



ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR (TENURE TRACK) IN ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Vacant position and its location

Applications are hereby invited for the post of Assistant/Associate Professor (tenure track) in Economic geography at Turku School of Economics. The post is positioned at the Unit of Economic Geography, Department of Marketing and International Business.

The post will be filled through a tenure track system first as fixed-term employment periods as an Assistant / Associate Professor. The tenure track system of the University of Turku is clarified in more detail at the end of this appointment specification.

The Department of Marketing and International Business is a multidisciplinary and international work environment that combines ambitious research, high-quality teaching, and an inspiring work atmosphere. The department consists of four disciplinary units (marketing, international business, supply chain management, and economic geography) and the Pan-European Institute.

<https://www.utu.fi/en/university/turku-school-of-economics/department-of-marketing-and-international-business>

Economic geography examines the spatial organization and locational patterns of activities and entities, their interrelationships, and the interaction between actors and the operating environment. At the Economic Geography Unit of the Turku School of Economics, the key fields of interest include: 1) consumer behavior, retail geography, and strategic regional development, 2) trade policy and the geography of international trade (with a particular focus on Asian economies and the Global South), and 3) responsible business and sustainability. We aim to contribute to building a better future and a sustainable society. In both research and teaching, we apply a wide range of methods and approaches, including the application of geographic information systems (GIS) in business. We are active participants in public discourse and collaborate closely with various stakeholders at both national and international levels.

Economic geography studies at TSE are integrated into the Bachelor's and Master's degree programs in marketing and value chain management. At both levels, it can be selected as a minor (Minor in Economic Geography) or studied as part of thematic modules (Retailing and Consumer Behavior, Trade Policy and World Trade, and Leading Responsible Business). In the Master's and Doctoral degree programs, it can be chosen as a major.



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The positions are mainly meant for researchers who are pass the postdoc phase. When selecting a person for the Assistant Professor phase, especially academic potential and motivation for an academic career are taken into consideration. The tenure track Associate Professor phase is intended for a high-level researcher, whose qualifications indicate substantial scientific potential. The title and more detailed content of the position will be defined later according to the merits and the scientific career of the selected candidate.

Assistant/Associate Professor conducts and supervises scientific research, gives science-based education, monitors scientific advancements and actively engages in societal discourse and international collaboration within their field.

Important strengths for a successful candidate include high-quality research input in the field of the position in question, compatibility with the subject's teaching and research profile, methodological diversity, evidence of international collaboration, impressive stakeholder cooperation, and a strong track record in attracting external funding.

The selected candidate is expected to take responsibility for the long-term development of the discipline as part of the Department of Marketing and International Business as the head of the subject. In addition to other responsibilities, the duties of this recruited Assistant/Associate Professor includes teaching from undergraduate to doctoral studies.

The selected applicant will be offered career mentoring during the tenure track period.

The salary for the post is determined in accordance with the university salary system for teaching and research personnel. The task-specific salary component for the Assistant / Associate Professor is 4320,23€ per month (according to level 7 of the job demands chart). In addition, a personal work performance component will be paid. The personal work performance component is a maximum of 50 % of the task specific salary component. The salary will be specified and negotiated when preparing the employment contract.

The position is subject to a six-month trial period.

Formal qualifications

A person selected for the post must possess a doctoral degree, high-level scientific proficiency, experience in managing academic research, evidence of international cooperation in his/her field of study, the ability to deliver high-quality research-based teaching, and to supervise theses and dissertations.

When assessing an applicant's merits, scientific publications and other research outcomes of scientific value, teaching experience and pedagogical training, ability to produce study materials, other teaching merits and a teaching demonstration as



well as participation in doctoral education will be taken into account. In addition, the applicant's active participation in the academic community, success in obtaining complementary funding for research as well as scholarly work abroad and international duties are taken into account.

A prerequisite for the post of Assistant Professor / Associate Professor is leadership experience commensurate with the post, or a willingness to participate in leadership training.

The person appointed to the post is required by a Government Decree (770/2009) to have an adequate mastery of the Finnish language. According to the Government Decree, university teaching and research personnel should be proficient in Finnish, in which the teaching is given. More detailed provisions can be found in the University of Turku Rules of Procedure. According to the Rules of Procedure, a person appointed to a University teaching and research position can demonstrate the mastery of the Finnish language, as enacted in the Government Decree, by: 1) education completed in Finnish; 2) a passing grade in the Finnish Matriculation Examination from the mother tongue test in Finnish; 3) minimum cum laude approbatur grade in the Finnish Matriculation Examination in Finnish as second language test; 4) a passing grade of a maturity test completed in Finnish from a higher education institution; 5) other separately approved method.

Foreigners and non-native Finnish citizens can be appointed to the position without demonstrating the decreed mastery of the Finnish language

The position requires proficiency in the English language and ability to teach and communicate effectively in Finnish. Additional language skills are considered an advantage.

Application procedure

This position will be advertised in the public domain. The application period is at least 30 days, terminating on the date specified in the announcement .

Applications are submitted through the online application system. The Call for Application contains a link to the application form.

Applications must include:

1. A curriculum vitae drawn up in accordance with the guidelines by the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK) <https://tenk.fi/en/advice-and-materials/template-researchers-curriculum-vitae> Section "CV" of the form.
2. Publications relevant to the position (maximum 10) by which the applicant wishes to demonstrate his/her eligibility and merits for the position. Section "Selected publications" of the form.
3. A list of publications drawn up in accordance with the instructions given by the Academy of Finland: <https://www.aka.fi/en/research-funding/apply-for->



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[funding/how-to-apply-for-funding/az-index-of-application-guidelines2/list-of-publications/](#) Section "List of publications" on the form.

4. An academic portfolio drawn up in accordance with the University guidelines: link to the guidelines: <https://www.utu.fi/en/university/come-work-with-us/academic-portfolio>
5. Written explanation (maximum three pages): the applicant's view of the development plan for the field in terms of research, teaching and societal interaction. Section "Development plans for the area concerning research, teaching and societal interaction" of the form
6. A list of the selected publications in section two and an explanation of the applicant's role and share in the joint publications mentioned. Section "Other attachments" on the form.

All documents are required to be delivered **in English**, except publications, which are to be included as is, not as translations, unless translations have been published.

Only one enclosure can be added in each enclosure segment in the online application system. The file formats to be used can be found in the info file of each enclosure. Regarding the publications, it should be noted that the system only allows compressed file format (.zip). The .zip-folder may include multiple documents.

Applicants should state how they can be contacted during the selection process for the appointment, and the e-mail address to which written communications should be sent.

Experts

The School will request statements from at least two experts on the qualifications and competence of the applicants. The Dean will choose the experts. In the selection of the experts, due regard is paid to take into consideration the applicants' equal and unbiased treatment from the point of view of the post to be filled. The incapacity mentioned in Sections 27–29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) refers to the experts. The applicants will be informed of the selection of the experts. The experts, once selected, may not participate in the subsequent stages of the appointment procedure.

The experts are required to submit written statements. In the statements, the experts are particularly asked to evaluate the academic competence and merits of each applicant. The statement is public, and it must contain justifications about those applicants who, according to each expert, are primarily to be considered in filling the 1) Assistant Professor's post and the 2) Associate Professor's post, taking into account the post, its qualification requirements and other circumstances affecting the evaluation of the merits of the applicants. In each of the two groups, the experts are also to rank the candidates in order of preference.



The expert is required to submit reasoned evaluations only of those applicants whom he or she considers qualified candidates for the post. The statement must explicitly state the criteria used for compiling the shortlist and reasons for the exclusion of any applicants not considered in detail. The statement should state whether the qualified candidate should first be appointed to the 1) fixed-term Assistant Professor's post or 2) fixed-term Associate Professor's post. The experts may consult with each other and may submit a joint statement.

The experts will be provided with the appointment specification, copies of relevant application documents as well as the publications and other works. The written statement must be given within three months. The statement becomes public once the statements of all the experts have reached the University.

Trial lecture

Following the submission of the expert statements, the School may make arrangements to allow for the applicant to give a trial lecture to which members of the public are also admitted. The teaching demonstration will be evaluated.

Interview

The best ranked applicants can be invited for an interview

Preparatory group

The Dean establishes a preparatory group to prepare the appointment to the post. A chair and secretary will be appointed to the preparatory group at the outset. The Head of Administration of the School, or a person appointed by him/her, will be the secretary of the preparatory group. Invited members of the preparatory group will be between three and five professors or other teaching or research personnel who represent the field in question or a closely related field to which the professorial post belongs to. Other members may also be invited to join the group if considered necessary. The preparatory group may also include persons from outside the university. The members of the preparatory group and the secretary must be unbiased about the task.

The preparatory group can make a pre-selection of the applicants based on the application documents. The preparatory group will make a proposal to the Dean for the selection of experts and takes part in the evaluation of the trial lecture and interview. The preparatory group makes the appointment proposal.

Appointment proposal

Once the expert statements and other necessary disquisitions have been obtained, the preparatory group makes a justified proposal on:

- 1) Which applicant it considers suitable for appointment to the post?



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- 2) Whether the post is filled as an Assistant Professor or as an Associate Professor?
- 3) Who should be selected for the appointment according to the preparatory group's opinion?

The Council of Turku School of Economics will make a reasoned proposal for the Rector for the appointment to the post. The School will send the proposal (employment contract in duplicate) with appendices to the Rector for decision-making.

Having received the proposal, the Rector decides whether the post is filled through the tenure track system first as an Assistant Professor or as an Associate Professor and who is appointed to the post. An employment contract will be made with the selected applicant. If necessary, the Rector can ask for further clarifications from the Turku School of Economics. The applicants will be informed about the decision.

The University of Turku reserves the right, for a justified reason, to leave the post unfilled, extend the application period and take into consideration the applicants who have not applied by the closing date.

Additional information

For further information about the position, please contact Professor Heli Marjanen, heli.marjanen(a)utu.fi; tel. +358 505762641. Further information concerning the appointment procedure can be obtained from the Head of Administration Ms. Sanna Kuusjärvi, sanna.kuusjarvi(a)utu.fi

The following Finnish legislation applies to the decrees and procedures outlined here:

The Constitution of Finland (731/1999)
The Universities Act (558/2009)
The Government Decree on Universities (770/2009)
The Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003)
The University of Turku Rules of Procedure



THE TENURE TRACK SYSTEM FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH PERSONNEL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TURKU

The University of Turku has a tenure track system for teaching and research personnel. The purpose of the system is to increase the predictability, competitiveness and attractiveness of the academic career as well as to advance the University's internationalisation. The goal is to find the most talented, suitable and motivated persons amidst ever-intensifying national and international competition.

In the tenure track system, a person is recruited at first for a fixed-term employment relationship as an assistant professor, during which their work is followed and evaluated by the criteria defined at recruitment. Success in the evaluation leads to a new fixed-term employment relationship and the aim is obtaining the tenure of a professor.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Tenure track positions must support the University's strategy and its focus areas. The Rector decides which of the proposed positions can be filled through the tenure track system. The title is Assistant Professor (I phase) or Associate Professor (II phase). The title is not used in any other positions than those of the tenure track system.

A person selected for the post of assistant or associate professor must possess an appropriate doctoral degree, ability to conduct independent scientific work and experience in management of scientific research. In addition, the person must have evidence of international co-operation in his or her field of study, and the ability to provide high-quality teaching based on research and to supervise theses and dissertations.

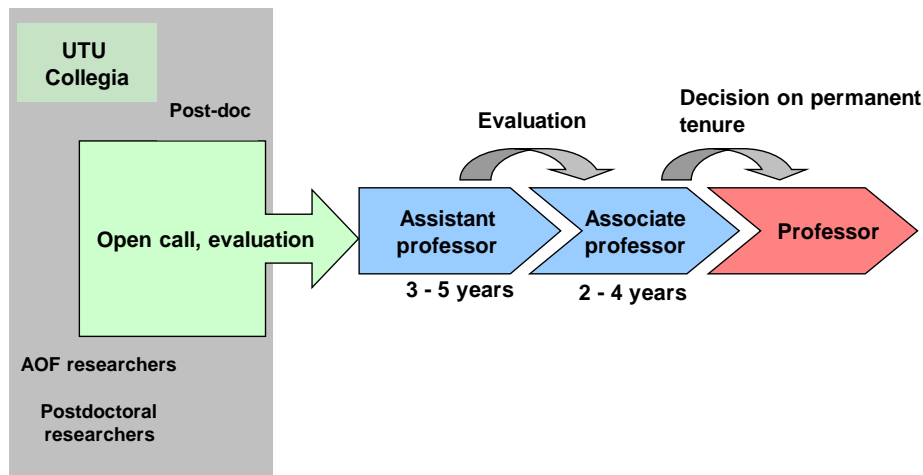
The positions are mainly meant for researchers who are past the postdoc phase. When selecting a person for the I phase, especially academic potential and motivation for an academic career are taken into consideration. When selected for II phase, the associate professor should already have significant scientific merits and clear potential for the tenure of a professor.

The positions are advertised nationally and internationally. The purpose is that the unit wishing to recruit is active and spreads the information by using its own international networks.

The tenure track is formed of two fixed-term employment relationships, first as an assistant professor, second as an associate professor, and after that the tenure of a professor. A person can also be recruited directly to the second phase, depending on the career stage of the applicant.



Tenure track at the University of Turku



Tenure track positions are filled with an open call for applications. In the recruitment phase, the same procedure is in use as when filling the post of a professor. If an open call is not organised, it has to be separately justified and the invitation procedure for filling the post of a professor is followed in filling the tenure track position where applicable. Using the invitation procedure always requires the Rector's permission.

The dean appoints a preparatory group for the selection process, where 3–5 professors or other members of the teaching and research staff are invited. Optionally, also other members can be invited to the group. When using the invitation procedure, a preparatory group can be established when necessary.

The preparatory group first makes a *pre-selection of the applicants* based on the information presented in the application and its appendices. After this, the preparatory group obtains expert statements on the scientific merits of the top applicants chosen through the pre-selection process and takes care of the other practical arrangements related to the selection process, for example, the interviews of top applicants.

The final selection decision is made by the Rector by the proposal of the faculty council.

JOB DESCRIPTION

A professor shall carry out and supervise scientific work, give education based on it and follow developments in science and participate in societal interaction and international cooperation in his or her field (Universities Act, Section 33).

The job description of those on the tenure track is agreed on individually in the annual performance appraisals; however, the University's policies must be followed. Mentors are appointed for the assistant and associate professors and they will conduct the performance appraisals and agree with



the assistant/associate professor about the goals on advancing in the tenure track. The supervisor can act as the mentor, but the mentor can also be another senior colleague. With the tenure track, the University offers the recruits a career path that, through regular evaluations, enables them to proceed to the post of a professor in their field.

The work is followed and evaluated regularly so granting a discretionary leave of absence for a person in the position of an assistant/associate professor is possible only for a very compelling reason.

Of the total working time of an assistant/associate professor in a tenure track position, two-thirds is research work. In the University's tenure track system, all the assistant and associate professor both teach and conduct research. Education at the University of Turku is strongly based on research and the assistant and associate professors are required to participate in the planning of education as well as in the teaching in their own field. The position includes 20–30 % teaching, including supervising scientific postgraduate studies and final theses and dissertations. The third share of working time can involve other activities in the scientific community. The shares described above can be deviated from if career progress requires other kind of emphasis on the content of the work.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE

Those advancing on the University's tenure track take part in evaluations that concern advancing on the tenure track (decision on hiring for another period as an assistant professor, the evaluation before the tenure of a professor). The evaluation of an assistant professor selected for a tenure track position is done well in advance, approximately a year before the first 3–5 year fixed-term employment relationship ends. If the evaluation criteria for the performance are fulfilled, the individual is selected for another 2–4 year period as an associate professor. A year before the end of the second fixed-term employment relationship, a more extensive evaluation required for the tenure of a professor is carried out, where external evaluators are used as well.

When recruiting for and evaluating the position of an assistant/associate professor, attention is paid primarily to the scientific potential and quality. The evaluation is carried out as an overall evaluation. The University's faculties can have discipline-specific criteria that specify and complement the University's guideline.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria used in the tenure track system are based on the principles of predictability, transparency and international comparability. In the tenure track system, performance is evaluated in three categories:

1. research merits
2. teaching, and
3. academic leadership and societal interaction.

To be employed as a tenured professorship, top performance is required in research and teaching and the other categories under evaluation. The evaluation is carried out taking into account all three categories. In addition, the University's Strategy and values are taken into account in all tenure track evaluations. The decisions on advancing on the tenure track are made based on the performance evaluation.

The applicants for tenure track positions and the personnel advancing on the tenure track are evaluated based on performance, for example, with the following criteria:



Scientific research

- research plan; current situation, vision and aims
- scientific production and the impact factor of the research
 - publications in international peer-reviewed forums
 - scientific citations
 - other research publications (books, chapters in books)
 - ongoing research
 - plenary presentations and other high impact presentations such as invited presentations, keynote presentations etc.
 - scientific articles/tools (software etc.)
- scientific cooperation and external research grants
 - the concrete results of the cooperation: joint articles, joint funding etc.
- other merits

Teaching

- teaching experience
 - tasks and responsibilities related to educational development
- supervising doctoral dissertations, teaching and learning materials, teaching methods
 - use and development
- pedagogical training
 - pedagogical studies and/or teaching demonstrations
 - an account of continuous professional self-development
- recognitions and evaluations of pedagogical competence
- feedback from students and teachers
- students' learning outcomes, grants and other recognitions
- teaching networks and teaching co-operation on different levels (at the University, nationally, internationally)

Academic leadership and societal interaction

- activities in the research community
 - organising conferences
 - editing publications
 - significant evaluation tasks
 - membership in academic communities
- academic leadership
 - leading a research group
 - managerial work / preparedness for managerial work
 - management training and leadership
 - activities in work community



- societal interaction and cooperation with interest groups
 - societal visibility (e.g. expert tasks, book projects, visibility in media)
 - patents and other commercial rights, significant new methods etc.
 - other co-operation