

13 June 2013

259/002/2013

*Unofficial translation***The title of *dosentti* (docent) and awarding it at the University of Turku as from 1 August 2013**

In the reform of the Universities Act, docents have been considered an important resource for the universities. The purpose has been to maintain the main features of the current docent system (HS 7/2009 vp, p. 81).

As from 1 January 2009, 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. The qualification requirements of a docent correspond to the previous regulations. However, there are changes in the procedure, consequent partly on the legislation and partly on the University's own Rules of Procedure. In addition, the status of a docent and the relationship between the docent and the University is affected by the fact that as from 1 January 2010, a docent is no longer in an employment relationship with the University solely on the basis of the docentship.

At the University of Turku, the Rector may award the title of docent to a person applying for it according to what has been enacted in Section 89 of the Universities Act (558/2009) and stipulated in Section 46 of the University of Turku Rules of Procedure (26.10.2009).

In addition, the following guidelines are given on handling an application for awarding the title of docent.

**Application for the title**

The matter is started with a written application by the person who wants the title of docent at the University of Turku. The application, which is addressed to the Rector of the University of Turku, is sent to the faculty in question or the school of economics.

The field of the docent must become clear from the application and its appendices, as well as the merits to which the applicant refers, so that it is possible to evaluate the eligibility of the applicant based on the application.

It is recommendable that the faculties and the school of economics give the required guidelines on the appendices of the application.

13 June 2013

259/002/2013

*Unofficial translation*

### Scientific competence and determining it

As regards scientific competence, a docent shall have comprehensive knowledge in his or her own field and a capacity for independent research work demonstrated through publication or some other manner. In evaluating scientific competence, the person applying for a docentship must meet the discipline-specific minimum requirements as regards publications. In all cases, the applicant must demonstrate scientific publications at least to the extent of two doctoral theses from areas related to the operation and profile and meeting the scientific requirements of each faculty / school of economics. The discipline-specific minimum requirements may also be higher than this.

A statement of the applicant's thus defined scientific competence shall be acquired from a minimum of two experts, unless there is a specific reason to consider such statement unnecessary. There must be a specific reason for not acquiring the expert report.

Disqualified persons meant in Sections 27–28 of the Administrative Procedure Act shall not be selected as experts. Experts must be qualified, external in relation to the University of Turku and, as a rule, professors or at the level of professor.

According to Sections 21 and 23 of the University Rules of Procedure, the dean, or as regards the school of economics, its director – unless he or she has devolved his or her authority in this respect to a vice dean or a vice director – selects the experts.

The person applying for the title of docent shall be notified of the selection of experts.

### Good teaching skills and determining them

Good teaching skills are required of a docent.

Teaching skills can be demonstrated in many ways. When evaluating them, it is justifiable to take into account, for instance, education concerning teaching, teaching experience and feedback received from teaching, teaching materials produced by the applicant, as well as a teaching demonstration given by the applicant at the University of Turku to demonstrate his or her teaching skills. It must be possible to evaluate the teaching skills as good in the overall evaluation.

The council or dean / director of the faculty or the school of economics may require that the applicant give a public teaching demonstration to demonstrate his or her teaching skills. Thus, giving a teaching demonstration is not compulsory, but instead, its

13 June 2013

259/002/2013

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need depends on especially the information on the applicant's teaching skills acquired from the application and the possibilities to evaluate based on it whether the applicant has the good teaching skills required from a docent. There are no regulations in the Rules of Procedure on teaching demonstrations by a person applying for a docentship, and the matter can be organised in the faculties and the school of economics in many ways according to the judgement by the faculty and the school of economics so that it serves not only evaluating the applicant's teaching skills and teaching but also, for example, educational development.

### **Making a proposal concerning the title**

When making a proposal for awarding a person the title of docent, the proposal must thoroughly evaluate the connection to research and teaching of the faculty or school of economics and of the department or subject. The proposal must be justified from this point of view and the proposal must be appended with a statement about the matter from the department, subject or faculty.

Awarding the same person with more than one title of docent at the University of Turku is not fit for purpose.

The proposal for awarding the title of docent is made by the council of the faculty or the school of economics.

The proposal concerning awarding the title shall be justified so that it includes the grounds for awarding the title of docent as regards both scientific competence and good teaching skills.

In those cases, where the council for a justified reason deems that it cannot make a proposal for the Rector on awarding the title of docent to the applicant, the decision concerning the matter shall be likewise sent to the Rector of the University.

### **Committee for preparing the matter**

There may be a multi-member committee to assist the council of the faculty or the school of economics as well as the dean or the director in preparing matters concerning the title of docent. The dean of the faculty or the director of the school of economics decides on appointing the committee by virtue of the said Rules of Procedure, Section 9, Paragraph 4. In that case, the committee is a preparatory body. Thus, also in those cases where this kind of committee has been appointed, the council makes the proposal on awarding the title. According to the University Rules of Procedure, selecting the experts cannot be delegated to this kind of preparatory body either.

13 June 2013

259/002/2013

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The proposal to be delivered to the University Rector shall include the following documents:

- 1) a letter by the faculty or the school of economics for the Rector,
- 2) an extract from the minutes concerning the council's proposal,
- 3) an extract from the decision concerning the selection of experts,
- 4) a statement on the application from the point of view of research and teaching from the department, subject or faculty,
- 5) the original expert statements and
- 6) the application with its appendices; however, without the publications and other works meant for expert evaluation. In addition, possible other documents accumulated in the faculty or the school of economics when handling the matter that have relevance to awarding the title of docent.

**Entry into force**

This guideline comes into force on 1 August 2013 and replaces the earlier guideline on the matter issued at the University of Turku.

Rector

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