

### **3.1 Finland Distinguished Professor Programme (FiDiPro): letters of intent**

The goal of the Finland Distinguished Professor (FiDiPro) funding programme is to strengthen scientific knowledge and know-how in Finland, add a more international element to the Finnish research system, bring added value into the national innovation system and support the research-driven profiling of universities and research institutes. Through the programme, universities and research institutes can hire foreign professor-level researchers or Finnish professor-level researchers who have worked abroad for extended periods to conduct and promote research in Finland for a fixed period. For more information on the FiDiPro programme's background and goals, see [www.fidipro.fi](http://www.fidipro.fi).

The programme is aimed at creating long-term international cooperation. Funding is primarily granted for purposes of hiring leading-edge researchers who will be based in scientifically significant and strategic key areas as defined by universities or research institutes and who are internationally highly merited researchers and have wide experience in researcher training. While working in Finland, FiDiPro professors are first and foremost expected to carry out and actively advance internationally competitive research and to contribute to strengthening Finnish research environments. Proposed FiDiPro candidates shall in principle be prepared to work in Finland.

Decisions on projects to be selected to the FiDiPro programme are made by the Board of the Academy of Finland. The Academy, the host university or research institute and any other funding bodies involved shall jointly agree on the resources, tasks and responsibilities of FiDiPro research projects.

The visiting FiDiPro researcher shall be based at a Finnish university or research institute. The researcher shall also be in an employment relationship to that university or research institute. The researcher may work abroad for no more than half of the funding period. Besides the FiDiPro researcher's salary expenses and travel and other costs, Academy funding may be used towards setting up a research team. Applications shall be filed by the employing university or research institute, which will also contribute towards the FiDiPro professor's visit and research costs. The Academy funding is awarded for 2–5 years. The funding period can start on 1 September 2012 at the earliest.

A condition for the payment of funding is that the university or research institute receiving the funding and the invitee have in advance agreed in writing that the ownership rights to any patentable inventions emerging during the employment relationship are transferred to the employing Finnish university or research institute.

The FiDiPro programme has a two-stage call. At the letter of intent stage, the university or research institute is required to submit a proposal on how the research project ties in with the FiDiPro programme and its goals (incl. the university's or research institute's strategies and competence areas). The university or research institute may submit a letter of intent for several researcher candidates to be invited. All applicants are required to submit an order of priority of the candidates, with justifications.

The plan of intent shall be detailed enough so that its significance can be assessed in terms of the research system, the promotion of research and the competence of the proposed candidate.

Universities and research institutes applying for funding are expected to contribute financially towards the researcher's salary and research costs as well as to provide other practical assistance. The site of research also provides the basic facilities for research.

### **Appendices to the letter of intent:**

- Plan of intent, no more than four pages, including the following
  - rationale for how the research project ties in with the FiDiPro programme and its goals (incl. the strategy and competence areas of the university or research institute)
  - background and objectives of the research
  - description of the research team
  - most important research methods
  - expected outcomes as well as scientific and societal impacts
  - national and international collaboration
  - timetable for the research
- curriculum vitae for the invitee, no more than four pages
- list of publications of the invitee. Clearly indicate the ten most important publications.

Only the requested appendices are appended to the application. The appendices shall be drafted in accordance with the Academy's guidelines, see Appendices on the Academy's website. The appendices are drafted in English and appended to the application in the Academy's online services under "Appendices". The only exception is the curriculum vitae, which is appended under "Personal data/CV".

### **How to apply**

The applicant for FiDiPro funding is a university or research institute. The letter of intent is submitted in the Academy's online services by the Finnish contact person indicated in the application, who requests a signature for the application by the university rector or the research institute's director. The signature is submitted in the online services with the function tailor-made for this purpose.

The 2011 FiDiPro call has two stages. The deadline for submitting letters of intent in the online services is 30 September 2011 at 16.15. The deadline is non-negotiable.

In this call, the full cost model applies to the calculation of the project costs. Applications shall be written so as to ensure that the Academy's contribution to funding comes to no more than 80% of the total project costs. See the guidelines on how to enter the costs in the application form under Full cost model on the Academy's website.

The application is drafted in the Academy's online services under Open calls > **FiDiPro programme, letters of intent.**

On the basis of the letters of intent, the Academy Board will by the end of 2011 decide on the projects that will proceed to the second stage. Projects going through to the second stage shall later (date TBA) submit a full application, complete with a detailed research and action plan as well as a funding plan.

### **More information:**

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