

**OULUN  
YLIOPISTO**



**Academy of Finland, info session for  
the September 2016 call  
Faculty of Science & Oulu Mining School  
Criteria for a successful proposal**

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### **The research fields of RCNSE are:**

Physics, geosciences (incl. space research), chemistry, mechanical engineering and manufacturing technology, medical engineering, mathematics, materials science and engineering, process engineering, construction and municipal engineering, architecture, electrical engineering and electronics (incl. communications and automation engineering), computer sciences, statistics, astronomy, biotechnology and bioinformatics related to the fields above, other multidisciplinary natural sciences and engineering research



## **ACADEMY CALLS:**

- **RESERACH PROJECTS**
- **POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER POSTS**
- **ACADEMY RESERACH FELLOW POSTS**



# **DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA – ACADEMY PROJECTS**

- Scientific quality
- Competence of the researcher/the research team
- New scientific initiatives, breakthrough potential
- Scientific impact
- Research collaboration and mobility
- Research infrastructures
- Multi- and interdisciplinarity
- Funding received from other sources, success in international funding competitions
- Success in previous projects

# RESEARCH PLAN



## **Scientific quality and innovativeness of research plan**

- Is the project scientifically significant and innovative?
- Is the project ambitious and does it have potential for breakthroughs?
- Does it have potential for exceptionally significant outcomes?
- If the project is multi/inter/transdisciplinary, what is the added value of this?

# RESEARCH PLAN



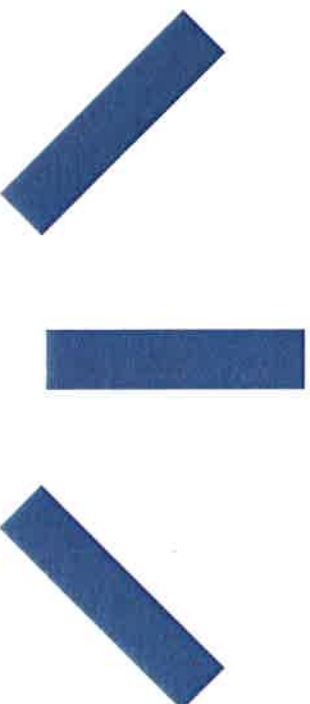
## Feasibility of research plan

- Are the objectives and hypotheses appropriately presented and is the research plan realistic?
- Are the research methods and materials appropriate?
- 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?

## Ethical issues

- Are there any ethical issues involved and, if so, how are they taken into account?

# COMPETENCE OF APPLICANT(S), QUALITY OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



## Competence and expertise of applicant(s)

- What are the merits and scientific expertise of the applicant(s)?
- Are they appropriate and sufficient for the proposed project?
- What are the competences of the applicant(s) in terms of supervising PhD candidates / postdoctoral researchers?



# COMPETENCE OF APPLICANT(S), QUALITY OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



## **Research team, significance of research collaborations**

- Does the research team bring complementary expertise to the project (if applicable)?
- Is the project involved in national and/or international research collaborations that can significantly contribute to the success of the project?
- Does the research project support researcher training?

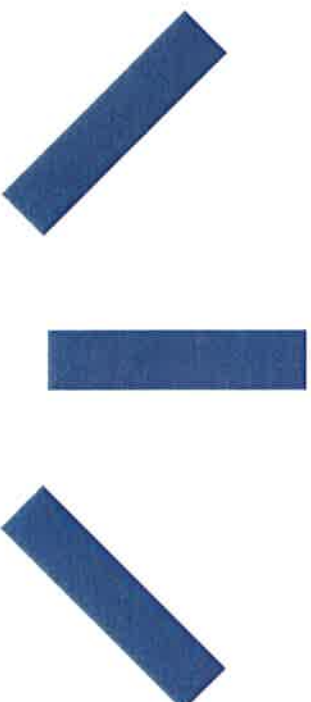
# COMPETENCE OF APPLICANT(S), QUALITY OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



## Researcher mobility

- 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?

# COMPETENCE OF APPLICANT(S), QUALITY OF RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS



## Research consortium (if applicable)

- If a consortium is involved, what is the significance and added value of the consortium for the attainment of the research objectives?

Academy postdoc (eligibility) - The applicant is a researcher with up to four years of experience since PhD completion (exceptions - maternity, paternity, parental or childcare leave, military service or nonmilitary service, or long, term illness)



## DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA – POSTDOC RESEARCHER

- Competence of the applicant – the applicant's competence is the most important criterion while also taking into consideration the quality and novelty value of the research plan as well as the applicant's academic and research activities
- Researcher mobility is important - the Research Council pays special attention to international and national mobility and to mobility within and between sectors, and to the added value generated by such mobility

# POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER



## Funding criteria

- Applicant's competence
- Research plan (quality, impact, novelty value of the research)
- Mobility (new rules)
- Excellent researchers (foreign or Finnish) coming to or returning back to Finland
- Genre issue and equal opportunities are taken into account in decision making
- Different scientific practices in engineering compared to pure natural sciences are acknowledged and will be taken into account when funding decision are made
- In equal rating situations priority is given to the applicant showing industrial collaboration

Academy research Fellow - The applicant is a researcher with 3-9 years of experience since a PhD completion



## DECISION-MAKING CRITERIA – ACADEMY RESEARCH FELLOW

- The applicant's competence as the most important criterion and the applicant's scientific expertise
- The scientific quality of the research plan
- Mobility (The Research Council pays special attention to international and national mobility and to mobility within and between sectors, and to the added value generated by such mobility. Attention is also paid to the applicant's previous mobility spells, even from the time before doctoral degree completion)
- Foreign and Finnish applicants that strengthen internationality in Finnish research groups
- Genre issue and equal opportunities are taken into account in decision making
- Different scientific practices in different disciplines are taken into account

# SUMMARY

- Reserve time and yet more **TIME** to do a proper and successful application – you never start too early!!
- Follow the Academy guidelines and call them up if you like to have more information – that is why they exist and are employed with tax payers money!
- Try to build the application as tight as you can – all aspects have to be addressed (see above)
- Do team work when writing up – remember what John Donne wrote – No man is an island, intire of it selfe
- Let your colleagues to read the application and comment on it – research units personnel, foreign colleagues etc. – they see strengths and weaknesses more easily than you do!
- Check the English with a native speaker – we think we can write but actually we only can write in Finglish or Chinglish, Deutschenglish,.....
- Have a bit of luck – it helps