

**DATA PROTECTION / PRIVACY NOTICE FOR
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
Articles 13 and 14
Date: [17.2.2025]**

(This privacy notice applies only to research use of the UniHow PhD survey. The privacy notice for this system is included in the privacy notice for all systems of the University of Helsinki (<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/about-us/processing-data-university/data-protection>))

Information about the processing of your personal data in Doctoral Experience Research

In Doctoral Experience research, personal data is processed. The purpose of this privacy notice is to provide information about the personal data processed, where the personal data originates and how they are used in the investigation. At the end of the report, we will explain in more detail what rights you have in relation to your personal data.

Participation in the study and the provision of personal data is voluntary and you may at any time, including during the study, suspend your participation. The decision not to participate or suspend participation will not have any negative consequences for you.

1. Description of the research project and why your personal data is needed

The Doctoral Experience study examines the experiences of doctoral researchers. The PhD survey includes questions on motivation, supervision and the scholarly community, progress of the doctoral studies, and well-being. The aim is to understand the factors that influence the progress and well-being of doctoral researchers. The answers collected through the PhD survey will be combined with data from the student register. The survey will provide information on how doctoral education can support the progression and well-being of doctoral researchers. The results of the survey will be used in the development of doctoral education at the University of Helsinki.

2. Data Controller

University of Helsinki
Address: PL 4 (Yliopistonkatu 3), 00014 University of Helsinki

3. Contact person and principal investigator

Contact person for research issues:
Name: Lotta Tikkanen
Faculty/Department/Unit: Centre for University Teaching and Learning HYPE
Address: Siltavuorenpenger 5A
Phone number: 0294120616

Email address: lotta.tikkanen@helsinki.fi

4. Contact details of the Data Protection Officer

The data protection officer of the University of Helsinki can be contacted via the email address tietosuoja@helsinki.fi.

5. Personal data included in the research data

We process the following data:

1) PhD survey data in Unihow system. The PhD survey includes questions on doctoral researchers' motivation, supervision, scholarly community and well-being. It also includes questions about the doctoral researchers' background information (gender, age, mother tongue, nationality, doctoral programme, year of beginning of study). The registrant can answer only some of the questions in the system or all the questions available in the system.

2) Background information (gender, age, nationality, mother tongue, study rights (faculty, study programmes) and their starting years, academic records: completed credits obtained during the last academic year, during the whole university studies and in individual courses and average grades for the last academic year, average grades for the whole university studies, grades for individual courses, active and passive periods of study, average grades for the last academic year, average grades for the whole university studies, average grades for individual courses, active and passive periods of study, passive enrolment data, degrees obtained, stage of studies).

6. Sources of personal data

The information contained in the UniHow questionnaires is obtained directly from the registrants themselves when they answer the questionnaire. Background information is obtained from the Student Register of the University of Helsinki.

7. Sensitive personal data (and special categories of personal data)

Sensitive personal data is not processed in the research.

8. Legal basis for the processing of personal data

Personal data is processed on the basis of the following Article 6(1) of the GDPR:

☒ task carried out in public interest:

☒ scientific or historical research or statistics (Article 4(3) of the Data Protection Act)

9. Data recipients

In principle, personal data will only be processed for the purposes of the research by the persons involved in the Doctoral Experience Research at the University of Helsinki.

As part of the Doctoral Experience research, there may be cooperation with researchers from other Finnish universities or research institutes. As part of the research cooperation, researchers from other universities may also participate in the processing of personal data for the purposes of scientific research. If the research involves research cooperation with one or more researchers from outside the University of Helsinki, their home organisation is the joint data controller with the University of Helsinki. The research cooperation (including the processing of personal data) is always agreed in writing.

The survey data is collected using the UniHow application, which is owned by the University of Helsinki. However, the University of Helsinki purchases the usage, maintenance and application development services related to the use of the application from Funidata Oy. Funidata Oy therefore acts in this respect as a processor of personal data on behalf and for the account of the University of Helsinki and has entered into a data processing agreement with Funidata Oy that meets the requirements of data protection legislation.

If necessary, external subcontractors or service providers of the University of Helsinki and its partners may also be used for the analysis of the research data, who then act as processors of personal data on behalf of the University of Helsinki (controller). Appropriate contracts for the processing of personal data are concluded with the processors, which meet the legal requirements.

For more information on the above mentioned partners, subcontractors and service providers, please contact the researcher in charge of the study. You can also find the most up-to-date privacy notice for the study at the same address.

10. Transfer of data outside the European Economic Area

Data is not transferred outside the European Economic Area, it is only processed within the EU.

11. Protection of personal data

Data processed in information systems are protected in the following ways: username and password, usage registration / logging.

Processing of your direct identifications information:

☒ Direct identifications are removed at the analysis stage and stored separately from the analysed data.

12. Duration of processing of your personal data

During the study:

Personal data will be processed for 10 years from the start of the research. The starting date of the research is determined by the date on which the data were retrieved from the UniHow system.

After the end of the research:

☒ The data will be retained for the purpose of assessing the reliability of the results of this research:

☒ without direct identifiers

☒ The research material is stored for subsequent, compatible scientific research in accordance with the requirements of the GDPR:

☒ without direct identifiers

Where the material is stored after the study and for how long: University of Helsinki, 10 years after the end of the research.

The retention of research data is based on Article 5(1)(b) and (e) GDPR. A new data protection notice will be sent to the research subjects about the new research use of the research data, unless the data controller is no longer able to identify the data subjects from the research data.

The research subjects cannot be notified on a new research if the provision of this information would be impossible or unduly burdensome, or if it would significantly impede or hinder the achievement of the research purposes (Article 14(5)(b) of the GDPR).

13. Automated decision-making

This research does not carry out automated-decisions that have a significant impact on the research subjects.

14. Your rights and derogations from those rights

In order to exercise the rights listed below, please contact the contact person for the research in section 3 of this Privacy Notice and tell us what rights you wish to exercise.

Your rights as a data subject

We will try to exercise your rights whenever possible. The suitability of your rights is affected, for example, by the legal basis on which your personal data is processed. We always assess the validity of the rights on a case-by-case basis. The contact person for the research will help you to implement your rights and will tell you about their applicability.

Your rights under the GDPR are:

- to know if your data is being processed,
- to access your own data,

- to correct your incorrect and outdated data,
- to delete your data and be forgotten,
- to restrict the processing of your personal data,
- to transfer your data from one controller to another,
- to object to the processing of your data, and
- to not to be subject to automated decision-making.

In scientific research, there may be a deviation from a right, for example, if the execution of your right would endanger the entire research. For example, often it may not be possible to delete all of your data afterwards if they are already collected and included in the research, but this does not affect your right to suspend participation in the research.

More information about your rights in different situations can be found on the website of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman: <https://tietosuoja.fi/en/what-rights-do-data-subjects-have-in-different-situations>.

Right to appeal

If you feel that your personal data has been processed incorrectly, you can always contact the data protection officer of the data controller, whose contact details can be found in section 4 of this Privacy Notice.

You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority, i.e. the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman, if you consider that the processing of your personal data has been in breach of the applicable data protection legislation.

Contact details of the Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman:

Office of the Data Protection Ombudsman
<https://tietosuoja.fi/ilmoitus-tietosuojavaltuutetulle>
Visiting address: Lintulahdenkuja 4, 00530 Helsinki
Postal address: P.O. Box 800, 00531 Helsinki
Switchboard: 029 56 66700
E-mail: tietosuoja(at)om.fi