Säätiöiden post doc -pooli
The Foundations’ Post Doc Pool

M-O Seppälä 2024
Congrats, Doc! Where next?

Säätiöiden post doc -pooli grants for postdoc scholars heading abroad from Finland

www.postdocpooli.fi
• Founded in 2009 by 8 Finnish foundations as a 3-year project (2010-2012)
• Started its fifth season in 2022 with 13 foundations (2022-2024), awarding 3.25M€ /year
• Coordinates grants for postdoctoral research abroad (outside Finland)
• Spring call from 1 to 31 Jan, Autumn call 15 Aug to 15 Sep
• Grants annually some 60-70 doctors (personal grants)
• The Pool’s aim is to make Finnish research more international by offering young scholars flexible funding from one source that covers all expenses of a research period abroad.
The Foundations in the Pool

- Alfred Kordelin Foundation
- Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation
- Emil Aaltonen Foundation
- Finnish Academy of Science and Letters (Tiedeakatemia)
- Finnish Cultural Foundation (SKR)
- Finnish Foundation for Technology Promotion (TES)
- Finnish Medical Foundation (SLS)
- Foundation for Economic Education (LSR)
- Jenny & Antti Wihuri Foundation
- Päivikki and Sakari Sohlberg Foundation (PSS)
- The Society of Swedish Literature in Finland (SLS)
- The Swedish Cultural Foundation in Finland (SKF)
- Ulla Tuominen Foundation
Background: The situation before the PDP
The idea of the PDP

applicant 1
applicant 2
applicant 3
applicant 4
applicant 5
applicant 6
applicant 100

Found. A
Found. B
Found. C
Found. D
Found. E
Found. F
The principles of the Post doc pool

• FLEXIBILITY - The grant sums are determined flexibly according to the researcher’s needs; enables taking the family along

• SWIFTNESS – the evaluation and decision-making processes are swift, results in two months

• COVERAGE FROM ONE SOURCE - The grants may cover all expenses to the researcher and her/his family during a research period abroad, including working grant, insurances, travel costs, childcare/school fees...

• MINIMUM STAY ABROAD 6 MONTHS - The research period abroad preferably lasts 1-2 years (minimum 6 months). Grants may be awarded for longer periods (up to 24 months).

• FOR YOUNG SCHOLARS ONLY – doctoral degree completed no more than 4 years ago
How does a personal postdoc grant work?

- Personal grant is paid directly from the foundation to the postdoc
  -> tax-free up to some 26,356 € per year (2024)
- Consists technically of two parts:
  1) **working grant** for living costs
     -> the amount is based on the Pool’s country-specific instructions
     -> 15% goes to Mela if you travel with the Finnish social security
  2) **cost grant** for all kinds of other costs (e.g. travel, bench fee, insurances, research costs, rent, kindergarten/school fees)
     -> grant recipient has to report the tax deductions to the tax officer
Who is eligible to apply?

• Scholars based in Finland (also non-Finnish nationals)
• Scholars from all academic disciplines
• Scholars who have completed their doctoral degree no more than 4 years ago (by the deadline of the Call)
• Scholars who have not yet completed their doctoral degree but have received the pre-examiners’ statements (esitarkastuslausunnot) & permission to defend the dissertation in a public examination (väittelylupa)
The Post doc pool in numbers

- 14 years, altogether 28 rounds, over 40M €
- 4387 applications, 872 grants (success rate 20 %)
- 2898 applicants, 755 grant recipients (26 %)
- Grants have varied from 5000 € to 90000 € / year
- One third of the grants have been for 2 years
- Extensions for the second year also possible
The applicants’ background

- Natural science & engineering
- Humanities & Social science
- Medical science
- Bio- & environmental science
- Economics
The grant recipients’ target countries (2013-23)
Upcoming application rounds

• The Spring call from 1 Jan to 31 Jan 2024. The results in April 2024
• The Autumn call from 15 Aug to 15 Sep 2024. The results by December 2024
• info@postdocpooli.fi
• www.postdocpooli.fi
Useful links

• General information about the Finnish Foundations: saatiotrahastot.fi
• Open funding calls: research.fi / tiedejatutkimus.fi / forskning.fi
• Tax office: www.vero.fi/en/
• MYEL insurance for grant recipients: www.mela.fi/en/
• General information about working abroad on a grant:
  www.mela.fi/en/grant-and-scholarship-recipients/applying-for-insurance/working-abroad-on-a-grant-or-scholarship/