A leading defender of researched information in Finland, the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers (FUURT) promotes research and academic work. We act as a key operator in securing the prerequisites of conducting high-standard academic work in Finland.

FUURT includes 15 member associations with over 7,000 members. Our members are supported by university-specific local associations, two national associations, a comprehensive network of shop stewards as well as the Union’s expert staff.

The common titles of our members include university lecturer, early career researcher, doctoral researcher and postdoctoral researcher. We also welcome academics working under a grant. We actively promote the position of people in fixed-term employment, the situation of early career researchers, the employment of PhD holders and the funding of both higher education institutions and research through negotiations and representation.

We operate in three languages, serving both Finns and foreign academics working in Finland in Finnish, Swedish and English. As a member, you will receive comprehensive benefits ranging from training and career services to insurances and legal counselling.
The doctoral researcher-supervisor relationship includes obligations and rights that apply to both the supervisor and the researcher. Some of the rights and obligations are affected by whether the PhD research work is done under employment, on a grant or at the researcher’s own expense alongside other work.

Researchers are professionals throughout their careers. That is why we recommend using the title doctoral researcher or early career researcher for researchers working on their PhD theses.

The Early Stage Researchers’ Work Group of FUURT has compiled essential guidelines for both doctoral researchers and thesis supervisors to support a positive researcher-supervisor relationship.

Checklist for doctoral researchers

Rights regardless of funding
- Recognition as a fully fledged member of the scientific and work community.
- Right to the electronic services of the university (e-mail, basic service credentials, etc.) and access to the university’s relevant mailing lists throughout the thesis project and for a reasonable amount of time after the project.
- High-quality supervision. The right to switch supervisors in the event of a serious conflict.

Obligations
- Ensuring the progress of the work as agreed.
- Informing the supervisors of the work stages and factors affecting the work.
- Tending to personal energy levels and well-being.
- Participating in the funding application process for the thesis.
- Listening to and taking into consideration feedback from the supervisors and the scientific community concerning the research.
- Complying with good, responsible scientific practice and high-level research ethics.

For more information, please visit: www.tieteentekijat.fi/en

Checklist for thesis supervisors

Rights
- Right to expect the work to progress as agreed.
- Right to have the supervisory work taken into consideration in the work plan.
- Right to receive sufficient information, resources and pedagogical training for the supervisory work.
- Right to be heard in the interaction with the doctoral researcher and the faculty.

Obligations
- Reserving sufficient time for supervising the PhD research.
- Offering the doctoral researcher constructive feedback, support and information related to the research and its funding.
- Treating all the supervised doctoral researchers equally.
- Agreeing on the rights to potential co-authored publications, the role of the doctoral researcher and credit in the co-authoring process with the doctoral researcher.
- Defending the realisation of the doctoral researcher’s rights in relation to the superior and the university.
- Setting an example for the doctoral researcher in complying with good scientific practice and the norms of research ethics.

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