

# ask & apply

We start at 13.00



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# Academy Programme for Sport Science and Physical Activity

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## Some guidelines

1. First the presentation – then questions and discussion  
The presentation takes 15 minutes, we have a plenty of time for questions and discussion
2. The webinar presentation will be recorded and made available online for two weeks – Q&A and discussion will not be recorded
3. You can write questions during the presentation on Q&A



# Background

- ❖ The Ministry of Education, Science and Culture provides funding for sport science research, the dissemination of research data and other activities promoting the knowledge-based management of physical activity in accordance with its [Strategy for Knowledge-Based Management of Physical Activity](#) (summary available in English).
- ❖ Responsibility for the government grant process for sport science has now been transferred from the Ministry to the Research Council of Finland
- ❖ For this purpose, the Research Council is launching the Academy Programme for Sport Science and Physical Activity.
- ❖ The Research Council and the Ministry will continue to cooperate in funding sport science research within the framework of the programme.



# The Call

- The first call within the programme is now open as part of the Research Council's Winter Call 2024

The call closes on  
Wednesday  
17 January 2024  
at 16.15 Finnish time

The funding decisions  
will be made  
in June 2024  
at the latest

- [Call for applications](#)
- [Academy Programme for Sport Science and Physical Activity](#)



# Objectives of the call I

To advance the quality, renewal and impact of research on physical activity and sports by directing funding to high-quality and innovative sport science research.

To strengthen accountability, inclusion, community, equality and nondiscrimination in sport science research, targeting different population groups and different forms of sport, both at amateur and competitive level.

To create research-based knowledge that will contribute to:

creating solutions to societal and public health challenges related to physical activity and sports

promoting conditions for a physically active lifestyle and for equality

increasing participation in physical activity and sports

improving results and responsibility in performance sports



## Objectives of the call II

To strengthen the societal impact of sport science research

Applicants should pay particular attention to the description of societal impact and its objectives, methods, target groups and manifestation.

The programme gives priority to research projects with a high applicability.

In targeting research funding, attention will be paid to the relevance of the research projects in supporting sport policy.



# Themes

1. Promoting a physically active lifestyle

2. Ensuring equal access to physical activity

3. Increasing participation in sports and physical activity

4. Achieving results and responsibility in performance sports

Eligible research projects are to address one or more of these research themes.

Applicants must justify the theme of the research and describe what new knowledge the project will generate to promote the theme.





## Who can apply?

- ❖ The funding may be applied for by **individual research teams or consortia** composed of two or more research teams.
- ❖ In addition to a doctoral degree, the principal investigator (PI) of the proposed project must also have other significant scientific merits.
- ❖ The PI can have, or can apply for, other funding from the Research Council. However, a research project cannot receive simultaneous funding for the same purpose from two separate funding schemes. The projects must have different research plans.
- ❖ If you are the principal investigator of an ongoing, Ministry-funded sport science research project, we will not consider (process) your application to this Academy Programme.



## How much can I apply for?

- ❖ The Research Council of Finland's funding budget for this call comes to a maximum of 2.45 million euros.
- ❖ The funding comes to up to **450,000 euros** for an individual research project, and up to **650,000 euros for a consortium** for a period of 36 months.
- ❖ The funding period is 1 September 2024–31 August 2027.
- ❖ The funding is primarily intended towards the salaries of researchers who work full-time on the project and for other project costs.



## What costs can be covered?

You can apply for funding to cover, for example, the following direct research costs:

- ❖ research team salaries
- ❖ PI's salary costs (under certain limitations)
- ❖ salaries of researchers returning to Finland
- ❖ essential implementation costs
- ❖ travel expenses
- ❖ collaboration and mobility in Finland
- ❖ international collaboration and mobility
- ❖ preparation of international projects.



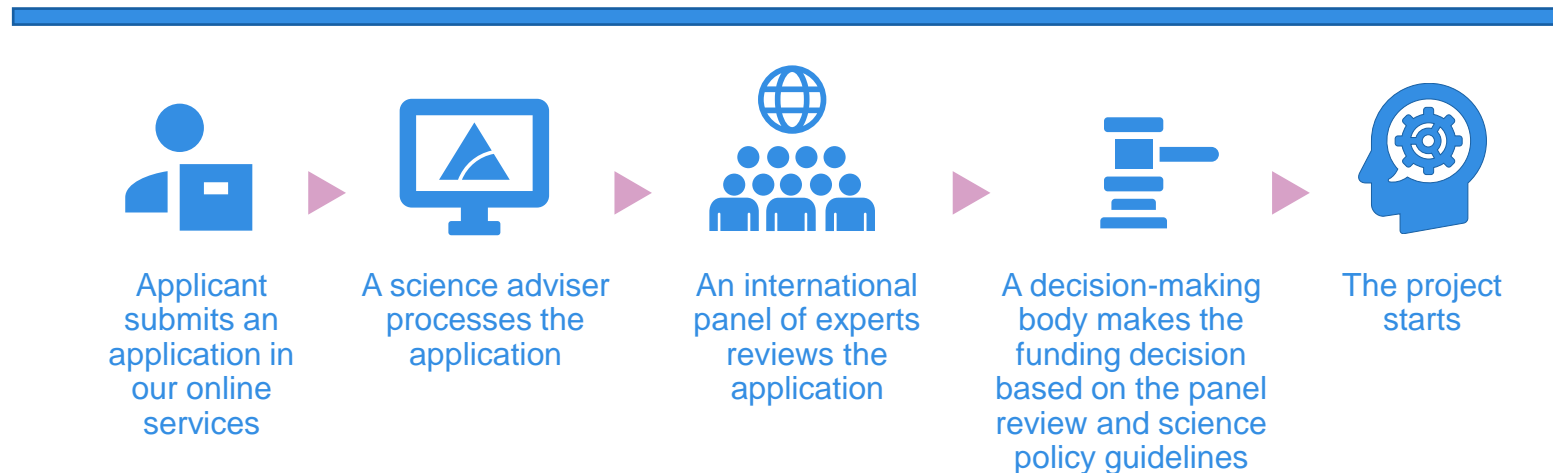
## PI's salary costs

- ❖ The PI's salary costs may only **under certain limitations** and on **justifiable grounds** be incorporated into the total project costs for project management and research work.
- ❖ The PI's salary is entered under 'Salary of principal investigator' in the online services. For the salary costs to be eligible, **the PI's tasks must be clearly specified.**
- ❖ The salary costs must not be significant in relation to the project's total costs. The PI's salary costs, including indirect employee costs and overheads, may not exceed half of the funding applied for from the Research Council of Finland.
- ❖ If the PI does not have an employment relationship for the duration of the funding period, they must explain how their salary will be covered during the funding period

# How are the applications processed?



High-level international peer review is our key tool for identifying the best and most promising research projects to fund. We use it to find the best research ideas, the most talented researchers and the most attractive research environments.



[How applications are reviewed](#)

[Responsible researcher evaluation](#)

# Review criteria



Suitability of the proposed research in terms of the objectives of the programme (incl. societal impact)

Scientific quality, innovativeness and novelty value of the research as well as its impact within the scientific community

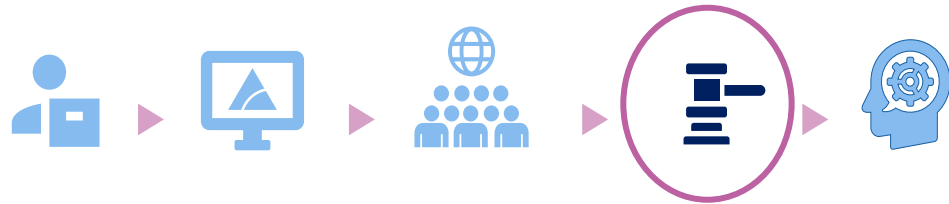
Feasibility of research plan (incl. responsible science)

Competence of applicant/research team in terms of project implementation, possible researcher training

Quality of research environment and collaboration networks (incl. researcher mobility)

[Application review form](#)

# Who will make the funding decisions and how?



- ❖ After the scientific review, the steering group of the Academy Programme will examine the results of the review and prepare a proposal on projects to be funded.
- ❖ The funding decisions are based on the peer review of the applications and the science policy objectives of the Research Council.

The projects to be funded in this programme shall:

- ❖ address one or several themes of the programme
- ❖ meet the programme's objectives, particularly in terms of
  - demonstrating the wide-ranging societal impact of the research
  - demonstrating the relevance and applicability of the research project to support sport policy

## Best practices

### ❖ **Start early, submit early**

- ❖ Remember: You can submit your application and supplement/update until the deadline
  - ❖ Take note of and respect internal university deadlines for budgets, etc.
  - ❖ Obtain letters of collaboration in time for the deadline
- 
- ❖ Pay attention to your application's key words and abstract



## Time for Questions and Answers



**!?**

You may write a question in the Q&A-chat.

**ask &  
apply**