

## Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Distinguished Chair in Health Sciences

### Award Autogenerated Code

10517-FI

### Region

Europe and Eurasia

### Country

Finland

### Award Type

Fullbright Distinguished Scholar Award

### Number of Recipients

Up To 2

### Award Allowances

The monthly grant is €5,600 EUR (approx. \$6,200), paid in euros in monthly installments. *Note: Amounts in USD are subject to change due to currency fluctuations.*

There are no separate allowances for accompanying dependents in any category.

The University of Eastern Finland will provide the Chair and his/her family with free housing and working facilities at the University. Housing for the scholar is expected to be arranged and paid for by the host institution; this information should be confirmed in the letter of invitation. Applicants should communicate their housing needs to the host institution as early as possible, so that appropriate housing can be arranged.

### Estimated Travel and Relocation Allowance for Grantee

A one-time travel allowance of \$2,000 is provided.

For Flex grants: round trip travel will be included for each segment of the grant.

### Additional Dependent Benefits

No dependent tuition allowance is offered, but K-12 education in Finland is generally free or heavily subsidized.

The Finnish school system is considered one of the best in the world. Finland has been one of the top performers in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA), an ongoing study administered every three years that tests the math, reading and science literacy of 15-year-olds in OECD nations. Average group sizes in basic education in Finland have for a long time been below the OECD average.

Instruction in English is available in Helsinki and other bigger cities at kindergartens, elementary and secondary schools, as well as at the university level.

Early childhood education is pedagogically planned education, teaching and care, with carefully considered developmental goals. All early education teachers and caretakers are trained within national guidelines. Families are expected to pay a small fee for public daycare/päiväkoti (approx. €200-400 EUR/month) even though it is heavily subsidized. Private daycares may cost more. Usually, one of the parents stays at home with children until they are nine months old.

Preschool education prepares children for comprehensive school. Children normally enter preschool education at the age of six and comprehensive school at the age of seven. After comprehensive school (grades 1-9), students enter upper secondary institutes that include upper secondary school and vocational institutes. Finnish schools are generally free of charge, although some special schools, such as private international schools, may charge tuition.

In universities, non-EU students pay tuition fees in English-taught Bachelor's or Master's degree programs.

Helpful links:

<https://www.infofinland.fi/en/living-in-finland/education> <sup>[1]</sup>

<https://minedu.fi/en/general-education> <sup>[2]</sup>

**Candidate Profile**

Distinguished Chair

**Activity Type**

Research

Teaching/Research

**Application Deadline**

Closed

**Award Activity**

The [Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Distinguished Chair](#) <sup>[3]</sup> position provides U.S. scholars with the opportunity to conduct research at the University of Eastern Finland (UEF) at the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Chair position is available for scholars and specialists in any field of Health Sciences, but priority will be given to research work in Cardiovascular Diseases and/or Metabolic Diseases.

The research area at UEF boasts an extensive international network of partners in Europe and the U.S. The specified research area focuses on the pathophysiology, genetics, molecular mechanisms, prevention and novel treatments of these diseases by using modern methods in molecular biology, genetics, nutrition, translational medicine and gene transfer. The research area comprises researchers from the fields of internal medicine, clinical nutrition, molecular medicine, vascular biology and cardiology. It brings together researchers from UEF and Kuopio University Hospital, and is closely linked to the activities of the Academy of Finland Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Disease, the Genome Center of Eastern Finland, and the National Virus Vector Laboratory.

The Scholar has an opportunity to serve as a resource for doctoral students as well.

The Chair and the UEF faculty will work together in designing the Chair's activities.

Applicants are advised to include an invitation letter from the relevant unit at UEF in their application as well as a research plan in the project statement of the Distinguished Chair application. Proposals for medical research involving clinical training, patient care, or patient contact are not eligible.

The Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation Distinguished Chair is jointly funded by the [Saastamoinen Foundation](#) <sup>[4]</sup> and the [Fulbright Finland Foundation](#) <sup>[5]</sup> (the Finnish Fulbright commission).

**Award Length and Period**

Two months; please see Flex Option.

Grants should begin no earlier than September 2022. The grant periods will be agreed together with the Chair, host Professor, and UEF Unit according to the guidelines of the Fulbright Finland Foundation and taking into account the four-day Fulbright-hosted orientation for scholars at the end of August.

**Locations Text**

The University of Eastern Finland is one of the largest universities in Finland; we are home to approximately 15,500 students and 2,500 members of staff. The university has two campuses in the cities of Joensuu and Kuopio, located 400 kilometers northeast of Helsinki. The Faculty of Health Sciences is located on the Kuopio campus.

UEF's campuses are significant research and innovation centers and in close vicinity there are several national-level research institutes as well as the Kuopio University Hospital, the European Forest Institute in Joensuu, and technology parks and knowledge-based enterprises.

Kuopio and its surroundings are known for their nature and quality of life, know-how, science and technology and, of course, the character of its people. The beautiful nature and pleasant living environment, with excellent services, makes Kuopio an attractive place to live. Water and forests dominate the landscape. Kuopio is also an important university city and one of the national centers of expertise.

Joensuu is a lively urban hub, where science, technology and industry, as well as public bodies, together form an open ecosystem, where new actors are welcome. In summer, Joensuu is fashioned by the Karelian lifestyle of the River Pielisjoki, flowing through the lively city center. Also in Joensuu, water and forests are close by giving a vast array of means to explore nature.

**Flex Option**

Yes

**Flex Description**

The grant is awarded as a Flex grant for two visits of one month each over two consecutive years.

The Flex Award is designed for scholars who require multiple visits to the host country. This option allows grants to be conducted over short segments, preferably during the fall and/or spring semesters.

Applicants should clearly indicate plans for Flex in their project statement, including a project timeline. Flex grantees may be asked to give public talks, mentor students, and otherwise engage with the host-country academic community.

Flex grant parameters:

- Total grant length is two months;
- Length of each grant segment is one month;
- Two grant segments must be spread over two consecutive years; and
- Flex awards are offered for teaching/research and research grants.

### **Discipline Type**

Only projects in the following disciplines will be considered

#### **Disciplines**

Medical Sciences

Public Health

#### **Areas of Interest**

The Chair position is available for scholars and specialists in any field of the Health Sciences or interdisciplinary areas with a specific focus on Health Sciences; priority will be given to research work in Cardiovascular Diseases and/or Metabolic Diseases.

### **Special Features**

The University of Eastern Finland provides the Chair and his/her family with free housing and working facilities at the University. The Chair will be provided with a monthly grant, round-trip travel, and an accident and sickness insurance for the grant period.

Additionally, the Fulbright-Saastamoinen Foundation grantee will receive the full support services provided by the Fulbright Finland Foundation for all Fulbright grantees in Finland.

### **Degree Requirements**

Ph.D. (or other terminal degree) required

### **Additional Qualification Information**

During the selection process, some applicants may be invited to a Zoom call in mid-January 2022.

Candidates should have a prominent record of scholarly accomplishment.

Additionally, candidates in all Fulbright programs are reviewed on the project's contribution to the objectives of the Fulbright Program as well as on the adaptability and suitability of the candidate to act as a Fulbright Ambassador for the U.S. in Finland.

### **Additional Language Requirement**

An international scholar does not need Finnish or Swedish in order to be able to live in Finland. English is widely spoken in academic circles. However, should the candidate's planned research project specifically require Finnish, feasibility of conducting research must be demonstrated in the project statement.

### **Invitation Requirement**

A letter of invitation is required.

### **Additional Comments**

Applicants are encouraged to contact the University of Eastern Finland directly.

### **Host contacts, The University of Eastern Finland:**

#### **Primary point of contact:**

#### **Dr. Riikka Pellinen**

Director of international affairs

Riikka.Pellinen(at)uef.fi

+358 40 3552453

#### **Ms. Hanna Ollikainen-Richards**

Executive Head of Administration

Faculty of Health Sciences, UEF  
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**Prof. Jussi Pihlajamäki**

Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, UEF  
Jussi.Pihlajamaki(at)uef.fi  
tel: +358 50 3440 187

**Contacts at the Fulbright Finland Foundation:**

**Fulbright Finland Foundation** encourages potential applicants to visit its website for further information and contact the office directly with any questions:

office(at)fulbright.fi  
tel: +358 44 5535 286

**Leasa Weimer, PhD**

Assistant Director of Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives  
(Distinguished Chair Program Coordinator)  
E-mail: leasa.weimer(at)fulbright.fi  
Tel: +358 44 716 9482

**Contacts and Helpful Links**

[Fulbright Finland](#) <sup>[6]</sup>  
Information on the [Fulbright-Saastamoinen Distinguished Chair](#) <sup>[7]</sup> on the Fulbright Finland website  
[University of Eastern Finland](#) <sup>[8]</sup>  
[UEF Strategy for 2015-2020](#) <sup>[9]</sup>  
[Faculty of Health Sciences](#) <sup>[10]</sup>  
[Visit Finland-Kuopio](#) <sup>[11]</sup>  
[Puijo Tower](#) <sup>[12]</sup>  
[This is Finland](#) <sup>[13]</sup> - Finnish culture, politics, history, society etc.

**Multi-Country/Area Award**

No

**Award Length Filter**

Flex

Under three months

**Invitation Requirement Additional Information**

The Distinguished Chair application must include a letter of invitation or copy of correspondence with a relevant unit at University of Eastern Finland. The letter should include information on the agreed teaching and research plan, details of housing, and length and dates of the proposed visit (potential hosts can refer to these [instructions](#) <sup>[14]</sup>).

**NOTE:** Late June, July and early August are traditionally summer vacation months in Finland and responses to inquiries may be delayed. Applicants are advised to contact the Finnish host institution well ahead of time to solicit an invitation letter for their application.

**Award Code**

12168-FI

**AddThis**

**Award Year**

[2022-2023 Awards](#) <sup>[15]</sup>

**Special Award Benefits**

Finnish medical care is of high quality and low cost. At some institutions Fulbright Scholars have access to the university health care services provided for faculty and staff.

The Fulbright Finland Foundation in Helsinki arranges a four-day orientation for scholars at the end of August, which scholars arriving during this time are encouraged to attend. In addition, the Fulbright Finland Foundation organizes lectures and visits throughout the academic year for the Fulbright scholars to deepen their understanding of the Finnish culture.

Awards in the Fulbright Distinguished Chairs Program are viewed as among the most prestigious appointments in the Fulbright Scholar Program.

## Language Proficiency Requirements

None, English is sufficient. However, feasibility of conducting the project must be demonstrated in the project statement.

## Career Profile

Mid-Career Academics

Senior Academics

### Scholars selected for this award can choose to:

- Advise and/or mentor students
- Assist in faculty, curriculum, and/or program development
- Conduct a professional and/or artistic project
- Conduct a research project designated by the host institution
- Conduct a research project of the applicant's choosing
- Teach graduate and/or undergraduate courses designated by the host institution
- Teach graduate and/or undergraduate courses of the applicant's choosing

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## Links

[1] <https://www.infofinland.fi/en/living-in-finland/education>

[2] <https://minedu.fi/en/general-education>

[3] <https://www.fulbright.fi/fulbright-saastamoinen-foundation-distinguished-chair-health-sciences>

[4] <https://saastamoinenfoundation.fi/en/>

[5] <https://www.fulbright.fi/>

[6] <http://www.fulbright.fi/en>

[7] <http://www.fulbright.fi/en/grant-programs/for-americans/research-and-lecturing/fulbright-saastamoinen-chair>

[8] <http://www.uef.fi/en/etusivu>

[9] <https://strategia.uef.fi/?lang=en>

[10] <http://www2.uef.fi/en/ttdk>

[11] <https://www.kuopio.fi/en/etusivu>

[12] <https://visitpuijo.fi/en/>

[13] <http://finland.fi/>

[14] <http://www.fulbright.fi/fi/ohjeita-isantalaitoksille/amerikkalaisen-luennoitsijan-kutsuminen-suomeen>

[15] <https://awards.cies.org/award-years/2022-2023-awards>