

Faculty of Law

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

The University may award the title of dosentti (docent) 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 (Universities Act 558/2009). The Rector will award the title as proposed by the Faculty Board.

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

By awarding the title of docent, the Faculty strives to integrate people distinguished in their field and distinctly qualified for the title based on application documents and merits into its academic activity.

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

Qualification requirements*Academic competence*

A docent must possess comprehensive knowledge of their field as well as publications or other display indicating capability to conduct independent research. The academic competence assessment is based on field-specific minimum requirements concerning publications. Additionally, experience in research management as well as international cooperation is considered in the application process. A docent is expected to possess more profound academic competence as opposed to a doctor in the respective field: Therefore, the applicant needs to have already broadened their experience in academic research and subject knowledge, exceeding the requirements of a doctoral degree. Research by a docent must indicate indisputable qualification in relation to doctoral study, and requests for any additional merits are dependent on the quality of the applicant's dissertation.

A statement on the applicant's academic competence must be provided by at least two experts unless, for a specific reason, the statements are considered unnecessary (University of Turku Rules of Procedure, section 42).

Good teaching skills

A docent is expected to possess good teaching skills that may be indicated in multiple ways. The assessment of teaching skills considers e.g. pedagogical education, experience and feedback gained from teaching, teaching material produced by the applicant as well as a teaching demonstration. The teaching skills need to be acknowledged as good.

Particularly, the description provided in the application in terms of the applicant's teaching skills may necessitate a teaching demonstration to determine whether the applicant possesses teaching skills needed for the position.

The applicant must thoroughly describe their teaching merits in the CV and teaching portfolio. A comprehensive statement on the applicant's teaching skills and demonstration will be issued by the Faculty Teaching Skills Evaluation Committee considering assessment principles given in a separate directive.

Application

The application process will become pending at the University through the applicant's written application for the title of docent.

The application must include contact information, the field of the applied position as well as the applicant's perception as to how, as a docent, they would contribute to the research and teaching conducted at the Faculty of Law as well as the social interaction of the Faculty.

Before submitting the application, the applicant needs to discuss it with a professor or associate professor in the field.

They will then issue a statement describing the relation of the docent position to the Faculty's activity as well as the applicant's contribution to it and legal research and teaching in general. Simultaneously, the title of the applied docent position should be defined and announced in both Finnish and English.

A written, informal application for the title of docent, addressed to the Rector of the University of Turku, must be submitted via the electronic form.

Links to the e-service and the user instructions for the e-service are available on the Faculty's website.

Application attachments

The application attachments must specify the merits that the applicant considers as essential in terms of attaining the title of docent in such way that the applicant's qualification may be determined.

CV and list of publications

Applicants must submit a curriculum vitae as an attachment to their application, indicating at least their personal and contact details, degrees and diplomas, language skills, current and previous duties and posts, other significant scientific expertise and positions of trust, and teaching experience (e.g. pedagogical training).

The merit list should be drawn up in accordance with the TENK model (or equivalent).



For publications, a full bibliographic reference should be given, indicating the authors and the title and publisher of the article or publication. The list of publications is a public document. It should not contain confidential information.

The list of publications must be drawn up in accordance with the list of publications model of the Research Council of Finland.

The information included in the CV needs to be verifiable.

Teaching portfolio

The teaching portfolio attached to the application must be prepared according to the instructions given by the University of Turku. The guidelines can be found on the University of Turku website, and a link to them has also been published on the Faculty's website. If necessary, the author must be able to verify the information described in the portfolio.

Publications

In order to indicate qualification for the applied title of docent, the applicant needs to select up to ten of their own publications to be displayed in the application process. The publications must be listed separately. In their own words, the applicant also needs to discuss the significance of these academic publications and their connection to the applicant's merits as well as the research and publications in the field in general. Additionally, the applicant should reflect on the publications in relation to the academic qualification required of a docent. If necessary, the applicant should include a statement of his/her contribution to publications written by several persons.

The publications are not to be attached to the application documents. The applicant sends the publications to be evaluated to the experts, once the experts have been appointed, upon notification by the Faculty. The applicant can agree with the experts whether to send the publications to the experts, for example in pdf format, in printed form, or whether a link to the publications will suffice.

Application processing at the University

Experts

In order to determine the applicant's qualification, the Faculty will hear at least two experts.

The Dean will choose the experts with the assistance of a professor or associate professor working in a docent position.

The applicant will be informed of the chosen experts and given the opportunity to express their opinion on the qualification as well as any other matters regarding the experts.



Any possible arguments related to the experts' qualification are managed according to regulations of the Administrative Law (434/2003, sections 27–28).

The experts will deliver a statement regarding the applicant's qualification within two months after being appointed to the post. The statement, either individual or collective, must clearly and unambiguously claim whether or not the applicant is qualified for the title of docent, and it will become public when all of the experts have submitted their statements to the Faculty.

Proposal for the Rector

Having determined the applicant's qualification and merits, the Faculty Board will make a proposal for the Rector for awarding the title of docent to the applicant. The proposal must be justifiable in the way that it includes arguments for the applicant's academic competence as well as good teaching skills, indicating qualification for the title of docent.

In case the Board has made a proposal for the Rector for awarding the title of docent, the applicant needs to fill out a personal data form for the title applicants. The personal data are needed for maintaining the University database up to date.

Rector's decision

At the University of Turku, the title of docent is awarded by the Rector. The Rector's decision is delivered to the applicant in a written form.

The document is electronically signed in the UTUsign service (Sarake Sign).

Mika Viljanen
Dean

Noora Kedonperä
Head of Faculty Administration