



JANE JA AATOS
ERKON SÄÄTIÖ

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

The Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation offers funding for high-quality innovative research that has the potential to lead to major scientific breakthroughs internationally.

We assess research proposals in terms of their stated aims and objectives, the applicants' qualifications, skills and achievements to date, the project plan and the likely impact of the research.

The research plan must clearly set out the project's aims and objectives along with a realistic implementation plan. The scope of the project must be sufficiently broad and applicants must have sound data collection arrangements in place. Funding recipients must be capable of delivering a high degree of productivity.

The budget must include a detailed breakdown of all costs. Funding can be extended if the findings represent a major scientific advance and have the potential to lead to new avenues of research.

Our funding is usually offered to groups and postdoctoral researchers. We do not usually fund individual PhD projects. At our discretion, we may invite external experts to assess the applications. Please note that we are unable to offer feedback on our decisions. The names of any external experts used will not be made public.

What we fund

Postdoctoral research We fund postdoctoral visiting fellowships to internationally renowned research institutions of between 1–2 years. Funding may be extended to three years, if sufficient progress is being made, the applicant is motivated to continue the research and a sufficiently supportive statement is received from the applicant's supervisor.

For the application, you will need to include a copy of your CV and list of publications, a supporting statement from your PhD supervisor and a letter of invitation from your host institution. The letter of invitation should contain a brief outline of the research project and a description of the research environment.



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Independent research groups In order to qualify for funding for the purpose of establishing an independent research group, applicants will need to be able to demonstrate a successful track record of postdoctoral research at an internationally recognised centre of excellence and put forward an independent and ambitious research plan for the future. The research group must have access to the necessary research facilities, partners and any specialist expertise required. You can also choose to collaborate with an existing research group offering the necessary facilities and services you require for the successful pursuit of your research goals.

You will also need to include a letter of recommendation from your postdoctoral supervisor setting out your ability to successfully carry out independent, high-quality research. Statements from two experienced researchers covering your research plan and the research facilities available to you are also required as part of your application.

Established researchers To apply for funding as an established researcher, you will need to provide an ambitious but realistic plan to tackle some of the most important questions in science or make significant advances in your field. Applicants need to have an independent track record in teaching or research and an outstanding CV including high impact publications. You will also have acted as a supervisor for a number of PhD projects and currently hold a post of Adjunct Professor (*dosentti*) or above.

You should also include statements from two well-established researchers containing an evaluation of the applicant, the applicant's research plan and the resources required for the proposed research.

Proof of concept research

The Foundation also offers funding for proof of concept research that tends to involve a higher degree of risk. In order to be eligible, applicants must have a PhD but can be at any stage in their careers. The funding is offered to individuals and/or small groups over a maximum period of two years.

Proof of concept projects propose to pilot a promising research idea in the early stages of development where there is little existing evidence to support it. The ability to demonstrate some initial evidence supportive of the hypothesis is advantageous, but ultimately the purpose of the project



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is to generate sufficient conclusive findings to act as the basis for a larger study. We will evaluate applications on the basis of the applicant's research output and impact, the degree of novelty demonstrated and the potential for the pilot to lead to a breakthrough in understanding.

A proof of concept project may lead to a larger study that is eligible to receive continued funding. The research findings must clearly demonstrate that any further research has the potential to lead to internationally significant findings or a scientific breakthrough.