



EDUFI Finnish-Russian intensive courses for PhD students, Call for Applications 2020-2021

Educational cooperation, Russia

1. General

The Finnish National Agency for Education's FIRST+ programme (Finnish–Russian Student and Teacher Exchange Programme) promotes partnerships and collaboration of higher education institutions in Finland and Russia. As part of the FIRST+ programme, a separate EDUFI Finnish-Russian intensive courses for PhD students call for applications is organised to support intensive courses for PhD students from Finnish and Russian universities.

2. What is funded

The call for applications considers **intensive courses coordinated by Finnish universities** that are intended for **PhD students from Russian and Finnish universities**. The call for applications is restricted to the **field of humanities and social sciences** based on the recommendations from the assessment of Russia operations. One intensive course can be funded in the application round.

2.1. Amount of grant and general terms and conditions

The intensive course is always coordinated by a Finnish university. The amount of the grant can be a **maximum of EUR 30,000**. The grant awarded can also be for a lower amount than the sum in the application.

The entire grant is awarded to the coordinating Finnish university, which determines how the grant is used. **At least one university from Finland and one from Russia** must participate in the intensive course. The students taking part in the course and the guest lecturers can also come from universities other than those organising the course. A bilateral agreement between the universities is not necessary, but established cooperation between the institutions is considered an advantage in terms of the application.

The grant is intended to cover **the costs resulting from the mobility and accommodation and subsistence of the participants** in the intensive course. The grant can cover travel and accommodation costs for participants from Russian and Finnish universities. It can also be used to pay lecture fees. The grant can also be used to cover expenses incurred by the university organising the course, such as facility and material costs.

All of the costs must be presented as a separate project in the university's accounting.

The duration the intensive course is at least 1 week (= 5 working days + travel days). The intensive course must be held in Finland.

2.2. Other costs

Possible other costs need to be financed by the participating universities.

PhD students from other than Russian or Finnish universities can participate in the intensive course at their own expense.



3. Applying for funding

The application is sent via the state grant system, and no paper forms are needed. The information requested in the application is will be visible on the programme website <https://www.oph.fi/en/programmes/first-programme#anchor-finnish-russian-intensive-courses-for-phd-students>.

3.1. Application components

Basic information on the intensive course includes information about the background, activities and aims of the intensive course. The basic information provides a concise and clear description of, for example, the practical course arrangements, the parties/responsible persons participating in course implementation, and the expected results/outcomes.

If an intensive course receives funding, the information submitted in the basic information form can be used in EDUFI communications regarding the programme, for example, in the EDUFI online service.

A **preliminary programme/schedule** is attached to the application form in the EDUFI state grant system.

The budget presents estimates of travel, accommodation and subsistence, and organisational costs.

The application form can be completed in Finnish or English.

3.2. Eligibility and evaluation criteria

3.2.1. Eligibility criteria

Eligible intensive courses must have a theme related to the field of humanities and social sciences, and the participants must include at least one university from Finland and one university from Russia. The application must be submitted as a whole before the deadline through the EDUFI state grant system.

If the above conditions are not fulfilled, the application is not eligible, and therefore is not passed on for evaluation.

3.2.2. Evaluation criteria

The primary **selection criterion** for the application is **quality**. All applications that have passed the eligibility check undergo a quality evaluation, which assesses the different elements of the application by means of the following criteria.

RELEVANCE

- The intensive course meets an educational and/or research need that has broader significance in terms of cooperation between the countries.
- The intensive course relies on existing cooperation and experiences but brings clear added value in relation to earlier initiatives.



- The universities have an institutional commitment to and interest in the activities (for example, strategic priorities).

THE QUALITY OF THE COOPERATION, PLAN AND IMPLEMENTATION

- The theme and content of the intensive course are planned so that they meet the presented needs in a convincing manner.
- The basic information of the intensive course is described clearly and the programme/schedule has been planned in a realistic and cost-effective way.
- As far as possible, an equal number of students and teachers from Finnish and Russian universities should participate in the intensive course.

IMPACT

- The application describes the impact in terms of the participants and organisations.
- The expected results/outcomes are described in a concrete and realistic manner.
- Rather than being an isolated entity, the intensive course is integrated into normal university activities.

4. Decision and grant agreement period

Applicants will be informed of **decisions** concerning the *EDUFI Finnish-Russian intensive courses for PhD students* within two months after the end of the application period. The decision about the result of the application will be sent to the project coordinator and the legal representative of the coordinating university.

4.1. Grant agreement period and reporting

The funding awarded may be used within the period 1 June 2020 – 31 August 2021. The **final report** must be submitted to EDUFI latest in October 2021.

5. Application period and submitting the application

The application period for the programme ends on 2 March 2020 at 16.15. The application must be saved via the EDUFI electronic system by that time.

The application is submitted by the Finnish university coordinating the project. Late applications will not be considered.

The application and attachments are submitted via the EDUFI electronic state grant system. The link to the electronic system is available on the programme website: <https://www.oph.fi/en/programmes/first-programme#anchor-finnish-russian-intensive-courses-for-phd-students>.

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