Pension insurance for recipients of grants or scholarships

A law amendment effective since 1 January 2009 introduces a distinct improvement to the social security of grant recipients. Grant recipients are paid pension under the Farmers Pension Act (MYEL in Finnish). During the fixed-term MYEL coverage period, grant recipients will also be insured under the related occupational accident insurance scheme MATA, which covers all the accidents occurred during grant-funded employment and the occupational illnesses caused by it.

Who is obligated to take out insurance?
According to Finnish legislation, the obligation to take out insurance applies to all grant recipients residing in Finland on account of an employment-associated grant awarded in Finland in 2009 or later. The grant must be intended for working in Finland for a period of no less than four months with a minimum grant amount of EUR 1238,43, which corresponds to an annual salary of EUR 3715,29 (the 2014 rate). Under certain conditions, Finns engaged in grant-funded employment abroad and foreigners engaged in grant-funded employment in Finland are also covered under the scheme.

Who is not eligible?
The MYEL pension insurance scheme only applies to recipients of employment-associated grants or scholarships, not to those of expense allowances or awards. Persons under 18 or over 68 years of age, those retired on an old-age pension or recipients of grants for bachelor’s or master’s degree students cannot apply for coverage under MYEL. In addition, coverage requires that no employment relationship has been established between the grant awardee and recipient.

Full-year grants awarded by the Research Foundation
The Research Foundation announces annually (usually in February) an application period for the doctoral students’ scholarships. The amount of the grant is such that the applicant can cover the costs of the obligatory insurance contributions.

Donation-funded grants awarded for doctoral dissertations by the Research Foundation
In addition to the aforementioned, the Research Foundation continues to fairly regularly award grants to disburse received donations and donated funds earmarked for grants proposed by professors. When awarding grants exceeding the 4-month and 1 149.45-euro limits professors should remember to include the costs of the MYEL contributions in the grant amount, because the Research Foundation has not allocated other resources for them. Recipients of scholarships or awards granted for completed dissertations are not eligible for the pension insurance.
**Grant or scholarship recipients to apply for coverage**
Grant recipients must apply for coverage under the MYEL insurance scheme within three months of the start of the grant-funded period. For detailed instructions, please see the web pages of Mela (The Farmers’ Social Insurance Institution), on which you can also submit an online application. [http://www.mela.fi/en/grant-and-scholarship-recipients](http://www.mela.fi/en/grant-and-scholarship-recipients)

Mela will grant insurance coverage for a fixed period and define the due dates for the related contributions payable by the grant recipient. The contributions are tax deductible.

**Duty of notification of the grant awarer**
The grant awardees have the duty to notify Mela of all the recipients. This notification duty applies to all grants that require coverage under the MYEL scheme.

The grant recipient is obligated to apply for coverage and to notify Mela if the grant-funded work is concluded prior to the end of the confirmed period of coverage.

**For additional information, please contact:**
For additional information on the pension insurance, please see the MELA web pages at [www.mela.fi](http://www.mela.fi).

You may also contact Annakaija Halonen, 050 400 9988, [annakaija.halonen@aalto.fi](mailto:annakaija.halonen@aalto.fi) in the Research Foundation of Helsinki University of Technology.