

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies

Professorship in Studies on Contemporary Society

Position overview

1. Scope of the field, field of teaching, duties and location of the post, salary details

The position to be filled is a Professorship in Studies on Contemporary Society (the Jane and Aatos Erkkö Visiting Professor of Studies on Contemporary Society, position No 29146) established in 2008 (Rector's Decision No 024/2008). The Swedish title of the position is Jane och Aatos Erkkös professur i nutidsorienterad samhällsforskning and the Finnish title is Jane ja Aatos Erkon ajankohtaisen yhteiskuntatutkimuksen professuuri.

The professorship will focus on themes of topical significance to contemporary society and social justice, including the future of the welfare society, globalisation, cultural conflicts, pluralism and environmental issues. The scope may also include research on the cultural and historical background of themes concerning contemporary society. Due to the location of the professorship, the duties of the position focus on research. A special duty of the appointed professor will be to organise a seminar in his or her own research field at the Collegium.

The position will be located at the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies.

The salary will be based on levels 8-10 of the demands level chart for teaching and research personnel in the salary system of Finnish universities. In addition, the appointee will be paid a salary component based on personal work performance. The professor will be offered a residence in the centre of Helsinki for the duration of the appointment.

The appointment will be for a fixed term of one or two years, starting on 1 August 2011.

2. Qualification requirements

According to the Universities Act (No 558/2009), a professor shall carry out and supervise scientific work, provide education based on it, follow developments in research, and participate in societal interaction and international cooperation in his or her field.

According to Section 54 of the Regulations of the University of Helsinki, appointees to professorships must hold a doctoral degree and have high-level academic qualifications and experience in heading up scientific research. They must also be able to provide research-based teaching of a high quality and supervise dissertations and theses, as well as present evidence of international cooperation in their field.

As specified in the Government Decree on Universities, professors are required to be proficient in Finnish and must also have at least satisfactory oral and written skills in Swedish. Foreign citizens, non-native Finnish citizens or citizens who have not been educated in Finnish or Swedish may be exempted from this requirement without a separate application. To successfully attend to the duties of the position, appointees must also have good English skills. Knowledge of other languages will be considered a further asset.

When assessing the qualifications of each candidate, attention will be paid to scientific publications and other research results of scientific value, participation in doctoral education, previous teaching experience and pedagogical training, the ability to develop learning materials, other teaching merits and, if deemed necessary, teaching skills as demonstrated in a lecture. Furthermore, attention will be paid to the candidate's activities within the research community, success in obtaining external research funding, experience in research work outside Finland and elected positions in international organisations.

3. Filling the position by invitation

The position will not be advertised as vacant, but will be filled by invitation. According to Section 33 of the Universities Act, a professorship may be filled by invitation without public notice of vacancy when a professionally distinguished person is invited to the position or the appointment is for a fixed period. Only a person who indisputably fulfils the qualification requirements may be appointed by invitation.

The appointment committee established by the Director of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies requests interested academics to confirm their interest by submitting a written notice to the University of Helsinki Registry, P.O. Box 33, 00014 University of Helsinki, Finland by 8 September 2010 at 15.45 local Helsinki time.

The required enclosures include:

- 1) A short report written in English listing the merits and activities relevant to the position (curriculum vitae);
- 2) A report (max. 4 pages) in English describing how the candidate intends to perform the duties of the position and to develop the field;
- 3) An informal report (max. 2 pages) in English of the candidate's scientific activities;
- 4) A numbered list of publications. The scholars who have notified the appointment committee of their interest in the position must be prepared to submit to the Collegium any publication on his or her list of publications upon separate request by the Collegium.

The enclosures must be numbered in accordance with the list above.

The scholars who have notified the appointment committee of their interest may also be invited for an interview.

4. Availability of the candidates during the appointment process

To facilitate further correspondence, the academics interested in the position must indicate in their notice of interest how they can best be contacted during the appointment process and provide their current address, telephone number, and email address, if any.

5. Rules and regulations concerning the duties of assessors

If the Collegium receives numerous notifications from interested academics, the appointment committee is entitled to select those applications which will be forwarded to assessors for review. The selection criterion will be the appointment committee's opinion on which of the candidates can primarily be considered when filling the position. Each assessor must submit a written statement. The statement must clearly indicate whether the assessor finds the nominee indisputably qualified for the position. Sections 27-29 of the Administrative Procedure Act will be applied in the disqualification of assessors.

6. Appointment

Based on the candidate's qualifications, the assessors' statements and any other facts that have emerged, the appointment committee will make a proposal for whom they think should be considered in the filling of the position and recommend the appointment of one of the shortlisted candidates or indicate whether the nominee is indisputably qualified for the position. Before submitting their final proposal, the appointment committee will request a statement from the Board of the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies. Even if not all the assessors' statements have yet been received, a decision on the matter may be made, provided that (1) the time limit set for the statements has expired and (2) at least two assessors have submitted their statements.

Having received the relevant documents, the Chancellor of the University of Helsinki will make a decision on whether the nominee selected through the selection process can be appointed to the professorship. Should the Chancellor for any reason find that the decision requires further consideration or investigation, he or she will invite the chairs of the Collegium Board and the appointment committee to a consultation in order to reach a consensus in the matter. The Chancellor may also, upon his or her discretion, invite the candidates for an interview and obtain necessary further information. Once the Chancellor has reached a decision on the appointment, he or she will inform the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies of it, and the Collegium will draft the appointee's employment contract. Once the employment contract has been signed, the Chancellor will issue a letter of appointment.

Further information is available from the Collegium Office (Director Sami Pihlström, tel. 358 9 191 23456 and Dr Kustaa Multamäki, Head of Planning and Development, tel. +358 9 191 23261, fax +358 9 24509).