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15.12.2025

Work unit:	**Strategy and Development**	Administrative instructions	Public

Title:	**Applying for State Research Funding in 2026**
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Approved by:	Juha Töyräs
Description:	Description of the application procedure for State Research Funding and instructions for researchers on how to apply. *(unofficial translation)*

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1 APPLYING FOR STATE RESEARCH FUNDING IN 2026

1.1 Objectives and Focus Areas of University-level Health Research

Research projects applying for state research funding must be aligned with the objectives and focus areas of university-level health research. These are defined by the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and regional university-level health research committee (Sosiaali- ja terveysministeriön asetus yliopistotasoisesta terveyden tutkimuksesta vuosina 2024-2027, 66/2024.)

The aim of the study in 2024–2027 is to:

1) promote the health and wellbeing of the population through high quality and effective health research, which is carried out in the health care service system;

2) promote the effectiveness and quality of healthcare, as well as customer and patient safety as a part of it;

3) produce new knowledge on health, health care and the social and health care service system and ensure its dissemination and utilization in health care and also elsewhere in society

4) support the career path of a researcher working on clinical research

The focus areas of university-level health research in 2024–2027 are:

1) clinical and translational health research
2) making research methods that utilize large data files available to healthcare
3) research on the effectiveness of health care and the service system, including quality and customer and patient safety
4) research supporting the development of a service system that reduces the inequalities of health and wellbeing

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2 APPLICATION PERIOD

The application period for state research funding in the Eastern Finland collaborative area starts on Wednesday the 7th of January 2026 and ends on Friday the 6th of February 2026 at 15.00.

State research funding is applied electronically in the “eTutkija” system. Instructions for using the system can be found in section 6 of the instructions.

The distribution of funding will be decided on the 14th April 2026, and it will be done by the regional research committee for university-level health research.

After the application period has ended, the Science Service Centre of the wellbeing services county of North Savo will centrally take care of the organizational commitments of the organizations participating in the application.

3 ELIGIBILITY

Applicants for research funding can be: municipality maintaining the health care unit in the Eastern Finland collaborative area, joint municipal authority, state mental hospital or service provider prescribed by Act of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (375/2022).

State research funding-eligible healthcare organizations in the Eastern Finland Collaborative Area are:

- The wellbeing services county of South Savo
- The wellbeing services county of Central Finland
- Niuvanniemi Hospital
- The wellbeing services county of North Karelia
- The wellbeing services county of North Savo (Islab as a part of the wellbeing services county of North Savo)
- Fimlab Laboratories Ltd
- Validia Ltd (part of The Finnish Association of People with Physical Disabilities corporation)

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- Centres for Sports Medicine
- Live Neuron (owned by the Live Foundation)
- Blood Service maintained by the Finnish Red Cross

Applications must be based on research projects, which are managed and implemented in state research funding-eligible organizations in the Eastern Finland collaborative area. Projects must have a designated person in charge.

The applicant who seeks for research funding must be employed by at least 20% in the state research funding-eligible organization in the Eastern Finland collaborative area **during the application period, during evaluation period, during decision-making period of the funding and during time of use period.**

- A person on full-time leave of absence (excl. statutory absences) cannot be an applicant or be granted state research funding because the condition for employment is not met.
- Persons employed under a consulting agreement may work in a research group, but not as applicants for state research funding.

The applicant applies for funding in the category whose qualifications he or she fulfils by the end of the application period. If the applicant's eligibility criteria are not met by the closing date of the application period, funding cannot be granted. During the funding application period, applicants must notify the Science Service Centre of any changes affecting their eligibility.

Applicants are encouraged to apply for funding for their research project according to a realistic use plan, so that the state research funding is used as actively as possible. Administrative costs are not considered as use of funding.

Applicants who have received funding are obliged to report on the progress and results of their research project in the year of implementation (2026 application, implementation report by 31.10.2026) and a final report at the end of the funding period (2026 application, final report by 31.10.2028). The Science Service Centre will send out a Surveypal report questionnaire by e-mail to applicants who have received funding (to the email address the applicant has provided in eTutkija when applying).

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A researcher who received funding in the year preceding the application may apply for state research funding in the following year if:

- The researcher has used the funding received and submitted an implementation report on its use to the Research Committee by the 31st of October of the same year.

Researchers who received funding in the year preceding the application **cannot** apply for state research funding in the following year if:

- The researcher has not used the funding received but has reported to the Research Committee by the 31st of October of the same year why the funding has not been used. Since the implementation report has been submitted to the Research Committee, the funding in question will remain available for the next two years (three years in total) until the end of the funding period. The final report must be submitted to the Research Committee by the 31st of October at the end of the funding period.

If a researcher who received funding in the year preceding the application has not submitted an implementation report to the Research Committee by the 31st of October of the same year, he/she will not be eligible to apply in the following year. In addition, the funding in question will be returned for redistribution in the following year's application round.

A researcher can apply for research funding for only one research project.

4 APPLICATION CATEGORIES

1) Research Project / Docent Level

- Persons appointed as docents by the end of the application period may act as applicants.
- In addition, the research committee grants funding for applications to one of the most innovative research projects in the docent-level research project application category (so called bonus category). Funding is granted to a research project whose research plan is the best based on external

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evaluators' evaluations and who otherwise would not be receiving funding in the docent-level research project application category.

2) Research Project / Doctoral Level

- Persons who have completed their doctoral degree by the closing date of the application period may act as applicants.

3) Doctoral Thesis Research Projects

- Persons who are doctoral candidates may act as applicants.
- Doctoral thesis researcher can apply for funding only for their own salary and for a maximum period of six (6) months. A doctoral thesis research project can be part of a larger research project.
- A statement from the supervisor of the doctoral thesis research must be attached to the application (to be filled in by the supervisor). The template can be found in “eTutkija”.

In the research project application categories, only one funding can be applied for per research project. The amount awarded cannot exceed the research funding applied for.

Before preparing the application, the applicant must discuss the implementation of the research project with the head of the unit or the person responsible for the research projects of the organization in accordance with the organization’s policies.

5 EVALUATION OF THE FUNDING APPLICATION

Detailed assessment criteria and criteria for numerical evaluation can be found in: https://pshyvinvointialue.fi/valtion-tutkimusrahoitus

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6 FILLING THE FUNDING APPLICATION IN “ETUTKIJA”

The application for state research funding is submitted in the ”eTutkija” system. Logging in to the service happens through ”OmaKYS” professional service, which uses the “suomi.fi” identification service.

The application can be submitted in Finnish or English. Incomplete applications will not be processed. Only the documents that comply with the instructions can be attached to the application.

Browser recommendation: Chrome and Firefox

In the “eTutkija” system, the applicant fills the following sections of the application:

- Application category (research project / docent level, research project / doctoral level / doctoral thesis research project)
- Type of application (a new research project or an ongoing research project)
- Orcid-ID
- Basic information- tab
- Research project- tab
- Estimate of cost- tab
- Funding and attachments- tab
- Data storage and approval- tab

6.1 Logging in to the ”eTutkija” System

1. Go to Kuopio University Hospital's “OmaKYS” professional service https://omakys.fi/ammattilainen

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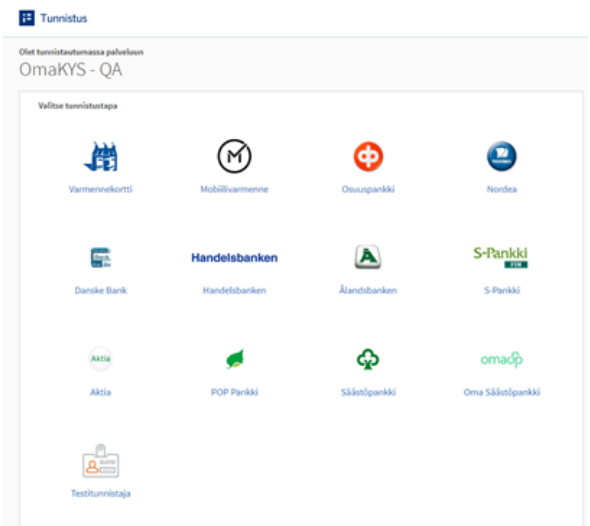
Login/ Register to “eTutkija” via the link :[eTutkija]

2. Choose the authentication method you use



3. When you have logged in using the identification method you have chosen, you will see a confirmation from the Suomi.fi service.

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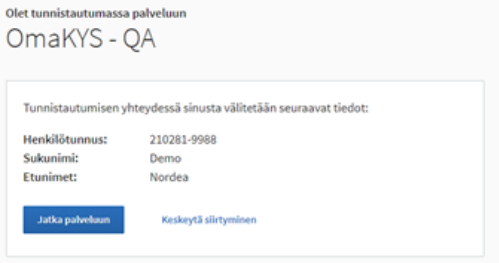

4. The first time you log in to “OmaKYS”, you must accept the terms of use and check your information.

5. When you are in the “OmaKYS” professional e-service, select “eTutkija”.

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6. Clicking on the link will take you to the following page in “eTutkija”, where you need to choose the option that suits your situation. Follow the on-screen instructions.

7. Once you have registered/enrolled and been accepted into the “eTutkija”, you will not have to do this intermediate stage again. The “OmaKYS eTutkija” link will take you directly to the “eTutkija”.

Please note that if you have used “eTutkija” before the identification was taken into use, the Science Service Centre will link your ID to your "old applications". In the Science Service Center, this is done manually. Combining IDs is not done on weekends, on public holidays or after office hours.

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Please note that when you log out of the “OmaKYS” professional's service side, you will end up on the login page of the “OmaKYS” patient section.

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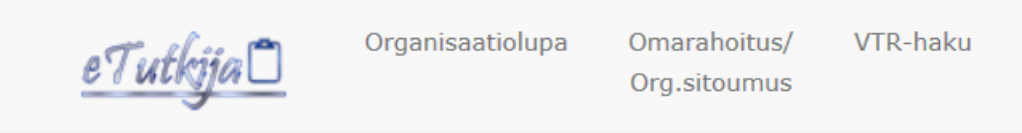
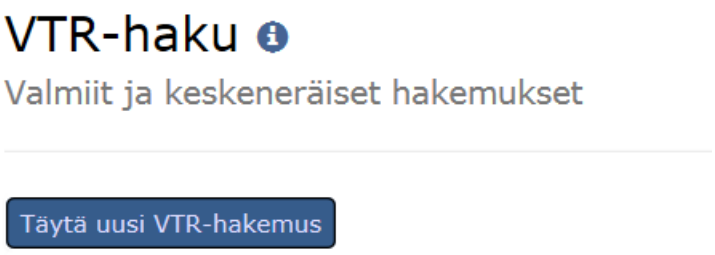
6.2 Filling the Application

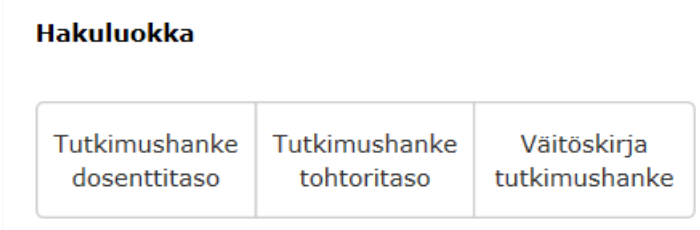
Filling in the application is started from the top tab by clicking “VTR-haku”.



The “VTR-haku” will open, select “Täytä uusi VTR-hakemus”.



Select a search category



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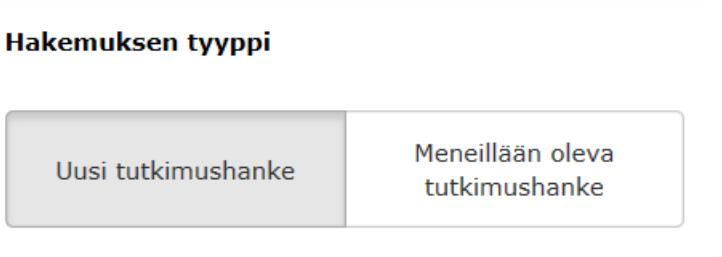
Select application type



Add an ORCID ID (required), which is retrieved from the link: ORCID

If saving the ORCID ID is not possible, check the format of the ID (XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-XXXX), e.g. a space after the last character prevents saving.

6.3 Basic Information- tab

Fill in the academic title and position, applicant organization (letter v at the end of the line = selections), applicant's service unit/profit centre/department, etc. and the organization implementing the study (if different from above; if several, please mention all of them).

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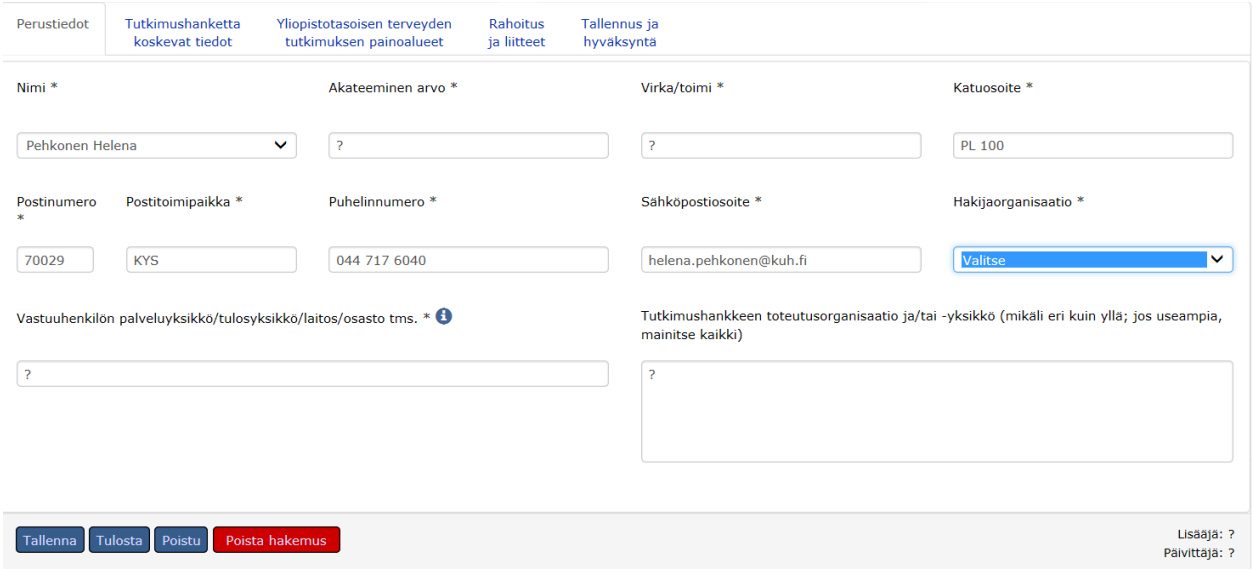
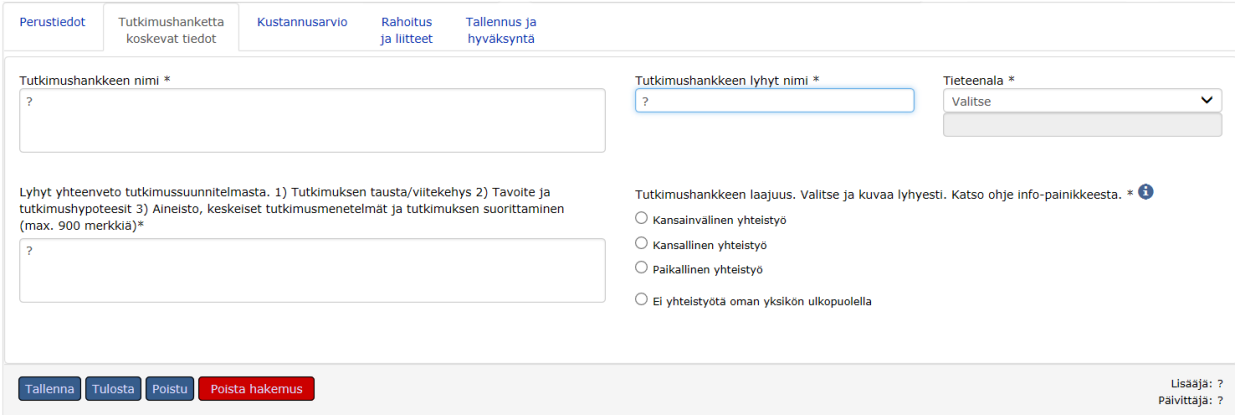


If you want to save one page at a time, you can press “Save” and it takes you back to the beginning – you can continue filling in the application by clicking on the red text or continue directly to the next tab.

Hakemuksen nimi: -

Hakemuksen täyttäminen on kesken - jatka tästä linkistä!

6.4 Information about the Research Project- tab



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N.B! Research project applications for doctoral thesis does not have to include the extent of the research project.

After completing the information, continue to the next tab.

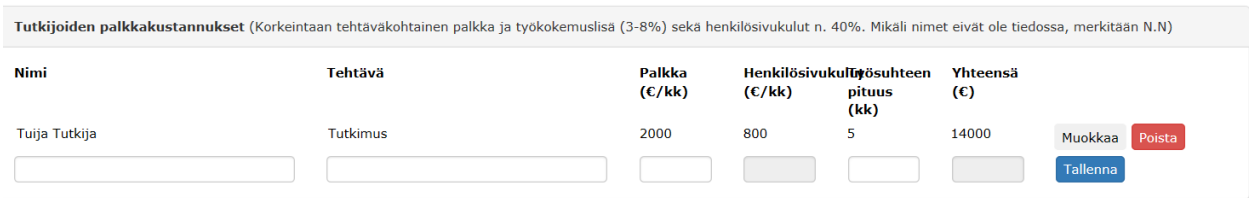
6.5 Estimate of Cost- tab

Research funding is intended to be used for costs directly attributable to the specific research project, such as salaries of researchers and assisting staff, purchases of equipment and materials, and outsourced services. The funding can also be used for research work abroad.

The remuneration of researchers and assisting staff is based on the salary of the employee´s own post or salary per position at most. The salary must correspond to the level of requirements of the work carried out in the research. Work experience bonuses (3% or 8%), social security expenses and holiday bonuses (40% in total) are added to salary costs.

Researchers can choose to work for a lower monthly salary, which allows them to work as a researcher for a longer period. In addition, when calculating the costs of research projects, one must take into account the general administrative infrastructure costs of each organization’s research activities, which can be 25 % at most.

The costs entered in the cost estimate are the ones which state research funding is applied for.



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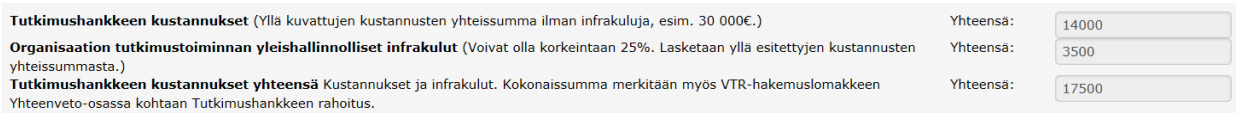
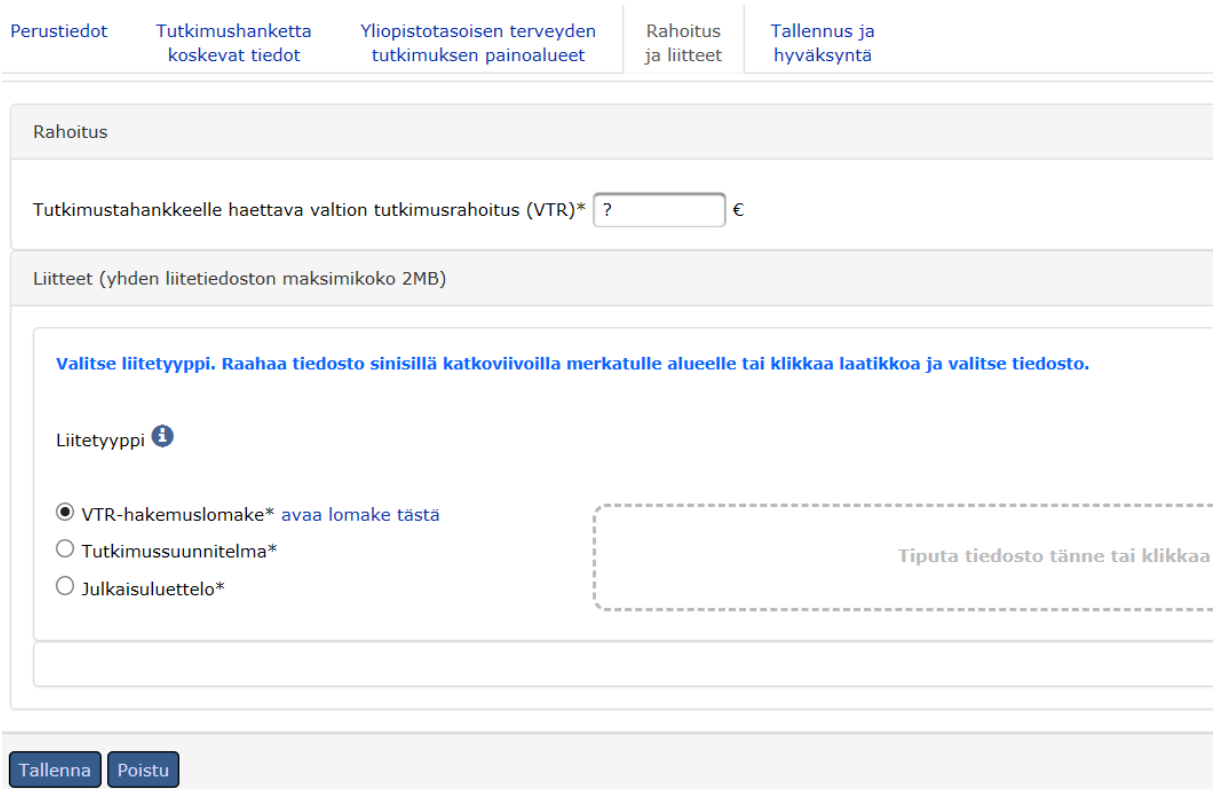
Use the “Tallenna” button to add a new person or an expense. The “Muokkaa” button allows you to change the information, and the “Poista” button deletes the entire row.

Costs accumulate automatically.



The program automatically calculates 25 % as the infrastructure cost. If your own organization uses a lower infrastructure cost percentage, the infrastructure cost will be specified after receiving funding and in accordance with your organization’s instructions.

6.6 Funding and Attachments- tab



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The state research funding applied for a research project- column gets the euro amount directly from the cost estimate- tab.

“The Appendix type”- section opens the state research funding application form, research plan and list of publications. In addition to the appendices mentioned above, one can also find the director's statement in the funding applications of doctoral thesis level research projects.

In funding applications for **docent-level and doctoral level** research projects, the state research funding application form, research plan and list of publications are mandatory attachments.

State research funding application form, research plan, possible list of publications and supervisor's statement must exist as appendices when filling a funding application for **doctoral thesis research projects**.

6.6.1 Application Form for State Research Funding

The state research funding application form opens from the "Avaa lomake tästä" link.

The state research funding application form is to be filled and saved on your computer. The saved application form is transferred to the “eTutkija” by pressing the right sided button of the mouse and dragging the file to the area marked with blue dotted lines. Alternatively, you can click on the box and select the file where the state research funding application is saved on your own computer. In the same way you can also attach the research plan, list of publications and supervisor's statement (doctoral thesis research application) to your application on “eTutkija”. Attachments marked with a star are mandatory.

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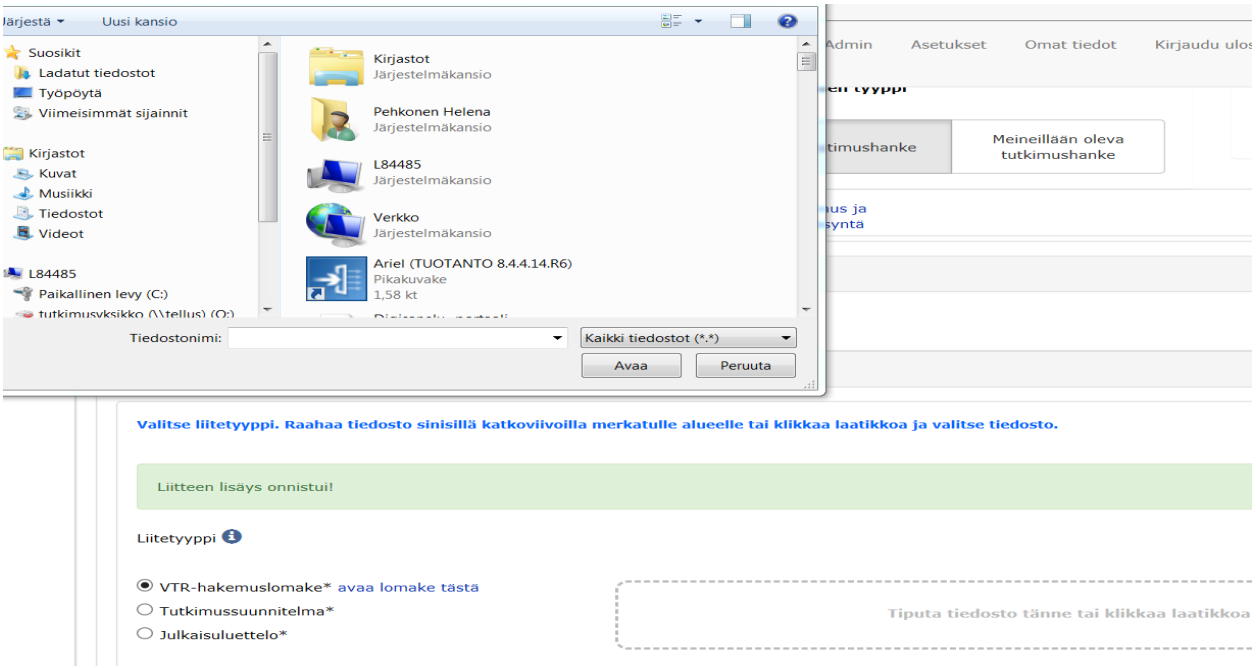
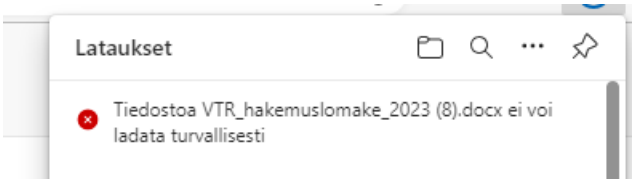


IF when opening the state research funding application form, you receive the message:



Move your cursor over the text marked with a red cross, there are three dots at the end of the line …

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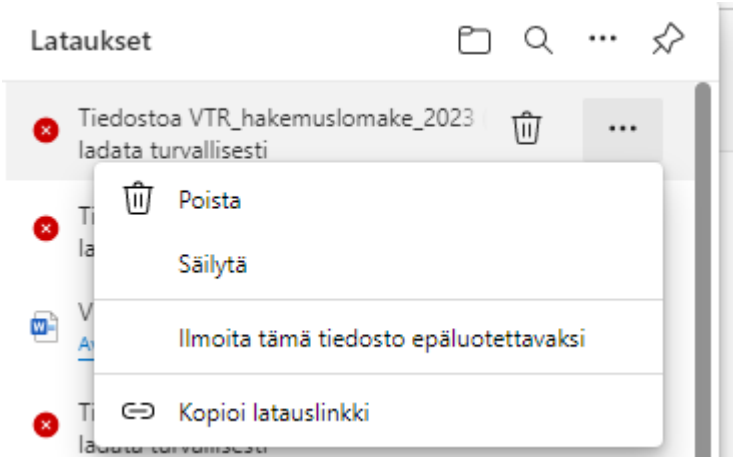
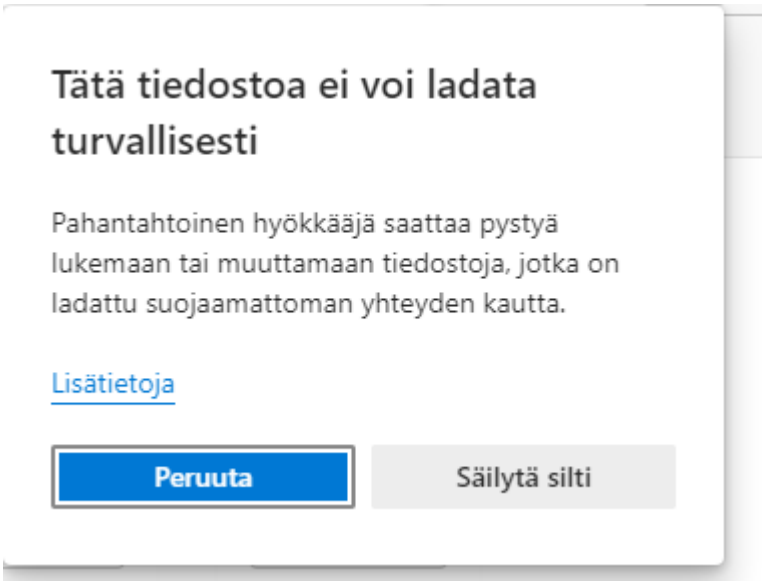


and select ”Säilytä”



Select ”Säilytä silti”

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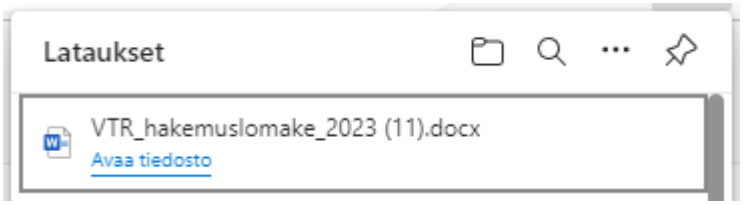
You can then open the application form for you to process and save.



The state research funding application form contains **a summary** describing information about the research team and partners, as well as descriptions of the overall relevance of the research project for health promotion and disease management, and clinical significance. The application also includes **the applicant's curriculum vitae**. The curriculum vitae includes a description of the applicant's previous research demonstration.

6.6.1.1 Summary

In the Summary section of the state research funding application form, the applicant must mention the external research funding previously received for the project, **excluding state research funding received previously that is not mentioned in the application.** This is to be done in the" Tutkimushankkeen rahoitustiedot" part and needs to be aggregated by source of funding for three (3) calendar years preceding the application period. (fundings from 2023-2025 are in the 2026 call). The total amount of funding awarded is transferred to the "Rahoitus" section of the curriculum vitae- section.

N.B. Previously received state research funding is not included!

6.6.1.2 Resume

The Hirsch index (H-index) is mentioned in the resume. The H-index is retrieved from the Scopus database for the period 7.1.-6.2.2026. Further instructions are available, for example, on the website of UEF; Tutkimuksen arviointi | Itä-Suomen yliopisto (uef.fi)

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In the resume, the applicant indicates five (5) of his/her most significant publications related to the specific research area from three (3) calendar years preceding the application period. (publications from 2023-2025 are in the 2026 call) and their latest Impact Factor (IF) scores for the period 7.1.-6.2.2026. The applicant reports the journal's IF score according to the Impact Factor value in the Journal Citation Report. The combined IF score of the published publications are taken into account in the assessment.

The Publication Forum classification has 3 levels: 1 = basic level; 2 = conductive level; 3 = highest level.

The Publication Forum categories can be searched on the JUFO portal, and the latest Publication Forum category from 7.1.-6.2.2026 will be recorded in the application.

Doctoral thesis candidates do not fill in the curriculum vitae because the necessary information is obtained from the supervisor's statement (section 6.6.4).

6.6.2 Research Plan

Instructions for writing the research plan:

Maximum length 5 pages, excluding cover page and bibliography. Line spacing 1, clear font and large font size (e.g. Arial 11, Times New Roman 12). When structuring the content, you can also follow the guidelines used by the Academy of Finland, where applicable: http://www.aka.fi/tutkimussuunnitelma/

Content of the research plan:

1. Name of applicant, name of project, place of performance, duration of project (months):
2. Background
3. Objectives

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4. Research methods, material, and ethical issues
5. Implementation: schedule, budget, division of labor
6. Researchers, research environment and mobility of researchers
7. Research training and career (when applying for funding for a research group)
8. Expected research results and potential risks (including publication plan)
9. Key literature or bibliography

6.6.3 List of Publications

The applicant's list of original publications **ONLY** for the **three (3) calendar years preceding** the application period (from 2023-2025 are in the 2026 call). It is recommended that the list of publications is limited and includes only key publications. Abstracts are not included in the list of publications. It is recommended to follow the guidelines used by the Academy of Finland, where applicable: http://www.aka.fi/julkaisuluettelo/

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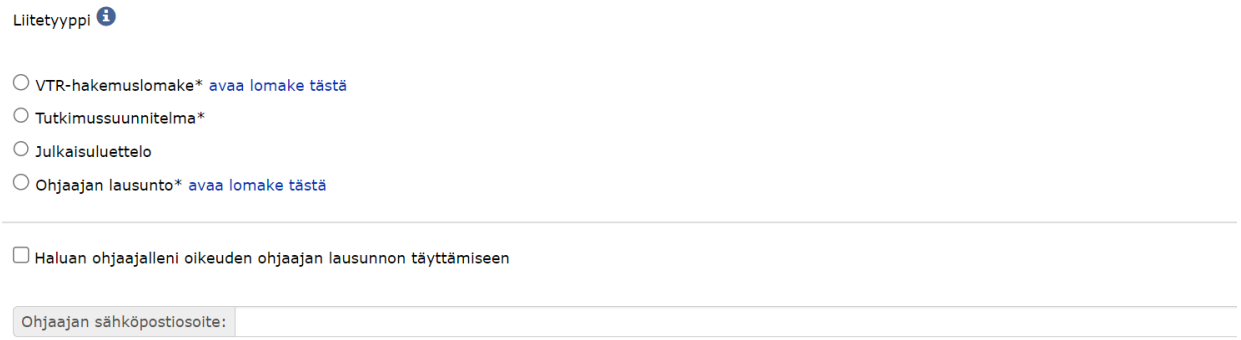
6.6.4 Statement of the Instructor

A statement from the supervisor of doctoral thesis research is only required in the application category “Doctoral thesis research projects”.

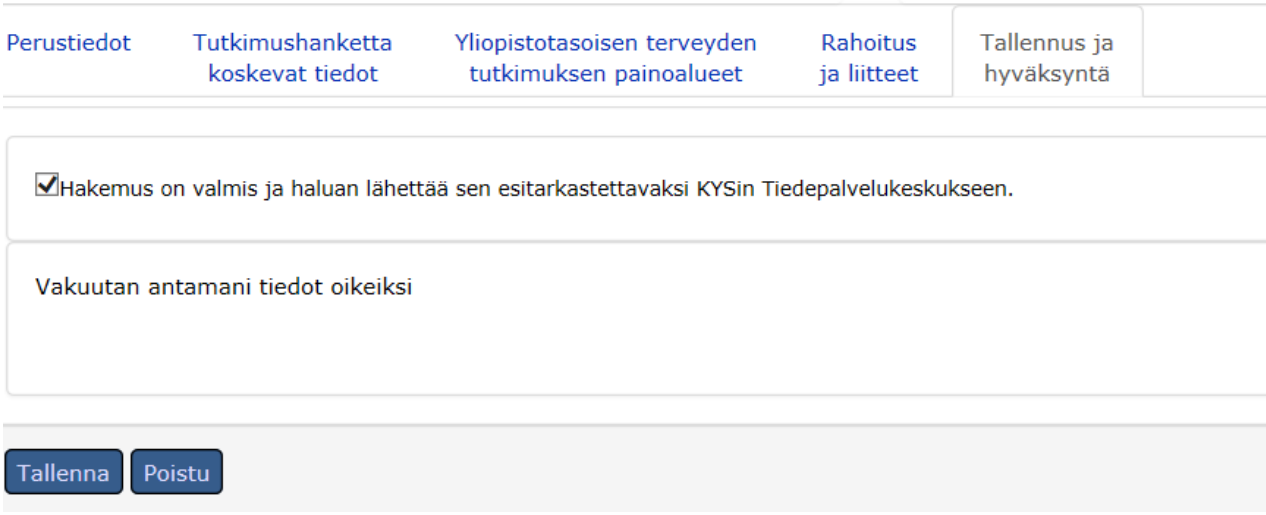


In a doctoral thesis research project, the applicant may grant his/her supervisor the right to fill in the supervisor's statement. The supervisor will receive a link to the application by email, the supervisor completes the statement and saves it.

A doctoral thesis research project application can only be marked as complete and pre-examined by the applicant.

Versio: 6
Päivämäärä: 12.12.2025
Hyväksyjä: Juha Töyräs, 11.12.2025 11:56

6.7 Data Storage and Approval



Please comment on “I give permission to publish my research”. If you do not tick the box, your name and the name of the research will not be published on the Intranet and Internet.

When you tick the box "Application is complete" and press the Save button, the application and its attachments will be sent electronically to the Science Services Centre of Wellbeing Services County of North Savo for processing. After this, you cannot make any more changes to the application. If you wish to change your application, please contact the Science Services Centre.

The ”eTutkija”- program does not use a digital signature, so print the form via the "Build PDF" button. The printed and signed form and its attachments will be delivered to the Registry of the wellbeing services county of North Savo (building 3, 0th floor) by Tuesday 6.2.2026 at 15:00.

Thank you for your application!

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Hyväksyjä: Juha Töyräs, 11.12.2025 11:56

6.8 Submission of the Application for Evaluation

The printed and signed application and its appendices must be delivered to the registry of the wellbeing services county of North Savo by **Friday 6.2.2026 at 15.00.**

Wellbeing Services County of North Savo
Regional Committee for University-Level Health Research
Registry Office, KUH, Main Lobby
P.O. Box 1711
FI-70211 KUOPIO

The registry office is open Tuesday to Thursday from 12.00 to 14.00. On Mondays and Fridays, the customer service is closed. When the registry office is closed, applications can be submitted to the reception desk in the main lobby of Kuopio University Hospital, which is open on weekdays from 7.00 to 17.00.

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Hyväksyjä: Juha Töyräs, 11.12.2025 11:56

7 CONTACT INFORMATION

- Chair of the regional research committee for university-level health research in the Eastern Finland collaborative area Tatu Kemppainen, tel. 044 717 2824, e-mail tatu.kemppainen(at)pshyvinvointialue.fi
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- Science Service Centre, e-mail tiedepalvelukeskus(at)pshyvinvointialue.fi
- www.pshva.fi > Research > Research funding > State research funding