

Faculty of Education

Coordinator: Ulla Kiviaho

Instructions for applying for the title of docent at the Faculty Education

At the University of Turku, the Rector may grant the title of docent to an applicant in accordance with the provisions of section 89 of the Universities Act (558/2009) and section 42 of the Rules of Procedure of the University of Turku (13.12.2024).

The Faculty of Education advocates the title of docent for distinguished persons in their field of science whose scientific activities are linked to the Faculty's research and teaching. With the help of its docents, the Faculty develops its societal and international influence by connecting its activities with distinguished researchers who are members of the staff of other universities and who work outside the academic world, for example, in business life or in public sector positions.

On 13 June 2013, the Rector of the University of Turku issued instructions on the title of docent and its granting at the University of Turku (registration no. 259/002/2013). These guidelines complement the University's general guidelines for the Faculty of Education.

Qualification requirements*Scientific competence*

The docent must have comprehensive knowledge of their own field, a capacity for independent scholarly research work demonstrated through publications or in some other manner. A statement of the applicant's academic competence shall be obtained from a minimum of two experts, unless there is a specific reason to consider this statement to be unnecessary.

The applicant must demonstrate at least two doctoral dissertations of scientific publications that meet the scientific requirements of the Faculty in fields related to the activities and profile of the department or Faculty.

With regard to publications, this means that in addition to the approved dissertation, the applicant must have other peer-reviewed publications so that the research in the field of the docentship in question corresponds to another dissertation in terms of scientific significance and quantity. The publications must expand or deepen the research field of the applicant's dissertation or the applicant's scientific research activities. Both scientific monographs and research articles are taken into account. For example, in terms of articles and book chapters, this means 4-8 scientifically significant published peer-reviewed articles separate from the dissertation, in which the applicant is the first or only author, depending on the significance of the scientific production in the applicant's own discipline. Typically, international publishing activities are required, unless the nature of the field justifiably requires publication in the national languages.

The publications must be peer-reviewed and central to the field of the docentship. In addition, the publications and other production must demonstrate the high quality and scope of the applicant's research, as well as the applicant's ability to conduct independent research. In publications written by several people, the applicant's own contribution must be identified as clearly as possible. This is done in accordance with the recommendations of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (see Agreeing on authorship. Recommendation for research publications, 2018).

In addition to publications, the applicant must provide evidence of the creation of an independent research career, such as funding for research or project management, participation in the supervision of theses, and active participation in international activities in the field.

Teaching skills

The docent is required to have good teaching skills. The applicant's teaching skills and the accompanying teaching demonstration are assessed by the Faculty's teaching skills committee.

Instructions on the assessment of teaching skills and the giving of a teaching demonstration are available on the Faculty's website:

[Applying for the title of docent at the Faculty of Education | University of Turku](#)

Applying to become a docent

At the Faculty of Education, you can apply for the title of docent twice a year. The application periods are **15.1.-15.2.** and **1.9.-30.9.**

Before submitting the application, the applicant for the title of docentship must negotiate with the head of the department in question. The representative of the department has the best view of the necessity of the docentship from the department's point of view and how the docentship can be linked to the activities of the department in practice. If the decision is made to proceed with the process, the field of the docentship can be specified in the discussion between the applicant and the department.

The applicant must submit a description of why they are applying for the title of docent at the Faculty of Education, how their own activities support the Faculty's fields of research, and how the applicant plans to participate in the Faculty's activities or strengthen them in the next few years. The research fields of the Faculty's departments can be found at [Units at the Faculty of Education | University of Turku](#).

A written, free-form application addressed to the Rector of the University of Turku for the award of the title of docent is submitted via an electronic form.

The application instructions are available on the University of Turku's website, and a link to the instructions has also been published on the Faculty's website.

Application attachments

Curriculum vitae

The CV must be drawn up in accordance with the guidelines of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK). Upon request, the applicant must be able to present written evidence of all the items mentioned in the CV.

List of publications

The list of publications must be compiled in accordance with the Research Council of Finland's publication list model.

List of publications to be submitted for review

The applicant for the title of docent selects the publications (a maximum of 10) from their production, on the basis of which they hope that the experts will assess their scientific qualifications for the position of docent.

The applicant submits a separate list of publications to be submitted for evaluation, with links to openly available publications. Publications are not attached to the application documents. The applicant may also submit the publications separately to the Faculty. If necessary, the applicant must attach a report on their own contribution to publications written by several people.

Teaching portfolio

Instructions for compiling the teaching portfolio used at the University of Turku can be found on the University's website at:

<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/come-work-with-us/teaching-portfolio>

Experts

The Faculty may request a proposal from the head of the department in question or from a professor in the field in question for experts to assess the applicant's scientific qualifications. The Dean selects the experts. Statements are usually requested from two experts. The experts must be accessible, from outside the University of Turku and, as a rule, professors or professor-level persons.

Applicants for the title of docent will be given the opportunity to present their views on the disqualification of experts or other matters to be taken into account in the selection of experts.

The application and the documents attached to it are submitted to the experts electronically. The experts are requested to submit a statement within three months of receiving the material.

Expert statements become public when both statements have been received by the Faculty.

Making a proposal to the Rector

After receiving the statements, the Faculty Council assesses the eligibility of the applicant for the position of docent and makes a proposal to the Rector on granting the title of docent. The proposal must be justified in such a way that it sets out the grounds for granting the title of docent in terms of both scientific qualifications and good teaching skills.

If the Council decides to propose that the Rector would grant the title of docent, the applicant must fill in the university's personal data form found on the Faculty's website. The information is needed to register the docentship in the university's system.

The Rector's decision on granting the title of docent is delivered to the applicant in writing.

Further information

For more information on applying for the title of docent at the Faculty of Education, please contact Head of Administration Ulla Kiviaho, ulla.kiviaho@utu.fi.

The document is electronically signed in the university's UTUsign service (Column Sign).

Marjaana Veermans
Dean