

News and preliminary information about the Academy of Finland's September 2018 call

The new Act on the Academy of Finland was adopted in April 2018. The reform will make the Academy of Finland an expert organization for science and research under the Ministry of Education and Culture.

In connection with the adoption of amendments to the Act on the Academy of Finland, the number of Research Councils will decrease from four to three as of 1 January 2019. The Research Councils for Natural Sciences and Engineering, and for Culture and Society will remain unchanged, but the new Research Council for Biosciences, Health and the Environment will bring together the current Research Council for Health and the Research Council for Biosciences and Environment. You can see the revised research fields of the Research Councils corresponding to the new Research Council model [here](#).

The new Research Council model will affect the upcoming September call, and applicants will have to submit their applications to the new Councils. Applicants should be thoroughly acquainted with the guidelines of their Council, as they are crucial when making funding decisions. The guidelines of the Research Councils corresponding to the new Council model will be available on the [Academy of Finland website](#).

Preliminary information about upcoming calls

Note ! All information below is yet unofficial and may be subject to change.

Another change in the September call is the structure of the research plan: it becomes part of the online application form. Content can be imported to the online application from a Word document, and the system will display the remaining number of pages at all times. There will be no changes in the content of the research plan and its length, but its structure will be modified and harmonized with the application form.

Requirements concerning the CV will also change to better match the Horizon 2020 ERC CV model.

Another novelty is that the commitment of the site of research will be asked during the application stage and no longer after the closing of the call. At this stage, it is not yet clear whether the lack of commitment would prevent the submission of an application.

SRC- Strategic Research Council

The Strategic Research Council (SRC) established within the Academy of Finland proposes that the Finnish Government adopt four new strategic research themes for 2019.

In its theme proposals, the SRC highlights systemic and cross-disciplinary approaches as key success factors for strategic research. Together with the themes of previous years, the 2019 themes provide a comprehensive basis for the information needs of present and future decision-making. The SRC submitted its proposals to Minister of Local Government and Public Reforms **Anu Vehviläinen** on Wednesday.

The SRC proposes four strategic research themes for 2019:

- Towards a sustainable, healthy and climate-neutral food system
- Innovative materials and services to promote resource wisdom and sustainable development
- The evolving role of public authority and the potential for steering society
- Culture in an increasingly technologically driven society

The SRC also proposes strengthening the ethical dimension in research as the cross-cutting priority of the 2019 themes.

The Government will next discuss the proposals and decide the final themes. The SRC will then design the research programmes based on the final themes and launch funding calls in late 2018.

[Further information and theme descriptions](#)