

Faculty of Social Sciences
Last updated 8th Nov 2021

GUIDELINES FOR THE AWARDING OF THE TITLE OF DOCENT – FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

Criteria for receiving the title of docent

According to Section 89 of the Universities Act (558/2009), a university may award the title of docent to a person who has comprehensive knowledge of her/his own field, a capacity for independent research or artistic work demonstrated through publication or some other manner and good teaching skills.

The President has issued a decision on the conferral of the title of docent on 12.2.2019. Candidates for the title of docent are recommended not to apply for the title too early on their career. For a justified reason, the title of docent may be awarded to a person employed by Tampere University.

Applying for the title of docent

Before applying, the applicant should contact a professor in the field in question in order to establish the necessity of the title of docent for the Faculty and the field of research. The applicant and the professor should also discuss the field of the docentship. The field should not be too narrow in scope.

The applicant prepares an informal application letter to the President of Tampere University that clearly indicates the field of the proposed docentship and the contact information of the applicant. Following documents should be enclosed (preferably all in single pdf-file):

- CV prepared according to guidelines issued by the Finnish Advisory Board for Research Integrity TENK <https://www.tenk.fi/en/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae>
- A copy of the applicant's doctoral diploma and other diplomas, if applicable.
- A brief written statement of the applicant's most important merits and activities as they relate to the docentship and the ability to pursue independent scholarly activity
- [List of publications compiled according to the guidelines issued by the Academy of Finland.](#)
- A [teaching portfolio](#) prepared according to the guidelines issued by Tampere University (see Guidelines for teaching portfolio on page 3)
- A list of no more than ten (10) publications the applicant wishes to be taken into consideration when her/his academic qualifications for the title of docent are evaluated. The applicant will be requested to submit the publications separately further on in the applications process.

The application should be sent by email to: soc-docents.tau@tuni.fi

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Awarding of the title of docent

The Scientific Committee at the Faculty of Social Sciences is tasked with considering and processing the applications for the title of docent. The Committee asks the professor of the field in question a statement where the expediency, importance and support for the field's education and research is established. The professor should also make a proposal on at least two experts who will evaluate the application.

If the Scientific Committee finds the title of docent expedient and that the applicant fulfils the criteria for the title of docent, the Faculty obtains statements on the applicant's scholarly merits from two internationally distinguished experts. Stipulations on the disqualification of experts are included in Section 28 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003). Based on said Act, the applicant is reserved the right to notify the Faculty of the disqualification of an expert.

The teaching and instructional skills of the applicants will be evaluated.

The Scientific Committee evaluates, on the basis of the application, the expert evaluations and evaluation of the teaching and skills, whether the applicant has the required scientific competence and good teaching skills, and makes a proposal to the Dean on awarding the title of docent.

The President awards the title of docent upon the recommendation of the Provost.

The Faculty Council will be notified of the new docentship.

Inquiries:

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Guidelines for the Teaching portfolio

The teaching portfolio should include following parts:

1. Thoughts on teaching (pedagogical philosophy): applicant's conception of learning and how teaching can support it
2. Pedagogical skills: pedagogical training and research, awards received for good teaching, other recognition and merits
3. Experience of teaching and supervision: courses taught, theses supervised, working as academic tutor, using different teaching methods and learning environments, teaching and supervision practices that promote learning and skills development
4. Development of teaching and supervision competence: development of and making use of teaching materials and learning environments, using students' feedback to develop teaching, basing teaching on research
5. Social development of teaching: cooperation with teachers, students and employees, multidisciplinary cooperation, curriculum design, internationality, pedagogical leadership
6. Other teaching merits
7. Previous assessments of teaching competence