

# Guideline for Professors

## On applying for the title of docent at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Technology (MET) of Tampere University

Before applying for the title of docent, applicants must contact a person who is responsible for the subject or discipline in question, such as a professor. A professor in the field in question will issue **a statement on the necessity** of granting the title of docent (0,5–1 pages). The statement of necessity also proposes suitable external experts (professor or docent level).

If a professor in the field in question is conflict of interests with the applicant (eg. recent scientific publications or direct employer-employee relationship) the Head of Unit will issue the statement after hearing the professor in the field in question.

### ***Preparation of the Statement of necessity and the selection of External experts as part of the statement***

#### **Need for the Title of Docent at the Unit or Faculty**

- The statement of necessity must always mention *the field of the docent*. The field must be described identically in both the application documents and the statement of necessity. The field of the docent title mentioned in the application must be suitable for the traditions of the Faculty and general enough to consider the entire working career. The field of the docent title cannot be changed later, and another title of docent will not be awarded from the same Faculty. If the field of the title of docent is unclear, the field should be discussed with the Chair of the Docent Committee and the Dean before submitting the statement of necessity. The Dean checks the suitability of the field for the Faculty.
- The statement of necessity must give the reason for needing the title of docent at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Technology at Tampere University.
- The statement should describe the support the title of docent will bring to the education and research in the field of science.
- The statement of necessity should mention two unbiased & external expert reviewers and their contact details (email and phone number). Experts must be external to the University of Tampere, docent or professor level of the field of the application in question. It is important to agree with experts in advance about providing a statement. The external experts will receive a fee for their work.

**Rules for conflict of interests must be noted when selecting both the person issuing the Necessity Statement and External reviewers**

- The grounds for conflict of interest apply to the professor issuing the statement of necessity and the external experts outside Tampere University
  - o See Section 28 of the Administrative Procedures Act 434/2004.
- The person preparing the statement of necessity should not have recent joint publications with the applicant (3 years). If the professor preparing the statement has recent joint publications with the applicant or there is another conflict of interest (e.g. direct employer-employee relationship), the statement may be prepared by the Head of the Unit or a Professor from a parallel discipline, after consulting a professor in the applicant's field about the necessity of the title of docent.
- A professor or a Docent representing the field in question from Finland or abroad (external to Tampere University) may act as an external, unbiased expert.
  - o The same grounds for disqualification apply to the unbiased experts and the person issuing the statement of necessity.

Further information:

Secretary of Docent Committee, Senior Specialist Sara Lamminmäki  
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Chair of Docent Committee, Professor Leena Ukkonen  
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