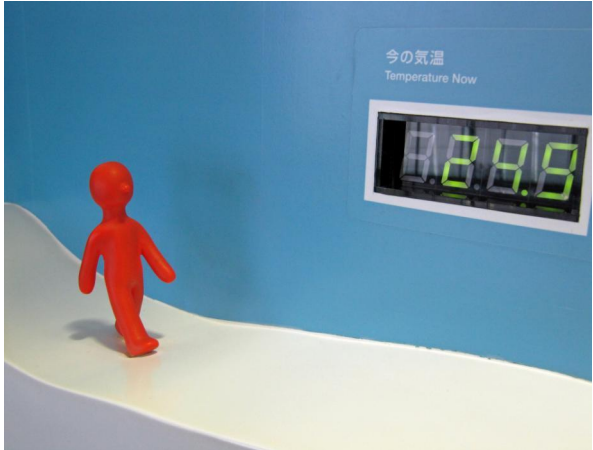


ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Funding opportunities for young doctors and a successful proposal (in a point of view of Academy)

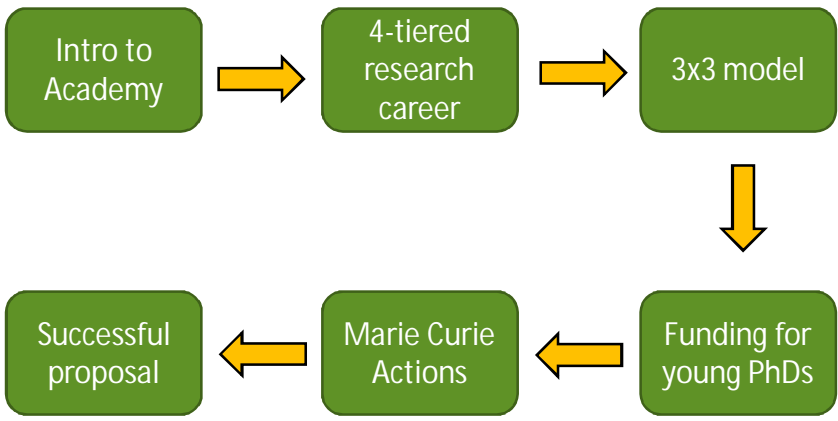
Tiina Petänen
Senior Science Adviser



1 • 27.5.2010

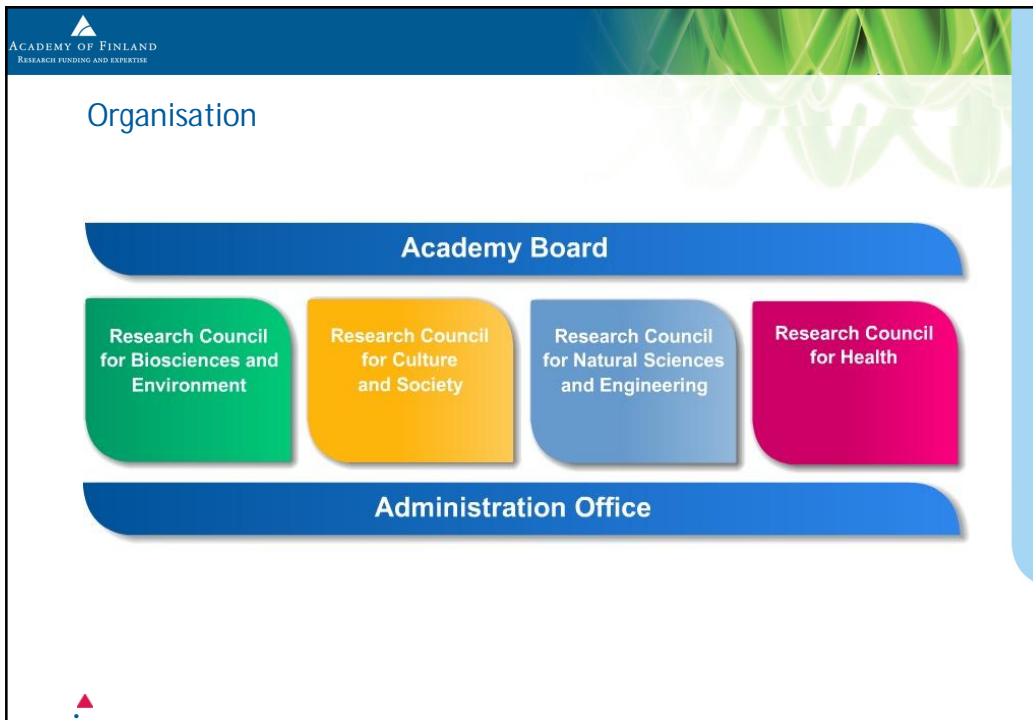
ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Contents



```
graph LR; A[Intro to Academy] --> B[4-tiered research career]; B --> C[3x3 model]; C --> D[Funding for young PhDs]; D --> E[Marie Curie Actions]; E --> F[Successful proposal];
```

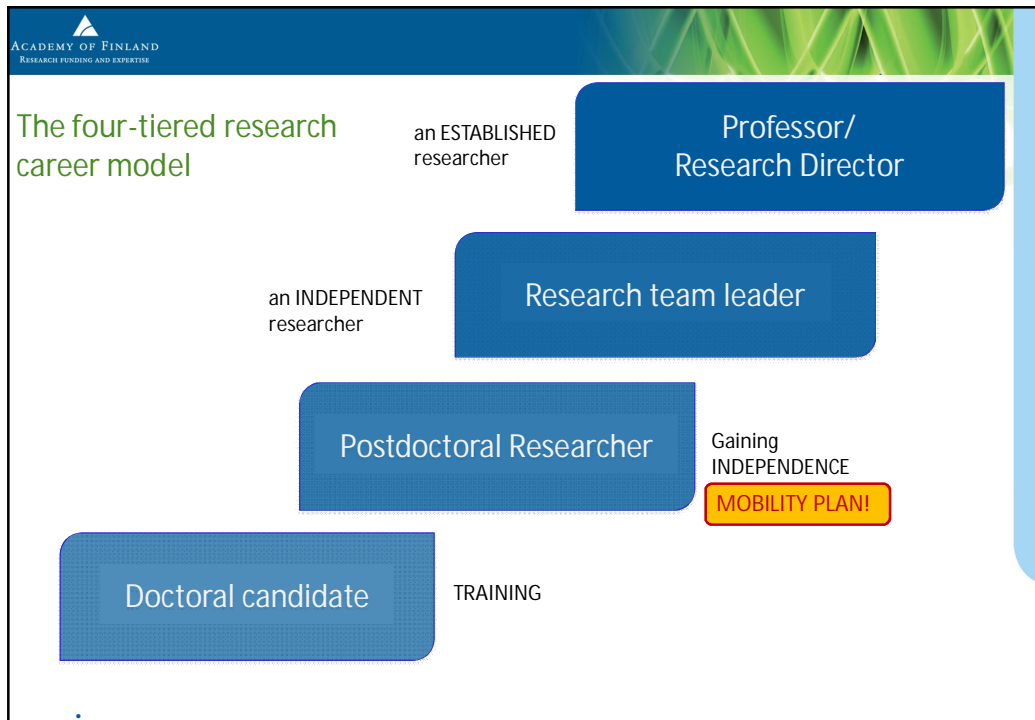
2 • 27.5.2010



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Academy of Finland

- Duties:
 - To foster scientific research and its utilisation
 - To promote international scientific cooperation
 - To serve as an expert organ in science policy questions
 - To grant funding for scientific research, researcher training and the development of research capabilities
 - To execute other science policy expert tasks laid down in the Government Decree or assigned to it by the Ministry of Education (*Act on the Academy of Finland 2009*)
- Four Research Councils, whose operations cover all scientific disciplines
- In 2010, the Academy will make funding decisions worth €314 million for high-level scientific research
- Each year, some 5,000 people benefit from Academy research funding



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Career paths and transferable skills

- Career as a researcher or an expert?
- Expectations of different employees (universities, research institutes, sme, enterprises, public sector)
- What are a transferable skills?
 - They are learned in one context that are useful in another
 - Transferable skills are acquired through training or through work experience
- Examples:
 - Team-working, communication, public engagement, project management, research leadership, creativity, research methods, teaching, enterprise, research ethics, policy-making, problem solving

www.aka.fi/eng → Science and Society →
The research career → Get ahead in your career

6 • 27.5.2010

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Career management!

7 • 27.5.2010

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

New funding opportunities in the Academy of Finland




3x3-model

8 •

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Reform of research funding in October 2010

- new user-friendly IT-system (SARA)
- restructured funding opportunities
- modified application deadlines
- no longer automatic supplementing the application during 7 days
- one application / call



27.5.2010

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

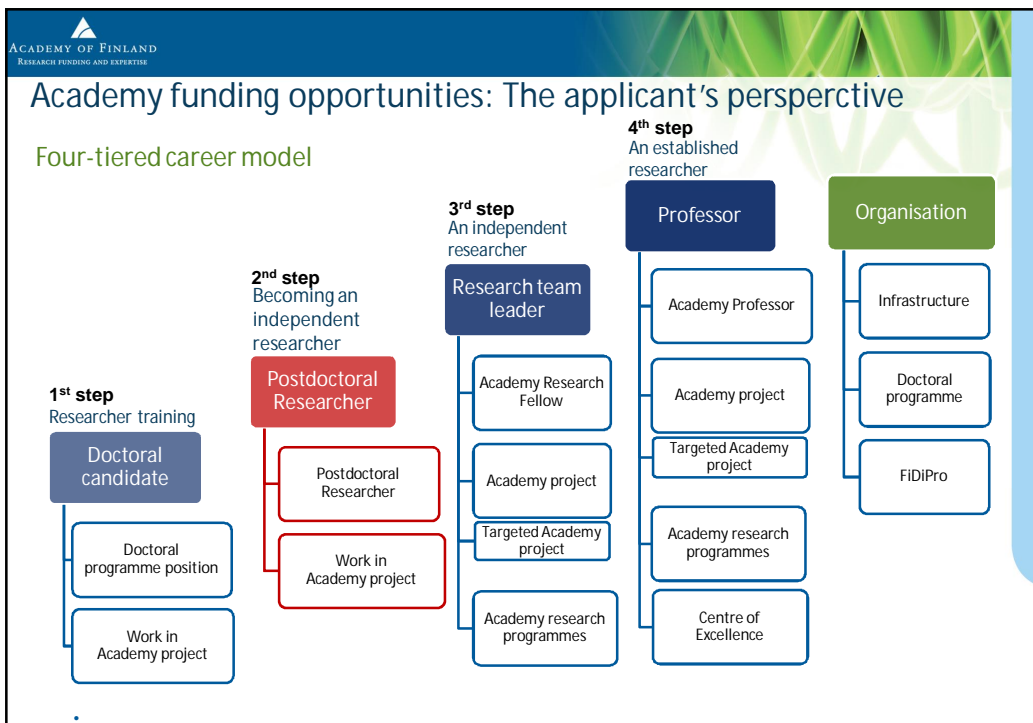
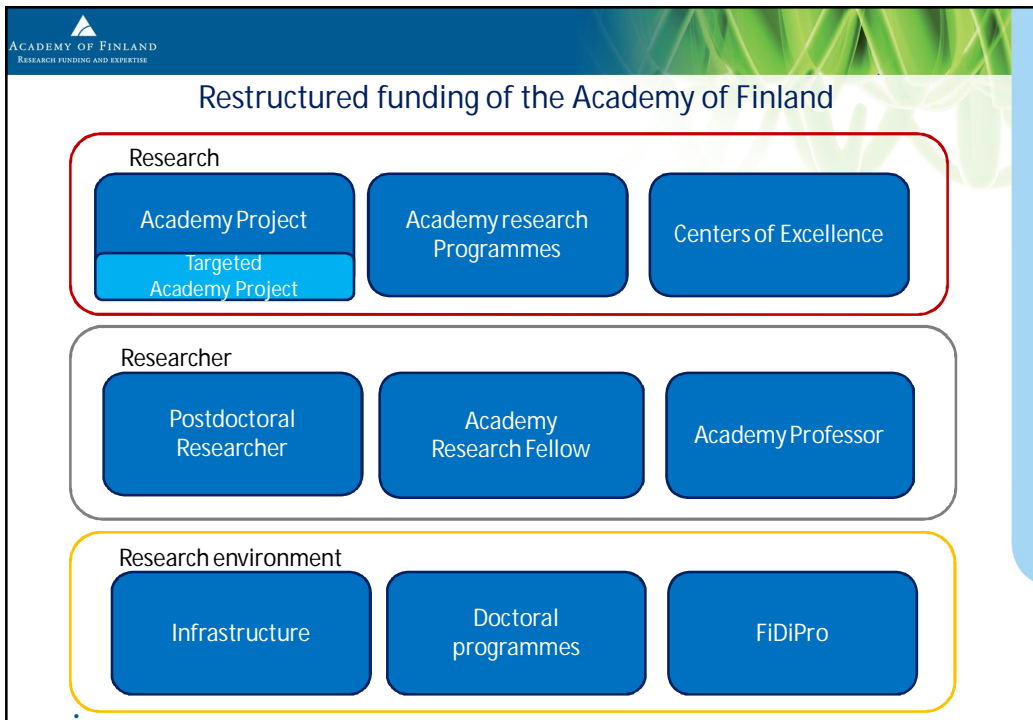
Objectives of the reform

- Funding opportunities are user-friendly, focused and prioritized
 - clear science policy objectives
 - strengthening the funding most important for researchers
 - larger and more comprehensive funding
 - efficiency: save time of researchers, (applications, reporting), evaluators and administration

3x3-model

- Less overlaps
 - Integration of small instruments to other funding
 - Flexibility
- Only competitive funding (peer-review)
- In all funding:
 - International cooperation and mobility encouraged and supported
 - Industry-academy cooperation supported in all funding

→ **MOBILITY PLAN!**



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Postdoctoral Researcher

The purpose of the research grant is to advance the professional competence and independence of young researchers

Have recently earned their doctorate and are gaining qualifications as a professional researcher

Are appointed for 0–4 years after earning a doctorate

Carry out their own research plan and provide supervision and teaching

Funding is granted towards the applicant's salary and research costs

Three-year funding term
Funding can be awarded to one and the same person for only once.



MOBILITY PLAN!

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

EU 7th Framework Programme: PEOPLE Marie Curie Actions

16 • 27.5.2010

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

FP7 - People Specific Programme

- aims to
 - improve the quality of the human resources in European R&D and increase the number of employees working in the European R&D sector.
 - promote a career path in research, encourage European researchers to stay in Europe and make Europe more attractive to the best researchers from around the world.
 - support actively training and career development of researchers
- http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/people/home_en.html



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

People: Marie Curie Actions

Stage of the Research Career	Applicants		
	Individual Fellowships	Networks (industry/research)	Research Funding bodies
Senior Researcher > 10 yrs	IEF IOF IIF RG	ITN	IAPP IRSES
Post-doc Researcher > 4 yrs			
Early-Stage Researcher < 4 yrs			

Orig: Kaisa Helleuvuo, EC-REA

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Abbreviations

INDIVIDUAL RESEARCHER

IEF = Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development
IOF = International Outgoing Fellowships for Career Development
IIF = International Incoming Fellowships
RG = Reintegration Grants (European and International); CIG (from year 2011)

NETWORKS

ITN = Initial Training Networks
IAPP = Industry-Academia Partnerships and Pathways
IRSES = International Research Staff Exchange Scheme

FUNDING BODIES

COFUND = Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Individual Fellowships

IEF	IOF	IIF
1 to 2 years	1 to 3 years (includes 1 yr for return phase)	1 to 2 years
Salary + mobility and research costs	Salary + mobility and research costs	Salary + mobility and research costs
Researcher and host organisation	Researcher and <u>return</u> host organisation	Researcher and host organisation
Experienced researcher (>4 yrs)	Experienced researcher (>4 yrs)	Experienced researcher (>4 yrs)
Call open 17.3. – 17.8.2010	Call open 17.3. – 17.8.2010	Call open 17.3. – 17.8.2010
95 M€	28 M€	28 M€
"Career Exploratory Allowance"	Agreement with return host organisation	In special cases reintegration costs

7
IHMISET

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

How to prepare a successful proposal?



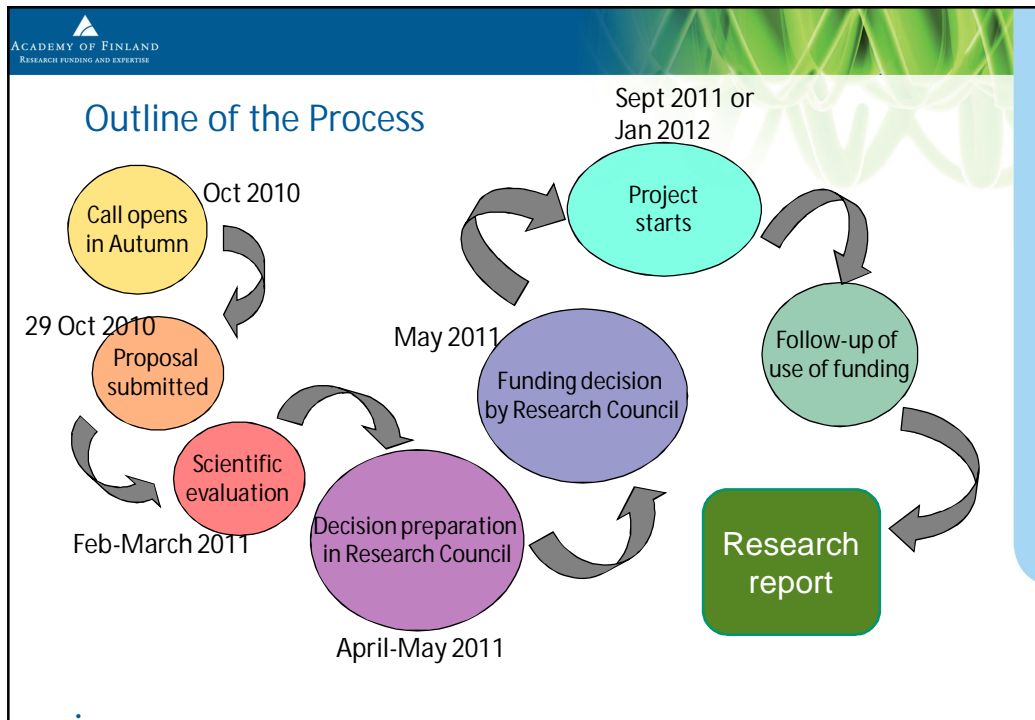
21 • 27.5.2010

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Application for Academy research funding

- Open competition
- Targeted at the best researchers and the most promising young researchers
- Funding decisions are based on a scientific peer review of the research plan and the applicant as well as on research and science policy strategies
- In 2009, the Academy received applications worth a total of €1.6 billion
- The Research Councils process some 4,500 applications a year
- The success rate of applications 10–15%
- In 2010, the Academy will make funding decisions worth a total of €314 million
- Fixed-term funding

•



ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

How to prepare a successful proposal?

- Writing a proposal takes time
 - it shows if proposal is written in hurry!
- Read the relevant documents in order to understand the objectives of the funding instrument
- Give a short overview on your project right at the beginning of the proposal
- Make a realistic budget
- Important documents:
 - Call for applications: Find the right funding form
 - Pay attention to the proposal structure
 - Follow the [instructions and subcategories in Research plan etc.](#)
 - Evaluation criteria: www.aka.fi/en-gb → [Reviewing applications?](#) → [Proposal evaluation form](#)
 - Use the terms which appear in the evaluation criteria

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Research plan

1. Name of principal investigator/responsible leader, title of research project, site of research
2. Background
3. Objectives
4. Research methods and material
5. Implementation (incl. timeline, budget & justification)
6. Researchers and research environment (members & tasks, collaboration, infrastructures)
7. Mobility plan **MOBILITY PLAN!**
8. Researcher training and research career
9. Expected research results, impact and risks

The research plan is an offer to the Academy

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Evaluation form (1/2)

1 Research plan

1.1 Scientific quality and innovativeness of the research plan

- Is the project scientifically significant? Is the project innovative? Is the project breakthrough research containing risks and does it have potential for exceptionally significant outcomes?
- Is the project ambitious? Can the project generate new knowledge, new methods, new technology or new practices to end-users? If the project is multi/inter/transdisciplinary, how?

1.2 Feasibility of the research plan

- Are the research plan, objectives and hypotheses clearly presented and realistic? Does the applicant acknowledge potential scientific or methodological problem areas and how are alternative approaches being considered? Are the research methods and materials appropriate for the project?
- Are the project management, resources and the division of labor and the proposed schedule appropriate and well planned?

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

Evaluation form (2/2)

- 2 Competence of applicant and quality of research environment
 - 2.1 Competence and expertise of the applicant/research team
 - 2.2 Description and significance of research collaborations
 - 2.3 Research environment
- 3 Overall assessment
 - 3.1 Main strengths and weaknesses of the project. Additional comments and suggestions. (Strengths, weaknesses, comments)

ACADEMY OF FINLAND
RESEARCH FUNDING AND EXPERTISE

More information

- www.aka.fi/eng
- www.aka.fi → Science in Society → Research Career
- Marie Curie Actions and Researcher Mobility:
<http://www.tekes.fi/eu/eng>
http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/home_en.html
<http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/>
http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index_en.cfm
- The European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (Charter & Code)
europa.eu/eracareers/pdf/am509774CEE_EN_E4.pdf

High quality, International, Interdisciplinary, Renewable

Thank you!

