Application for Forest Cluster Graduate School

You can apply for Forest Cluster Graduate School after you have been accepted as a post-graduate student in one of the co-operating universities (JYU, LUT, OU, TKK, ÅAU).

1. Main features in post-graduate study process

- Negotiations with supervising professor
- Preliminary study plan and research plan
- Application for post-graduate studies in the university
- Negotiations with employer
- Agreement for commitment between student, employer and supervising professor

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(see instructions on chapter 2.)

- Post-graduate studies
  - preliminary knowledge requirements
  - 60 ects credits
  - research studies
- Approval of post-graduate studies in faculty council
- Application appendices
  (see instructions on chapter 2.2.)

- Dissertation research study
  - research
  - writing scientific articles
  - publishing in journals
  - further research
  - possible conferences etc
- Reviewing process
  Permissions for dissertation and printing
- The public defence of doctoral dissertation
- Assessment of the dissertation and diploma for doctoral degree
- Promotion

- Reviewers for licentiate study
- Evaluation of the study
- Diploma for licentiate degree

Orientation

Cooperation seminars & peer group
2. Applying for FCGS

2.1 Application dead line and address

Dead line: **July 31. 2010**
The decision to accept a student is made by the steering group of the Graduate School. You will be informed personally of the steering group’s decision within a month.

Please send the applications in written form before dead line to the address:

Terhi Virkki-Hatakka  
Lappeenranta University of Technology  
Centre for Training and Development  
P.O Box 20  
53851 Lappeenranta  
Finland

2.2. Application appendices

1. Letter of acceptance as a post-graduate student  
   - including study schedule plan  
2. Certificates and diplomas of former degrees  
3. Motivation letter  
4. Statement from employer indicating their support for your studies

2.2.1. Letter of acceptance as a post-graduate student

Copy of letter of acceptance will prove that you are post-graduate student at your university. It is also possible to accept students in a conditional way: the student will be accepted in FCGS in condition that he/she will be accepted as a post-graduate student soon.

2.2.2. Certificates and diplomas of former degrees

Copies of diplomas of former university degrees will explain your educational background.

2.2.3. Motivation letter (length 1 – 3 pages)

The motivation letter offers information about aims and reasons that affect on doctoral studies. Motivation letters will be handled confidentially and will not be given to any third parties.

Please, mention at least the following things:

1) What is your university and research subject? Who is your supervising professor? What kind of schedule you have with your studies?

2) What is your former education and working experience? Why do you want to make a dissertation study? What else do you want to tell about yourself and your motivation to study?

3) How do you think that doctoral studies and your other life activities will go together with each other? What kind of problems you might have and how you will deal with them?

4) What do you think about your future after doctoral studies? What new possibilities doctoral studies will give to you?

5) What do you know about Forest Cluster Graduate School? Is there something that interests you particularly?
2.2.4 Statement from employer indicating their support for your studies

To establish that employer approves the studies and possibly also supports studies. The statement can be e.g. separate short letter or commitment of agreement copy.

If a student is employed e.g. in TEKES project in university, a short declaration of the project and participating companies is enough for a statement.

3. FCGS member’s benefits

- Coordinated support throughout postgraduate studies and guidance with preparing a doctoral dissertation
- Theme seminars twice a year
  - current issues of forest cluster
  - group discussions about research themes
  - broadening knowledge and skill
- Researcher meetigs between theme seminars
- Multidisciplinary peer group
- Virtual ”home class” environment
- Continuously updated course platform
  - Generic studies, which combine business science and technology, or increase skills for scientific research
  - Specific studies; the majors for different subjects in co-operation with other parties that offer Ph.D. programmes