

## GUIDELINES FOR APPLYING FOR THE TITLE OF DOCENT FACULTY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE

### **Title of docent**

Under Article 89 of the Universities Act (558/2009), the university may grant the title of docent to an applicant who has comprehensive expertise in their field, the ability to independently conduct research or artistic work as demonstrated by publications or by other means, and good pedagogical skills.

The president of Tampere University may grant the title of docent to an applicant with a doctoral degree and comprehensive expertise in their field, the ability to independently conduct research or artistic work as demonstrated by publications or by other means, and good pedagogical skills (president's decree February 12, 2019).

### **Requirements for the title of docent**

Tampere University has outlined the following academic requirements for the title of docent:

- a doctoral degree or equivalent artistic achievements
- comprehensive expertise in one's field
- the ability to independently conduct scientific research or artistic work as demonstrated by publications or by other means
- a significant scientific or artistic body of work, primarily after doctoral thesis (it is not advised to apply for the title of docent at a very early stage of one's career)
- good pedagogical skills

Under specific conditions, the title of docent may be granted to a university employee who meets the requirements.

When processing and reviewing applications, the Faculty of Education and Culture also considers the relevance of the applicant's scientific activities to the faculty's research profile.

### **Applying for the title of docent**

It is advisable that before applying for the title of docent, the applicant contacts the faculty's Vice Dean of Research, Kirsti Karila, to discuss about the principles of granting the title of docent.

The applicant submits a free-form application to the president of Tampere University. The application should clearly state the field of the applied docentship.

The application should include the following attachments:

- a CV which complies with the guidelines of the Finnish National Board of Research Integrity (<http://www.tenk.fi/en>)
- a copy of doctoral degree certificate
- a list of publications which complies with the guidelines of the Academy of Finland (<https://www.aka.fi>)
- a short, written statement on the applicant's main achievements and activities after their doctoral degree and their ability to independently conduct research relevant to the applied docentship
- a teaching portfolio (5 pages maximum) including descriptions of the applicant's pedagogical thinking, pedagogical competences, teaching and guidance experience, teaching and guidance competence development, and the co-development of teaching. In addition, the teaching portfolio must include the applicant's previous teaching competence reviews and other pedagogical achievements
- a maximum of 10 publications which the applicant wishes to be considered in the evaluation of their scientific competence for the title of docent

The application and its attachments will be submitted **electronically** to Head of Administration Taina Sylvander ([taina.sylvander@tuni.fi](mailto:taina.sylvander@tuni.fi)). Two copies of publications which are only available in print will be submitted to the following address: Tampere University, Faculty of Education and Culture, Head of Administration Taina Sylvander, PL 700 (Åkerlundinkatu 5), 33014 Tampere University.

Further information:

Vice Dean of Research Jaakko Kauko, [Jaakko.kauko@tuni.fi](mailto:Jaakko.kauko@tuni.fi),  
tel. 050 396 9675

Head of Administration Taina Sylvander, [taina.sylvander@tuni.fi](mailto:taina.sylvander@tuni.fi),  
tel. 050 4336261

### **Granting the title of docent:**

The faculty's research development committee processes the application:

- The development committee evaluates the necessity and the significance of the field of the applied docentship and its possible specification for faculty research and other faculty activities. It may also request a free-form statement from a professor in the faculty on the basis for granting the title of docent. The professor may also be asked to propose two experts to evaluate the scientific competence of the applicant.
- If necessary, the development committee may refine the field of the docentship and its possible specification. The possible change will be approved by the applicant.

- If the development committee considers the docentship necessary and deems the field relevant to faculty activities, it will propose at least two internationally renowned experts to the dean. The dean will approve the experts. The applicant will be given the opportunity to comment on any conflicts of interest regarding the experts under the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003).
- After the experts have provided strongly favourable statements on the applicant's scientific competence for the title of docent, the applicant's teaching and guidance competence will be evaluated. The applicant will provide a teaching demonstration, unless under specific conditions it is considered unnecessary. The teaching demonstration is public and is evaluated by the research development committee. The applicant is deemed to possess the good teaching skills required from a docent if the applicant's teaching demonstration receives a minimum grade of "good".
- Upon the development committee's proposal, the applicant may be exempted from the teaching demonstration by the dean if the applicant's pedagogical competence can be confirmed by their teaching portfolio.
- If the development committee, based on the application documents and expert statements as well as the demonstration of pedagogical competence, deems that the applicant is scientifically competent for the title of docent, the committee will make a proposal to the dean for granting the title of docent. The committee must provide specific reasons for granting the title of docent if the applicant is a faculty employee.
- The dean will make a proposal to the provost on granting the title of docent, and the president will grant the title of docent upon the proposal of the provost.
- The faculty council will be informed of the decision to grant the title of docent.

### **The expert statement**

Granting the title of docent requires strongly favourable statements from two experts in the relevant field who are external to the faculty.

When evaluating the applicant's scientific competence, a general requirement is that the applicant has, in addition to their doctoral dissertation, published research which demonstrates their ability to independently conduct research. This means publications which at a minimum correspond to the requirements and scope of a doctoral dissertation, including international publications. The publications must significantly expand on or deepen the research area of the applicant's doctoral dissertation or the applicant's scientific research activities.

When evaluating the competence of an applicant for the title of docent, experts must consider the field of research and its possible specification. Expert statements may focus on the applicant's main activities and body of work and briefly evaluate other publications and/or works. The length of the statement should be 5-8 pages.