

Coordinator: Marja Andersson

Instructions for applying for the title of docent

The University may award the title of docent (in Finnish dosentti) to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of his or her own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publication or some other manner, and good teaching skills (Law on universities 558/2009).

The University of Turku has given instructions concerning the title of docent and awarding it (June 13, 2013, registration no 259/002/2013). It is not appropriate to award more than one title of docent to the same person at the University of Turku.

The Faculty instructions complement the general guidelines given by the University.

Qualification requirements

Scientific qualifications

The prerequisite for granting the title of docent is a doctoral degree and, as a general rule, active scientific production following the dissertation.

The applicant's scientific output must correspond in content to two doctoral theses that meet the faculty's academic standards in fields related to the activities and profile of the department or faculty according to the university instructions. Additionally, experience in research management as well as international cooperation is considered in the application process. A docent is required to have more extensive and thorough scientific competence than doctors in the field. Thus, the applicant has had to deepen and broaden their research experience and topic management beyond what is required for doctoral dissertation research. Research by a docent must indicate significant merit after doctoral study. The disciplines in the faculty may have additional requirements for the docentship.

A statement on the applicant's scientific qualifications must be provided by at least two experts, unless the statements are not considered unnecessary for a specific reason (University of Turku Regulations 42 §).

Teaching skill

The docent is required to have good skills in teaching.

Teaching skills can be proven in many ways. When assessing it, the following issues, among others, must be taken into consideration: pedagogical training, experience and feedback on teaching, study materials produced by the applicant, and the trial lecture provided by the applicant at the University of Turku. The teaching skills must be evaluated to be of at least a good standard.

A person applying for the title of docent is usually asked to provide a trial lecture. A waiver can be given if the applicant has, for example, given a trial lecture at the University of Turku a reasonable time earlier. Trial lectures are given to the teaching skills evaluation committee of the faculty.

The trial lecture must be evaluated to be of at least a good standard. If the trial lecture is evaluated with a grade lower than this, the applicant for the title of docent is given no more than one chance to give a new trial lecture.

Instructions for the trial lecture are available on the faculty's website "Title of Docent at the Faculty of Social Sciences".

Application

An application for the title of docent (Faculty of Social Sciences) at the University of Turku can be submitted via the University of Turku E-Service using the form titled "Application for the Title of Docent." Links to the e-service and the user instructions for the e-service are available on the faculty's website. Logging into the service requires Suomi.fi authentication (e.g., online banking credentials or mobile certificate).

If the applicant does not have access to Suomi.fi authentication, the required attachments must be submitted in PDF format by email to: soc-hr@utu.fi

Before submitting an application, the applicant must discuss the application for the title of docent with the head of the relevant department or with professors in the discipline / field. Representatives of the department must take a position on whether the attachment of new docents to the relevant discipline is considered appropriate. At the same time, the title of the docentship to be applied for must also be determined in both Finnish and English.

The discipline must provide a statement on the application from the point of view of research and teaching (Rector guidelines 13 June 2013).

Application attachments

Free-form application

A short application (up to two pages) highlighting the applicant's significant achievements and activities relevant to the title of docent, as well as the ability to carry out independent research. The application should include details of postdoctoral research and publication activities that build on the doctoral research, as well as any international teaching or research collaboration projects.

The application should also explain how the applicant's research profile aligns with the research focus areas of the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Turku and why it is appropriate for the faculty to grant the applicant the title of docent.

Curriculum vitae, CV

The CV is a brief account of the applicant's merits and activities. The CV is prepared according to the model of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK). The model can be found on the TENK website, and a link to the model is published on the faculty's website "Title of Docent at the Faculty of Social Sciences".

The applicant must be able to produce on request proof in writing of each point in the CV.

List of publications

The list of publications is prepared according to the instructions of the Research Council of Finland. The instructions can be found on the Research Council of Finland's website and on the faculty's website "Title of Docent at the Faculty of Social Sciences".

Teaching portfolio

Instructions for preparing a teaching portfolio used at the University of Turku are available on the University of Turku website, and a link to them has also been published on the faculty's website "Title of Docent at the Faculty of Social Sciences".

List of publications to be evaluated and the publications

The application must include a list of publications which are to be sent for evaluation (max. 10 publications) and these publications. The publications should primarily be produced after the dissertation. The applicant must provide a report for the experts on their role and contribution to the production of joint publications.

The publications should be submitted electronically (e.g., as PDFs or compressed zip files) as attachments to the application or as links to open access publications.

Experts

The faculty asks one of the faculty's professors in the field to propose experts to evaluate the applicant's scientific merits. Usually two experts are appointed. The provisions of sections 27-28 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) hold as regards the assessors' bias. The experts are selected from outside the University of Turku. The general time of delivery for the statement is usually two months.

Proposal to the Rector

After receiving the statements, the faculty board evaluates the applicant's eligibility and makes a proposal to the Rector to grant the applicant the title of docent. The starting point is that the experts have evaluated the applicant to be indisputably scientifically competent. The title of docent is granted by the Rector of the University of Turku.