



University of Oulu Template for Academy of Finland Postdoctoral Researcher

Note ! Evaluators guiding questions are based on Academy of
Finland 2016 call



Before you start

- Discuss with your supervisor about the research idea
- Read the call text carefully, read also the instructions for evaluators
- Check the eligibility criteria, Note ! Mobility requirement
- Start now !
- Ask advice !



General tips

- Illustrate your application with figures, tables and other highlights
- Visualize your core idea in one picture (if possible)
- Write clearly, language check improves your credibility
- Present the proposal to your colleagues, collaborators, research funding advisors, friends etc.
- Keep in mind:
Why is your proposal important ?
Why should it be funded?



Content of the research plan

- Max 12 pages
- Times New Roman 12 pt or equivalent
- Make sure the plan remains legible after converting it to pdf

Note!

Compare your project plan to the guiding questions for the evaluators

(questions included in this presentation with this colour)



Content of the research plan

1. Principal investigator, project title, site of research, date of research plan
2. Rationale in brief
3. Scientific objectives and expected impact
4. Research methods and material, support from research environment
5. Ethical issues
6. Implementation: schedule, budget, distribution of work
7. Research team and collaborative partners
8. Research careers and researcher training
9. Mobility plan for the funding period
10. Bibliography



Content of the research plan

1. Principal investigator (PI): Name
 - Project title:
 - Site of research: Name of the research Unit / Group, University of Oulu, Finland
 - Date of research plan: xx.09.2017



Content of the research plan

2. Rationale in brief

- Significance of the project in relation to current knowledge:
 - How is the project linked to previous international and national research?
 - How will the project advance or renew the state of the art?
- How is the project linked to previous research by the PI/the research team, or to some other research?



***From rationale
the evaluators
need to find
answers to
following guiding
questions:***

- How significant is the project scientifically?
- How high is the potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines)?
- How well does the applicant acknowledge potential scientific or methodological problem areas, and how does the applicant consider alternative approaches?



Content of the research plan

3. Scientific objectives and expected impact

3A Scientific objectives

3B Effects and impact beyond academia

3C Publication plan



Content of the research plan

3A Scientific objectives

- Objectives of the project and their theoretical and methodological underpinnings
- Hypotheses or research questions
- Expected research results and their anticipated scientific impact, potential for scientific breakthroughs and for the renewal of the science and research



From objectives and expected results/impact the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

3 A Objectives of the research

- How significant is the project scientifically?
- How high is the potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes?
- To what extent are the objectives ambitious and beyond the state of the art (e.g. novel concepts and approaches or development across disciplines)?



From objectives and expected results/impact the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

3 A Objectives of the research

- Are the research methods and materials appropriate?
- How well does the applicant acknowledge potential scientific or methodological problem areas, and how does the applicant consider alternative approaches?



Content of the research plan

3 B Effects and impact beyond academia

- Reach and potential utilisation value of the research beyond the scientific community
- Self-assessment of the expected societal impact of the research in the long or short term



From objectives and expected results/impact the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding question:

3 B Effects and impact beyond academia

- How high is the potential for breakthroughs or exceptionally significant outcomes?



Content of the research plan

3 C Publication plan

- Plan for publishing of research results, dissemination and communication to the scientific community, potential end-users and the general public, including open access issues



From objectives and expected results/impact the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

3 C Publication plan

- What is the intended level of open access to research results?
- Is the data management plan outlined in a sufficient way?



Content of the research plan

4. Research methods and material, support from research environment

- Research methods, described so as to explain how they will contribute to answering the research questions/ confirming the hypotheses, or how they will support the chosen approach
- Research material to be used and its significance for the research project; justification for the research material and description of how the data will be collected and used. (A separate Data Management Plan=DMP)
- What kind of tangible support will the project receive from local, national and international research environments



Content of the research plan

4. Research methods and material, support from research environment

- Use of research infrastructures, description of how the project benefits from such use (the infrastructures are also entered in the online application under *Infrastructures*)
- Critical points for success, alternative strategies

(Note ! Risks: It is good to consider risks from various aspects. You can e.g. add a table and consider the probability and measures to reduce risk and ways to mitigate risks)



From “Research methods and material, support from research environment” the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

4. Research methods and material, support from research environment

- Are the research methods and materials appropriate?
- How well does the applicant acknowledge potential scientific or methodological problem areas, and how are alternative approaches being considered?
- Is the management of the proposed plan appropriate and well planned?
- Does the research environment support this project, including appropriate research infrastructures?



Content of the research plan

5. Ethical issues

- Description of ethical issues (e.g. ethical governance procedures, informed consent, anonymity of subjects, withdrawal from research) concerning the chosen topic, methods and data, as well as any research permits or information on pending permit applications.

(Ethical issues relating to data or publications are detailed in the DMP: If your data or your publications involve ethical issues, remember also mention them here)



***From ethical issues
the evaluators
need to find
answers to
following guiding
questions:***

5. Ethical issues

- Are there any ethical issues involved and, if so, how are they taken into account?
- What is the intended level of open access to research results?
- Is the data management plan (DMP) outlined in a sufficient way?



Content of the research plan

6. Implementation: schedule, budget, distribution of work

- Schedule for the research
(for example with **Gantt Chart**)
- Budget table with justifications
- Names and tasks of project staff

(Make the budget with the faculty's
controller)



***From
implementation
the evaluators
need to find
answers to
following guiding
question:***

**6. Implementation: schedule,
budget, distribution of work**

- Is the management of the proposed plan appropriate and well planned?



Content of the research plan

7. Research team and collaborative partners

- Explain and describe merits of your research *team members* (team means group of people **involved in this proposal**)
- Key national and international collaboration and its significance for the project implementation



From Research team and collaborative partners the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

7. Research team and collaborative partners

- What are the personal merits and scientific expertise of the applicant? Are they appropriate and sufficient for the proposed project?
- Does the research team bring complementary expertise to the project (if applicable)?
- How does the national and/or international research collaboration contribute to the success of the project?



Content of the research plan

8. Research careers and researcher training

- Advancing the research career of the applicant (or other researchers to be funded)
- Researcher training, including arrangements for teaching and supervision, and degrees to be completed within the project
- Promotion of equality



From research careers and researcher training
the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

8. Researcher training and research careers

- Does the research project support researcher training?
- Does the research plan advance the applicant's professional competence and independence?



Content of the research plan

9. Mobility plan for the funding period

- Description of researcher mobility from Finland (or to Finland or between organisations in Finland) that has already been agreed, including information on the objectives and duration of visits. Also, justify how the visits or work periods elsewhere contribute to the implementation of the research plan



Content of the research plan

9. Mobility plan for the funding period

Note !

- Short research visits (1-2 weeks) are not enough
- Mobility must be in line with the research plan



From mobility plan the evaluators need to find answers to following guiding questions:

9. Mobility plan

- How does the mobility plan support the research plan?
- Does the receiving organisation stand out in the respective field of research?
- Is the length of the mobility period appropriate and is its timing right for the project?



Content of the research plan

10. Bibliography

- Max 2 pages



The Academy Research Fellow applicants: evaluators guiding questions include also...

- **What are the personal competences of the applicant in terms of supervising PhD candidates or postdoctoral researchers?**
- **Does the research project support research training?**
- **What has been the quality of the applicant's previous mobility across international and/or sectorial borders?**