



Faculty of Education Guidelines for Applicants for the Title of Docent

At the University of Turku, the Rector may grant the Title of Docent to an applicant in accordance with section 89 of the Universities Act (558/2009) and section 42 of the University of Turku Regulations (10.6.2019).

The Rector of the University has issued instructions on 13.6.2013 on the Title of Docent and its granting at the University of Turku (No 259/002/2013). These guidelines supplement the university's general guidelines for the Faculty of Education.

Eligibility criteria

1. Scientific competence

Docents must have thorough knowledge of their own field and the ability to conduct independent scientific research demonstrated through publications or in some other way. A statement on the applicant's scientific competence must be obtained from at least two experts external to the university, unless obtaining a statement is considered unnecessary for a special reason.

The applicant must demonstrate at least two doctoral dissertations worth 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 doctoral dissertation, the applicant must have other peer-reviewed publications so that the research in the field of docent in question corresponds in scientific significance and number to another doctoral dissertation. The publications must broaden 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/accepted 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 one's own discipline. Typically, international publishing activities are required, unless the nature of the field justifiably requires publication in the national languages.

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

In addition to publications, the applicant must provide evidence of creating an independent research career, such as funding received for research or project



management, participation in thesis supervision, and active participation in international activities in his/her field.

2. Teaching skills

Docents are required to have good teaching skills. The applicant's teaching skills and the related teaching demonstration are assessed by the Faculty's Teaching Competence Committee.

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

<https://www.utu.fi/en/en/university/faculty-of-education/career>

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 Docent must negotiate the making/conditions of the application for the Title of Docent with the head of the department. The representative of the department has the best view of the need for a docent from the point of view of the department and how the Title of Docent can be connected to the operations of the department in practice. If it is decided to proceed with the process, the field of the docentship can be specified in the discussion between the applicant and the department, if necessary.

The applicant must provide a description of why he/she is applying for the Title of Docent at the Faculty of Education, how his/her own activities support the Faculty's research fields and how the applicant plans to participate in or strengthen the Faculty's activities in the coming years. The research areas of the faculty's departments can be found at <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/faculty-of-education/research>

A written free-form application should be addressed to the Rector of the university. The application must include the applicant's contact information and the field of docent applied for, as well as the merits on which the applicant relies in order to obtain the Title of Docent.

The signed application will be delivered scanned (in pdf format) to Head of Administration Ulla Kiviaho (ulla.kiviaho@utu.fi). The attachments listed below are attached to the application. Attachments can be in pdf or zip format.

Appendices to the application

1. Curriculum vitae

The curriculum vitae must be drawn up in accordance with the guidelines for compiling the curriculum vitae of the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK.

Upon request, the applicant must be able to provide written proof of all the items mentioned in the CV.



2. List of publications

The list of publications shall be compiled in accordance with the Academy of Finland's bibliography model.

The applicant selects and submits to the Faculty the publications (maximum 10 copies) of their production, on the basis of which they hope that experts will assess their scientific competence to become docent. The applicant enters the publications submitted for evaluation in their list of publications or submits a separate list of selected publications. If necessary, the applicant must attach a description of his/her own contribution to publications written by several persons.

3. 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 a professor in the field in question for experts assessing the applicant's scientific qualifications. The Dean selects the experts. The statement is usually requested from two experts. The experts must be impartial, external to the University of Turku and, as a rule, professors or professor-level persons.

Applicants for the Title of Docent will be reserved the opportunity to express their views on the impartiality of experts or other factors to be taken into account in the selection of experts.

The application and appendices shall be submitted to the experts electronically. Experts are asked to submit their statements within three months after receiving the material.

Expert statements become public once both statements have been received by the faculty.

Making a proposal to the Rector

After receiving the statements, the Faculty Board assesses the eligibility of the docent applicant and makes a proposal to the Rector on granting the Title of Docent. The proposal must be justified in such a way that it indicates the grounds for granting the Title of Docent in terms of both scientific competence and good teaching skills.

When the Faculty Board decides to propose to the Rector that the Title of Docent be granted, the applicant must fill in the university's personal data form. The information is needed to enter the Title of Docent in the university system.

Additional information

Further information on applying for the Title of Docent at the Faculty of Education can be obtained from Head of Administration Ulla Kiviaho, ulla.kiviaho@utu.fi.