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FLAGSHIP PROGRAMME CALL TEXT

Applications for the Academy of Finland's flagship funding can be submitted in the Academy's online services as of 4 June 2018. The call closes on 20 June 2018 at 16.15 local Finnish time. The deadline is non-negotiable.

The funding to be distributed through this call depends on the Finnish Parliament's decision to allocate the necessary funds to the Academy in its budget for 2019.

Aim

The aim of the Academy of Finland's Flagship Programme is to pool together expertise from different fields in Finland to form high-level research and impact clusters that will further contribute to increasing the quality and impact of Finnish research. A flagship is an effective mix of cutting-edge research, impact in support of economic growth and/or society, close connections to the business sector and society at large, adaptability, and a strong commitment from host organisations to meeting the set targets.

Flagships are high-quality, high-impact competence clusters that work in flexible ways, simultaneously running several research projects and other activities. During the flagship term, the clusters will make ongoing progress and systematically improve and expand their activities.

Who is eligible to apply?

Only universities, government research institutes or consortia composed of universities and government research institutes are eligible to apply for flagship funding. If you are applying as a consortium, see detailed guidelines on our website.

Host organisations must be prepared to make a significant, steadily increasing investment in establishing and supporting the flagships. Allocating funding not to individual research teams but to organisations that have a strong commitment to the Flagship Programme is a way to support the long-term development of competence clusters and their high-quality research and broad impact.

Funding

The funding earmarked for the second call of the Flagship Programme comes to 31.5 million euros, granted for a fixed term.

The funding is granted following the full cost model. The Academy's funding contribution comes to 100 per cent, which means that the funding also covers overheads. Host organisations need not contribute to the Academy's funding with their own percentage.

The resources planned for the flagship and their development during the flagship term are described in a separate table to be appended to the application. The funding is granted in two separate four-year funding decisions. The flagship will undergo an evaluation in its third year of operation. Based on this

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interim evaluation, the funding for the second four-year term may increase, decrease, remain at the same level or cease entirely.

The funding is granted to be used for the actions described in the research and impact plans. The Academy will not make advance payments on the funding.

Please see General conditions and guidelines for funding on our website for all up-to-date conditions and guidelines regarding use of funding.

Funding period

The funding period is from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2022.

How applications are reviewed

The funding applications will be reviewed paying close attention to the Flagship Programme's objectives concerning internationally top-level research, impact in support of economic growth and/or society, and the role and participation of collaborators.

First, the review of applications will be carried out by external reviewers. The review reports of these external reviewers will be forwarded to the flagship directors and vice directors in late August. They will have one week to respond if they wish to do so. In this 'rebuttal stage', directors and/or vice directors have the possibility to comment (no more than 2 pages) on the review reports to address factual, and only factual, inaccuracies. These comments will be considered by the Academy's Flagship Programme Subcommittee when selecting the proposals to be reviewed by the science and impact panels (see below).

At the second stage, the selected applications will be reviewed by panels of experts who will also have access to the external reviewers' reports. The panels will also interview the applicants. The panel meetings will be held in October 2018.

A science panel of international experts will focus on reviewing the demonstrated scientific excellence and scientific impact, the proposed plan for promoting scientific excellence, and the Flagship candidate's ecosystem, organisation and added value.

An impact panel of international and possibly Finnish experts will focus on reviewing the demonstrated impact in support of economic growth and/or society, the proposed plan for promoting impact, and the Flagship candidate's ecosystem, organisation and added value.

The funding decisions will be made by the Flagship Programme Subcommittee based on the programme's aims, the review reports of both the external reviewers and the panels, and the significance and growth potential of the host organisation's commitment. The Subcommittee also reserves the possibility to call the flagship candidate representatives for an interview in December 2018 before the funding decisions are made.

The review instructions and forms to be used by the reviewers are available on our website at Guides for reviewers. Applicants would do well to familiarise themselves with the review questions.

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Follow-up and reporting

The Academy of Finland's general conditions and guidelines for funding oblige the host organisations to report on the use of funds and on the progress of the flagships.

How to apply

Competent representatives of the applicant universities and government research institutes will submit the funding applications using the Academy of Finland's online services. In the online services, the representatives will also issue a commitment on behalf of the sites of research. Applications can be submitted as of 4 June 2018. The call closes on 20 June 2018 at 16.15 local Finnish time.

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ABOUT THE APPLICATION

The application consists of an application and required appendices that are filled in and submitted via the Academy's online services following the guidelines provided.

Appendix 1: Research and impact plan

The research and impact plan **must not exceed 30 pages** (Times New Roman 12 pt or equivalent) and it must be written in English. The plan should describe the scientific excellence and impact of the candidate flagship from 2015–2018 and the plan for promoting excellence and impact activities for 2019–2026. Draft the plan following the structure below to facilitate the international peer review process. The scientific review will focus on items 1–5 and 7, the impact review on items 1–4 and 6–7.

1. **Basic details**

   Name and abbreviation of flagship

   Director and vice director of flagship

   Host organisations of flagship

2. **Executive summary (no more than 2 pages)**

3. **Central idea (no more than 1 page)**

   - anticipated future prospects or factors on which the central idea is based

- 3–5 key objectives for the eight-year flagship term
- brief description of the central idea from the perspectives of research and impact
- added value generated

4. **Demonstrated scientific excellence and impact in support of economic growth and/or society (no more than 7 pages)**

- previous research on the topic and results in international comparison as well as demonstrated impacts originating from previous research
- brief description of the competence and merits of key researchers and impact experts
- brief description of connections to innovation networks and ecosystems as well as to other actors important for generating impact

5. **Plan for promoting scientific excellence**

- scientific objectives of the research, justifications and follow-up
- expected scientific results, new initiatives, breakthrough potential and scientific impact
- implementation of the plan, research methods and data, schedule, risk management and mitigation

6. **Plan for promoting impact in support of economic growth and/or society**

- impact objectives, justifications and follow-up
- expected contribution to society in its various forms and routes to impact
- Implementation of the plan: approaches, methods, new initiatives, data, schedule, risk management and mitigation

   Helpful information regarding broader impact and the main routes to impact is available in the publication T*he State of Scientific Research in Finland 2016*: Special Theme: Broader Impact of Research in Society.

7. **Ecosystem and organisation of candidate flagship**

- links to host organisation's strategic priorities
- description of host organisations' roles, flagship management and administrative structures
- key collaborators and their roles
- actions to increase the appeal of the competence cluster/research environment

Appendix 2: Resources (4 pages + 1 page per partner)

Describe the resources of the flagship candidate for the years 2015–2026 in a resource table. The figures are given with an accuracy of 0.1 million euros. A template for the resource table is available on the Academy's website. The structure given in the template should be followed.

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In addition to the table, give a short textual explanation of the intended use of the flagship funding. For each of the rows in the table, give a short explanation of the principles used in producing the figures in the table.

The host organisation's investment in the flagship is expected to be significant and increasing during the funding term, and this applies for the overall funding volume of the flagship.

Also include a short explanation of the monitoring of the resources allocated, together with a risk assessment related to the expected budget growth.

Appendix 3: Other appendices to the application

- data management plan
- statement by an ethics committee (if necessary)