



DP-FOBI Webinar for Applicants

June 24, 2026 13:00-14:00 (EEST)

Doctoral Programme for Advancing Forest-Based Bioeconomy (DP-FOBI)



DP-FOBI - Key facts

Funding scheme: MSCA COFUND Doctoral Programme

Number of positions: 15 doctoral candidates

Application period: June 11 – August 10, 2026

Employment duration: 48 months (full time)

Mobility: international mobility required (MSCA rules apply)

Project duration: April 2026 – March 2031

Total budget 4 187 177,00 €

- EU contribution: 2 376 000,00 €
- Own resources: 1 811 177,00 €



Marie
Skłodowska-Curie
Actions

15 doctoral candidates will be recruited: for four-year positions :
Forest Sciences 5, Chemistry 2, Geographical and Historical Studies 1,
Law School 1, Institute of Public Health and Clinical Nutrition 1,
School of Humanities 2, Business School 3. **All UEF faculties are
involved**

25.6.2026



Recruitment principles

- Recruitment process is **open, transparent, merit-based**, and aligned with the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers.
- Selection is based solely on **academic merit and potential**, ensuring equal opportunity for all applicants regardless of background or personal characteristics
- Applicants will **select from a broad range of interdisciplinary research topics** specified by the supervisors and described in the DP-FOBI website. They are encouraged to adapt or refine the proposed topics to align with their own research interests that they will initially disclose in their motivational letter, ensuring flexibility and diversity in research directions.
- **Supervisors cannot be involved in application and selection process**





Who can apply?

Applicants must meet the following conditions **at the time of the call deadline**:

- 1) **a higher university degree**, or a relevant foreign qualification that provides eligibility for equivalent higher education studies in the country concerned
- 2) **must not already hold a doctoral degree**. Applicants who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but have not yet been formally are also ineligible.
- 3) **must not have resided or carried out their main activity** (work, studies, etc.) **in Finland for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately preceding the call deadline** (August 10)
- 4) **must meet the requirements of UEF's doctoral programmes**

The selected researcher is expected to work in the premises of the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu or Kuopio campus depending on the research theme.





Application requirements

- All application materials must be submitted in **English** via the UEF electronic recruitment system VARBI.
 - A complete application includes:
 - Completed **electronic application form**
 - **Certified copy of the Master's degree diploma** (or equivalent proof if diploma is pending) in relevant field (defined in the theme description) and **a transcript of records** showing courses and grades
 - **Curriculum vitae (CV), template provided**
 - Electronic copy of **Master's thesis**
 - two-page **summary of the Master's thesis** in English
 - **Ethics Self-Assessment form, template provided**
 - **Motivational letter** (maximum of three pages), **template provided**
 - **Proof of English proficiency** if not evident from academic credentials
- **Provided templates must be followed.** Applications not adhering to the format or language requirements will not be considered.





Application templates

- Please note that you must include the following templates in your application:
- [CV \(Word template\)](#)
- [Motivational letter \(Word template\)](#)
- [Ethics Self-Assessment form \(Word template\)](#)
- An additional application condition is that **the provided templates must be used**. Applications not adhering to the format or language requirements will not be considered.





Electronic application form VARBI

Example of one call for applications

[Doctoral Researcher in the MSCA Cofund DP-FOBI Doctoral Programme, Geography](#)

Apply by: 10.08.2026 - Place of employment: The Faculty of Social Sciences and Business Studies, Department of Geographical and Historical Studies, Joensuu



Selection process step by step

YEAR 2026					YEAR 2027
CALL OPEN	ELIGIBILITY & ETHICS CHECK	EXTERNAL REVIEW	INTERVIEWS	FINAL DECISION	APPOINTMENTS & ENROLLMENTS
JUNE 11 AUGUST 10	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER OCTOBER	OCTOBER NOVEMBER	NOVEMBER DECEMBER	JANUARY - MARCH

A P P E A L P O S S I B I L I T I E S

At the time of signing the employment contract, recruited researchers must be enrolled in a [doctoral programme at the University of Eastern Finland](#) leading to the award of a doctoral degree, and must meet the requirements of that doctoral programme. The doctoral programme related to each PhD research theme is named in the corresponding theme description.



External review

Review panel for each application is composed of three independent, unbiased external experts. The reviewers will evaluate candidates' 1) **qualifications and merits** (based on diplomas, CV) and 2) **motivation and research fit** (based on motivational letter)

SCORING	EVALUATION CATEGORY	FOCUS OF ASSESMENT IN EACH EVALUATION CATEGORY
Maximum score is 5 points in both categories	CANDIDATE'S MERITS Weight 50%	Academic qualifications (course grades and the Master's thesis grade) 20% Suitability of the previous degree to DP-FOBI research theme (20%) Research experience in the chosen research area topic (20%) International experience (20%) Interdisciplinary and Intersectoral experience (20%)
	MOTIVATIONAL LETTER Weight 50%	Commitment and motivation to pursue PhD studies (20%) Understanding of the chosen or suggested research topic (20%) Understanding of the research methods used in the chosen or suggested research topic (20%) Understanding of the interdisciplinary and intersectoral aspects in doctoral training (20%) Prospect of completing PhD studies in the given time frame (20%)



Interviews

Interviews will be conducted online. Interview panel includes an HR expert, an intersectoral expert, and two independent scientific experts outside UEF.

Evaluation criteria

SCORING	EXCELLENCE OF	FOCUS OF ASSESMANT IN EACH EVALUATION CATEGORY
Maximum score is 5 in every category.	RESEARCH PRESENTATION Weight 50%	Presenting Master's thesis summary in the given time frame (20%) Articulation of research purpose and aims for the chosen or suggested research topic (40%) Mastering of theory, methods, and ethics for the chosen or suggested research topic (40%)
	MOTIVATION Weight 30%	Motivation for PhD studies and for the chosen or suggested topic (60%) Assimilation of learning goals for PhD studies(20%) Career plans for future (20%)
	LANGUGAGE PROFICIENCY Weight 20%	English language proficiency (100%)

Q&A



Eligibility

- **Is it possible to apply regardless of nationality?**
 - Yes, also Finns can apply if the mobility rule is met
- **Are applicants of all ages eligible to apply?**
 - Yes
- **Can applicants with families apply, and is financial support available for family members?**
 - Yes. In addition to the living allowance and mobility allowance, researchers with a family, such as a spouse or dependent, will receive a family allowance of €300 per month.



Eligibility

- **Is a candidate whose master's degree is pending eligible to apply?**
 - Yes, provided that, they have completed all the studies and the thesis and can submit proof of the diploma and transcript of records, as well as their thesis and a summary of it for evaluation.
- **Is a PhD holder eligible to apply?**
 - No
- **Can a PhD student who hasn't completed their degree apply?**
 - Yes, if you have **not yet** successfully defended your dissertation and are only waiting for the formal awarding of your doctoral degree.



Eligibility

- **Should the candidate already be enrolled as a PhD student before applying?**
 - No
- **Is a candidate who is currently living in Finland eligible to apply?**
 - Yes, provided that they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Finland for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately preceding the call deadline (August 10).
- **Is a candidate without published articles or work experience eligible to apply?**
 - Yes.



Eligibility

- **I'm already a Phd student. Can I do a joint research project with my current supervisor or do I have to make a fresh start?**
 - You have to make a fresh start.
- **I'm formally employed in my home country. Can I still apply?**
 - Yes. If you are selected, you will have full employment in UEF and you are expected to work at UEF's premises in Finland.
- **Is there a minimum GPA requirement?**
 - No



On selecting the position to apply

- **I have a master's degree // research experience in XX field. Can I apply to xx research theme? // Which research theme is the best fit for me?**
 - Please consult the description of the theme you are interested in. The eligible disciplines are listed there, followed by “or a closely related field.” Consider whether you have the required knowledge, expertise, and characteristics. The suitability of your educational background will ultimately be assessed by the external evaluators.

<https://sites.uef.fi/dp-fobi/offered-phd-positions/>



Language requirements

- **I have completed my studies in English. Do I need an English language proficiency test?**
 - Please, check carefully the detailed language criteria in the UEF Doctoral Programme your selected research theme is located. You can find the link in the theme description.
 - In general, you don't need a language test, if you have:
 - Secondary education completed in English language in **EU/EEA** -countries, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand or in Switzerland.
 - A Bachelor's, Master's or higher degree completed in English language in EU/EEA - countries, or in one of the following countries: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Cameroon, Canada, Dominica, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Philippines, Ruanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and Grenadines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South-Africa, Switzerland, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
 - The degree/programme must be taught and assessed entirely in English.



Language requirements

- **My language proficiency test is valid until XX. Can I apply?**
 - The language test need to be in effect when submitting the application during the application period. If you are selected, you need a valid language test (if the language proficiency is not otherwise proven) to be admitted to the UEF Doctoral Programme. So, the test needs to be valid in January 2027.
- **Which language tests can I use?**
 - TOEFL iBT, IELTS (academic), PTE (academic), C1 Advanced, C2 Proficiency and National Certificate of Language Proficiency (YKI)
 - Check the required minimum points from the referred UEF Doctoral Programme



Language requirements

- **If my university has issued my diploma and transcript officially in English, do I need any additional certification of authenticity?**
 - No
- **What if my master's thesis is not written in English?**
 - You can submit the thesis in the language it was written. The summary has to be in English.
- **Do I need to know any languages other than English?**
 - Only English is required, but in some research themes the knowledge of other languages is considered an advantage. Check the theme descriptions.



Application

- **Can I apply to more than one position?**
 - Yes, provided that you meet the requirements shown in the research theme description. You need to prepare separate application to each position you apply.
- **How can I choose supervisors? // Where do I find information about the supervisors?**
 - Each research theme already has designated supervisors. You can find introductions of the supervisors in the research theme descriptions on the DP-FOBI website.
- **Can I contact the supervisors to get advice for the application or ask their consent?**
 - No, supervisors are not allowed to take part in the application or selection process.



Application documents

- **What is regarded as a certified transcript or degree certificate? Is it sent to you direct from my university or do I submit it myself?**
 - Certification is usually done by the awarding university. The document should include an official stamp, signature, or other verification method. If the document is not in English, an official English translation is also required. You submit the documents yourself to the application system.



Application documents

- **Do I need to provide GRE or GMAT scores?**
 - No, they are not required. If you think they are relevant, you can mention them in the CV.
- **Can the application documents be in other languages than English?**
 - Apart from master's thesis, all other documents have to be in English. If your degree certificate is not in English, you must provide an official English translation issued by the awarding institution or an authorized translator. Each page must include the translator's stamp and/or signature. Applicant-made translations are not accepted.



Preparing the application documents

- **How to make a successful application?**
 - Read the theme description and its requirements carefully and reflect them in your application.
- **What are the most important criteria in the selection ?**
 - The selection criteria and their weights are detailed in the DP-FOBI website. Read them carefully.
- **How are applicants evaluated if their profile fits multiple projects within a research theme: by fit to a specific project or by contribution to the broader theme?**
 - The evaluation is done by external evaluators based on the given evaluation criteria.



Interviews

- **Will there be guidelines for the interviews?**
 - Yes. Applicants invited to interview will receive guidelines, including details such as the required length of the presentation based on their master's thesis.
- **Can the presentation be based on something other than the master's thesis?**
 - No. However, in your application documents and during the interview, you may highlight other research experience besides the thesis, especially if it is relevant to the research theme.



On research themes

- **Can you give us extra details about the research themes?**
 - No, base your application on the description given and your thoughts on it based on your knowledge and experience.
- **Can the selected doctoral researcher shape the final research design?**
 - Yes, they will discuss the final research design with the supervisory team after selection. The input of the doctoral researcher is required and essential.
- **Is it required that they conduct their research in Finland or are they allowed to address e.g. issues in their homecountry?**
 - Depending on the research theme, this might be possible. You can discuss it with the supervisory team after selection.



Preparing the application documents

- **Are applicants expected to demonstrate fit with the predefined project, or can they also propose their own research ideas within the scope of the position?**
 - The evaluation is conducted by the external evaluators based on the given evaluation criteria. In the motivational letter you can present your own ideas within the scope of the position.



On the DP-FOBI programme

- **What kind of funding does the programme offer?**
 - The doctoral positions are fully funded.
 - The salary follows the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions salary system and consists of:
 - living allowance (EUR 3,200), forming the main part of the gross monthly salary
 - mobility allowance (EUR 87 monthly) for mobility-related private expenses
 - family allowance (EUR 300 monthly) for Doctoral researchers with a spouse and/or a dependent
 - paid leave and an additional holiday bonus in summer
 - Researchers are also entitled to
 - travel allowance (EUR 1,500 per year) is allocated for conference travel and an additional allowance (EUR 10,500 in total) for travel to secondments and short visits
 - research costs (EUR 6,000 in total) is allocated for costs, such as lab consumables, data collection, publication, etc.
 - special needs allowance and support are available, if needed



On the DP-FOBI programme

- **Can the PhD be done remotely or semi remote?**
 - No, depending on the research theme the selected candidate is expected to work in the premises of the University of Eastern Finland, Joensuu or Kuopio campus.
- **What kind of training does DP-FOBI include?**
 - In addition to doctoral dissertation , the degree includes 30 ECTS of doctoral studies: transferable skills studies (5-10 ECTS) and studies in the discipline and field of research (20-25 ECTS). DP-FOBI also provides mandatory customised training activities, such as workshops and summer schools.



On the DP-FOBI programme

- **Does the programme include studies, conferences, or other activities outside Finland?**
 - Yes. The training may include e.g. secondments, short visits, and conference travel outside Finland. Discuss these options with your supervisory team. Potential secondment suggestions are already included in the theme descriptions.
- **When do the secondments take place?**
 - The timing of secondments should be discussed with your supervisory team and planned for when they best support your research and training.



On the DP-FOBI programme

- **How will the DP-FOBI summer schools involve non-academic or forestry-sector partners to ensure predictive management scenarios reflect real-world constraints?**
 - These partners will be invited to participate in workshops and summer schools, where they can mentor doctoral researchers and provide feedback on their work. In addition, some summer schools, such as the hackathon, will focus on tackling real-life problems, helping ensure that predictive management scenarios are informed by practical constraints and stakeholder needs.
- **Do I have to do any mandatory teaching as part of the position, or can I focus entirely on my studies?**
 - You can focus on your studies.



Other issues

- **If selected to DP-FOBI doctoral researcher position, when can I apply to the UEF doctoral programme?**
 - Final decisions on DP-FOBI positions are made in December. After that, you can start preparing the research plan with your supervisors for your application to the UEF doctoral programme. The application should preferably be submitted in January.
 - Note that a research plan is required only after you have been selected, not before.



Other issues

- **How inclusive is the scientific community in UEF, for international researchers, and what support is available for those who may face racism or discrimination?**
 - UEF is committed to equal and non-discriminatory treatment and does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or bullying. International researchers and students have the right to a safe, accessible, and inclusive study environment, regardless of origin, language, religion, health, disability, sexual orientation, or other personal characteristics.
 - If you experience or witness racism, harassment, or discrimination, you can confidentially contact the university's anti-harassment contact person. They will guide you on the next steps, and the university will assess the situation and take necessary measures.



Other issues

- **Where can I find information about UEF doctoral programmes, application opportunities, doctoral studies, courses, and training?**
 - See Doctoral Education at UEF: <https://www.uef.fi/en/doctoral-education-at-the-uef>

NEXT STEPS



Detailed information

Please check DP-FOBI website:

<https://sites.uef.fi/dp-fobi>



Next steps

1. Check the eligibility criteria and application requirements, and read all instructions carefully.
2. Familiarize yourself with the research areas, themes, and supervisors.
3. Choose a research theme.
4. Prepare all required application documents.
5. Complete the electronic application form and submit your application. You can find the link to the application form in the theme description page.



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FORESTS AND BIOECONOMY
DOCTORAL PROGRAMME



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Submit your application
by 10 August, 2026



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