÅAU Research Services, the result of the research grants 2023 will be sent out to all applicants via e-mail.