Funding of Postgraduate Studies in Computer Science at HUT

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Types of funding
- Graduate school
- Teaching post
- Project worker
- Scholarship
- Scholarship for studying abroad
- General support for studies (Kela)
- Regular job (outside HUT)

Graduate schools
- Funded by Ministry of Education
- The current system started in 1995
- In 2002
  - 108 graduate schools
  - 1426 paid students
  - HUT coordinates 17 schools
Graduate schools:
Financial benefits
- Four year appointment
- Full-time studying
- Salary
  - A18 (EUR 1,600)
  - with lab extra up to EUR 2,500
  - no age bonuses
- Travel grants

Our graduate schools
- Helsinki GS in Computer Science (HeCSE)
- GS in Computational Methods of Information Technology (ComMIT)
- GS in Computational Biology, Bioinformatics and Biometry (ComBI)
- GS for Electronics Business and Software Industry (GEBSI)
- Pythagoras

Teaching posts
- Postgraduate students are favored
- Assistant
  - Traditional post for postgraduate studies
  - 3-year appointment
  - 3 mo. full-time research/year
  - No lectures
  - Teaching and administration 12–24 h/week (old regulations)
  - A19 (EUR 1,700)

Teaching posts (cont.)
- Teaching researcher
  - 5-year appointment
  - ~ one lecture course/year
  - A23 (EUR 2,200)
- University teacher (new)
  - A23-A24 (EUR 2,200)
  - no tradition
- Professor (temporary appointment)
  - A28 (EUR 3,450)
**Project worker**

- Short appointments
- Suitability depends on duties
  - Avoid being a project manager!

**Scholarships**

1. Small
2. Travel grant
3. Large
   - one year
   - for full-time study only
   - EUR 10,000 – 20,000/year

**Scholarships (cont.)**

- no taxes
  - private foundations: up to EUR 15,000 without taxes
  - remember: tax planning, aug-july is better than jan-dec
- continuation possible (at most three years)
- drawback: limited social benefits, e.g. pension doesn't cumulate

**Funding resources**

- HUT and Research Foundation of HUT
  - large scholarships
    - EUR 14,000/year
    - deadline April 15, 2003
  - small scholarships for fast studying and for dissertation
Funding resources (cont.)
- The Finnish Cultural Foundation (Suomen Kulttuurirahasto)
- Technological Foundation (Tekniikan edistämissäätiö)
- Emil Aaltonen Foundation
- Nokia Foundation

Funding resources (cont.)
- Jenny and Antti Wihuri Foundation
- KAUTE Foundation
- Research Foundation of Information Processing (Tietotekniikan tutkimussäätiö)
- Finnish Academy of Science and Letters

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Funding application
- Application form
- Research plan
  - general significance
  - expected results
  - schedule
  - budget
  - advising
Funding application (cont.)

- Research plan (cont.)
  - tips
    - clear topic
    - compact presentation
    - reasonable, many-sided, interdisciplinary?
- CV (with list of publications)
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!
- General impression counts!

Example: Research plan for Academy of Finland

- Background
  - background and significance of the research
  - previous activity
- Objectives and methods
  - objectives of the research
  - hypotheses

Example (cont.)

- Performers of the research and resources
  - arrangements for postgraduate instruction and supervision
  - Finnish and foreign co-operation
  - financial plan
  - grounds for funding (in particular for "other costs")

References (recommendations)

- two recommenders (at least docents)
- they should know you
- better if one of them doesn’t work in your lab
- give a copy of the research proposal to them
Example (cont.)

- Results
  - results to be expected and their significance
  - applicability of the results and their potential exploitation
  - publication plan

Curriculum Vitae (CV)

- Education
- Work history
- Previously received research funding, previous projects
- Teaching and theses advising
- Academic activities (positions of trust, reviewing, honours, prizes)

Funding decision is based on

- Expert reviews (Academy of Finland)
- Recommendations (foundations)
- Balance between fields, universities etc.

Remarks

- Seek for long-term funding rather than well-paid short posts
- If you encounter problems, consult your supervisor
- Funding applications for postgraduate studies are similar to funding applications for research
**Links**  (mostly in Finnish)

- Jatko-opinto-opas  
- TKK:n apurahaseuranta  
  www.hut.fi/nyt/apurahat/
- Turun yliopiston Apurahatiedote  
  www.utu.fi/hallinto/tutkimuspalvelut/tiedote1/welcome.htm
- Foundations  
  www.skr.fi/salvelu/verkossa.html

**Links (cont.)**

- Apurahatutkijan opas  
  www.tieteentekijoidenliitto.fi/apurahatutkijanopas.htm
- Apurahat 2002  
  www.syl.helsinki.fi/opiskelijat/apurahat.html
- CIMO  
  www.cimo.fi/Resource.phx/cimo/itselle/jatko.htm
- UNESCO: Study Abroad 2000 – 2001  
  www.unesco.org/education/studyingabroad/networking/studyabroad.shtm