

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Turku, 10 May 2026

BioCity Turku asks for proposals for new research programs for 2027-2031

BioCity Turku is a collaborative initiative between the University of Turku and Åbo Akademi University and it plays a central role in supporting and coordinating life science research in the Turku region.

BioCity Turku research programs strengthen the multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research collaboration within the Turku campus. BioCity Turku research programs are composed of several active research groups representing different research units, faculties, hospitals and/or universities. The Board of BioCity Turku and Turku Bioscience decide upon the research programs based on the recommendation from the Scientific Advisory Board.

Read more:

[BioCity Turku](#)

[BioCity Turku Research Programs](#)

[The Board and Scientific Advisory Board of BioCity Turku and Turku Bioscience](#)

Who are eligible to apply as BioCity Turku research programs?

- We welcome application from both new openings as well as from current BioCity Turku research programs.
- All research groups working in life sciences or molecular medicine who are located in Turku campus are eligible to join the research programs.
- The chair of the research program needs to be from one of the four faculties: UTU Faculty of Medicine, UTU Faculty of Science, UTU Faculty of Technology, ÅAU Faculty of Science and Engineering.
- A composition of research groups representing different research units, faculties and universities is considered as an advantage.
- A research group may participate in more than one research program. However, each research group must designate one research program as its primary research program, in which it participates as a full member. Participation in any additional research programs is considered affiliate membership. The membership status of each research group (full member or affiliate member) in every research program must be specified in the supplementary information form submitted with the application.

The proposal written in English should contain following two documents:

1. Main application (max 3 pages) including the following details:

- Research program title and acronym
- Names and affiliations of all research group PIs participating in the program
- Research program director(s) and her/his contact details
- Short abstract explaining the importance of the research program
- Research program's vision, planned actions and goals, as well description on how the program facilitates research and networking within the BioCity Turku organization
- Five most important publications representing the research program
- If a research program is reapplying, the application must include a brief summary of activities from the previous five-year period, along with a self-assessment reflecting on the program's outcomes and development. For this purpose, the application may exceed the three-page limit by one additional page.
- Please use the separate Word template for the application. Download the template from <https://seafile.utu.fi/d/f4caf7b6cb284e94b50c/>

2. Supplementary information from each research group involved in the research program:

- PIs name, affiliation, email and physical office location in the campus (building, floor)
- Research group's name and web page address
- Does the research group represent a full or an affiliate member of the research program? (Please see above for more information)
- Number of active PhD students and postdocs currently working in the research group
- Number of PhD degrees completed in the research group during 2022-2026
- List of five selected publications from 2022-2026
- External funding of the research group in 2025-2026. List only names of the funding organizations.
- Short description of the scientific aims of the research group (max. 500 characters).
- Please use the separate Word template to provide the above-mentioned details. Download the template from <https://seafile.utu.fi/d/f4caf7b6cb284e94b50c/>

Please send the documents 1. and 2. at latest by **Sunday 16 August 2026 at 23:59** (CET +1) to biocityturku@bioscience.fi

Funding and responsibilities of BioCity Turku research programs

- Funding is granted for years 2027–2031, that is for five consecutive years.
- Yearly basic funding will be determined primarily by the number of research programs selected for funding and the activity of each program, not by the size of the program. I.e. qualitative attributes are acknowledged over quantitative.
- The Board of BioCity Turku and Turku Bioscience decides yearly on the funding distribution and the Board can consult Scientific Advisory Board if considered necessary.
- Research programs are asked to send a yearly report on their actions and the use of the funding by the end of January of the following year. Failing to report in due time or leaving significant amount of the funding unused may have an effect on the following years' funding.
- BioCity Turku aims to open yearly a separate funding call for research program collaboration, for which all BioCity Turku researchers belonging to any of the research programs are welcome to apply. The theme of the call may vary from year to year. Representative from each BioCity Turku research program will participate in the evaluation of the applications.
- BioCity Turku research programs will actively participate in organizing the Frontiers of Science seminar program by inviting world-class scientists to present their research.
- BioCity Turku research programs are invited to suggest topics for future BioCity Symposiums. The Board of BioCity Turku and Turku Bioscience will decide on the topics for few years in advance.
- From 2027 onwards, proposals for Elias Tillandz publication prize are collected from BioCity Turku research programs, and only groups belonging to the research programs are eligible to submit proposals.

Read more:

[Frontiers of Science seminars](#)

[BioCity Symposium](#)

[Elias Tillandz publication prize](#)

Timeline

- Call for new BioCity Turku research programs opens 8 June 2026 and closes 16 August 2026
- The decision-making process might include interviews in 22–23 September 2026 and suggestions to refine the application.
- Decision as the new BioCity Turku research programs is made in November 2026

More information from

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