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Tekes' application guidelines for FiDiPro Professor projects

1 Description

FiDiPro funding scheme provides Finnish universities and research institutes with an opportunity to employ international professor-level top researchers for a fixed term to carry out research with Finnish researchers and research teams. Expatriate Finnish professor-level top researchers who have long worked abroad are also eligible for FiDiPro professorships.

The application process is a two-phase procedure. At the first stage the applicants are asked to submit a short proposal of the planned FiDiPro project. The applicants selected for the second phase will submit a full application.

2 Application deadlines

FiDiPro applications are always submitted by a Finnish university or research institute. Applications for the first phase can be submitted to Tekes twice a year. Information about the application periods can be found at Tekes' website <http://www.tekes.fi> and FiDiPro website at www.fidipro.fi/apply

3 Plan of intent / Short proposal (I stage)

The FiDiPro application shall always be made by a Finnish university or research institute.

At the first stage, the university or the research institute is asked to give information about the top researcher to be invited and about the planned FiDiPro project. In the event that a university or research institute applies for funding to invite two or more researchers, it shall supply a priority list inclusive of grounds at the proposals stage. The applicants are also asked to state, how the project will support the university's or the research institute's strategy.

The party responsible for the application within the university or research institute may be a department, faculty, network, centre of excellence or corresponding unit. Universities and research institutes are encouraged to collaborate with each other and with business and industry.

Tekes

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Finnish Funding Agency for Technology and Innovation

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3.1 Content of the short proposal

- Basic information about the top researcher to be invited
 - is the application for a FiDiPro Professor or FiDiPro Fellow project
- Main goals and content of the research project
- Connection to the strategy and the areas of excellence of the applicant organisation
- How will the top researcher participate and integrate into the Finnish research environment?
 - Information about the status and resources available to the field or research related to the project
 - What kind of national and international cooperation is involved and how will it be developed
 - Does the project have links to an Strategic Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation
- Utilization of the results
 - Which industries or companies will be involved in the project?
 - How can they utilise the results of the project?
 - Other impacts
- Commitment of the applicant organisation
- A tentative funding plan inclusive of an estimate of the invitee's periods of working in Finland and the remuneration to be paid.

3.2 Attachments

- The CV of the proposed top researcher and a complete list of publications
- In the event that a university or research institute applies for funding to invite two or more researchers, it shall supply a priority list inclusive of grounds at the proposals stage.

3.3 How to submit the short proposal?

Finnish universities and research institutes shall submit their first phase proposals by using the FiDiPro Plan of Intent sheet by email: [kirjaamo\(at\)tekes.fi](mailto:kirjaamo(at)tekes.fi) or by mail to address: Tekes, Kirjaamo, PL 69, 00101 Helsinki.

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4 Full application (II stage)

At the second stage, the application shall be prepared in accordance with Tekes' instructions for public research projects. The applicants are asked to present a tangible utilisation plan, i.e. which companies can utilise the results of the project in their business and the manner(s) of this utilisation. Utilisation may take place over a long time span.

The application must furthermore specify the concrete ways in which discussions will take place with enterprises and sectors of industry interested in the research. A steering group involving representatives of enterprises shall be appointed to follow-up the projects.

4.1 Content of the full application

- Basic information about the applicant organisation
- Basic information about the project
- Budget and a funding plan
 - The budget shall clearly lay out the top researcher's period(s) of working in Finland and the remuneration to be paid.
 - The universities and research institutes applying for funding are required to contribute to the top researcher's expenses and to provide administrative assistance as well as assistance in practical matters such as relocation. The planned contribution shall be specified in the application.
- Project's resources and planned cooperation
- Advantages and impacts of the project

4.2 Attachments

- A precise research plan or project plan
 - The project plan shall include information about the planned research work, its stages and a detailed budget. The plan may, if necessary, exceed the generally advised length and comprise 10–15 pages.
- The CV, a complete list of publications and a list of the 20 most important publications of the proposed researcher
- A description of the project's impacts
 - A description of how the proposed project relates to and supports the strategy of the university or research institute

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- A tangible utilisation plan, i.e. which companies can utilise the results of the project in their business and the manner(s) of this utilisation
- The genuine commitment to the project of the companies that are potential users of the research results. Tekes form [Preliminary notification/confirmation of participation in project \(rtf\)](#)
- A proposal for members involved in the steering group

4.3 How to submit the full application?

The application shall be filled in online at <https://hakemus.tekes.fi/>.

5 Evaluation criteria

In a departure from the norm, Tekes employs external evaluators at the application stage to assess the level of the researchers. The project proposals are evaluated within Tekes. Tekes employs the general evaluation criteria applicable to public research in its decision-making.

The following evaluation criteria are furthermore applied in FiDiPro:

- Relevance of the proposed project to business and industry (utilisation plan), including Strategic Centres for Science, Technology and Innovation
- Support of the proposed project to policies under the Tekes Strategy
- Support of the proposed project to the strategy of the university/research institute
- The level of the researcher, the competence level and resources of the receiving unit
- Position on the priority list of the university / research institute

6 Information about FiDiPro funding

The FiDiPro funding scheme seeks to create long-term international cooperation. Funding is awarded to projects for a fixed term with a funding period of 2 to 5 years.

FiDiPro funding scheme provides Finnish universities and research institutes with an opportunity to employ international professor-level top scientists to work with Finnish research teams. Expatriate Finnish professor-level top researchers who have long worked abroad are also eligible for FiDiPro funding.

The top researcher recruited should work a minimum of four months per year in Finland. During the whole project period, the top researcher should work in Finland at least 12 months. The top researcher shall actively take part in the work of the Finnish research group(s).

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FiDiPro funding is granted to research projects that can cover the top researcher's salary and travel expenses. Besides salary, travel and other expenses of FiDiPro researchers, the funding may be used to cover costs of the research project.

The foreign top researchers may also bring along one or more key members of their research team, whose expenses may also be covered at least in part if they are employed by the host organisation, i.e. a Finnish university or research institute. FiDiPro funding may also be used to cover the expenses of accompanying family members.

7 Recruitment

Applicants are asked to ensure that the invited top researcher has examined and accepts the relevant terms and conditions concerning projects.

[General terms and conditions for Tekes research funding for government agencies and institutes \(pdf\)](#)

FiDiPro professors will be placed at and employed by a Finnish university or research institute. The recipient of funding – university or research institute – is responsible for recruitment, appointment and the terms of employment.

The universities and research institutes are required to contribute to the top researcher's expenses and to provide administrative assistance as well as assistance in practical matters such as relocation. The planned contribution shall be specified in the application.