



15 June 2021

The position of professor of practice and the appointment process

According to the Regulations of the University of Helsinki (section 35), a holder of a doctoral degree with professional merits and experience of particular significance from outside the academic world that can benefit the University may be appointed to the position of professor of practice. The position will be filled by invitation for a fixed term.

Criteria and proposal for invitation for the position

Professors of practice are tasked with enhancing the University's public engagement and visibility in various sectors of society. Professors of practice create and maintain networks between academia and professional practice, while bringing topical information on professional practices to the University community, which can then use this information in teaching and research. Professors of practice provide instruction and/or supervise theses as well as boost students' employability in their area of expertise.

The working hours of the position of professor of practice range from 20% to 50% of full-time working hours, and the duration of the fixed-term contract is typically between three and five years. As a rule, professors of practice cannot simultaneously hold an academic position at another Finnish or international university. Since the position is not one based on academic qualifications, the assessment procedure will not be used when filling the position.

The dean draws up a proposal for the rector presenting the merits of the individual to be invited to the position of professor of practice as well as how they might benefit the University's operations and increase its public engagement and visibility. Based on the dean's proposal, the rector will make the decision on inviting the person to the position of professor of practice. In exceptional cases, the dean can propose that a professor of practice could work in the position full time for one year at the most. A potential extension to the term can be considered on a case-by-case basis according to the needs of the faculty. The decision on an extension is also made by the rector, on the basis of a proposal by the dean. However, an extension cannot be granted for the exceptional cases in which the position is full time for one year at the most.

Status of a professor of practice

Professors of practice are not included in the category of professors and are not members of the Great Senate. In elections, they vote in the category of other teaching and research staff.

This rector's decision supersedes Rector's Decision No HY/175/00.00.06.00/2019 (12 February 2019). This decision shall enter into force with immediate effect. Recommendations by the working group on the organisational prerequisites for professors of practice were taken into consideration when making this decision.

Rector

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