

Guidelines for the appointment of docents at the Faculty of Science and Engineering (FST 2018-1.23)

This decision shall be registered in the rule book of Linköping University, replacing the previous decision Dnr LiU-2016-00361.

General perspective

The appointment of docents is an important instrument in the operations at the Faculty of Science and Engineering, both for the individual as well as for the higher education institution. To attain the qualifications of a docent is not only a step in the academic career but also a requirement to be appointed as main supervisor to PhD students, as well as a prerequisite to be considered for promotion to senior associate professor. At many higher education institutions, being a docent is also a precondition to be appointed as external reviewer, to be part of grading committees and for other types of assignments involving critical review.

Appointment requirements

General criterium

The appointment to docent should clearly be of benefit to research and education at the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Research expertise

To be appointed as docent at the Faculty of Science and Engineering, the applicant should normally have been active as independent researcher for at least three years following a doctoral degree. This means that the applicant should have a good overview of his/her field of research, possess the ability to identify and formulate research problems on his/her own, be able to carry out assignments to critically review scholarly articles, and fulfill the conditions to act as a research supervisor. The applicant must have documented his/her expertise through a research product that corresponds to at least two doctoral theses of normal length and that demonstrates both depth and breadth. The applicant must have published in recognised international scholarly journals or anthologies in accordance with the current publishing tradition in the relevant field of research.

Educational expertise

Educational expertise refers to both the ability to successfully aid and facilitate student learning and contribute to the development of teaching and learning in higher education, as well as the ability to convey research results to colleagues in the same field of research, PhD students, students and the public. To be appointed as docent, the applicant must have

- Documented experience of planning, developing, carrying out and evaluating teaching at the first, second or third cycle at a university or university college and/or in commissioned education.
- Been co-supervisor to a PhD student for at least one year.
- Completed the course Research supervision – Advanced course in Higher Education Pedagogy, 4 ECTS. If the applicant has completed a similar course in research supervision at another higher education institution, Didacticum will make an equivalence assessment. The applicant must have completed the faculty-specific part of the studies in research supervision.

Examples of other qualifying experiences:

- Planning and carrying out seminar series, conferences, symposia, etc.
- Development of new courses.
- Activities whereby research results were made accessible for a wider public, for industry or other activities outside of universities and university colleges.
- Writing of textbooks and other educational materials.
- Supervision of students at the first and second cycles.

Educational expertise should also be demonstrated through a docent lecture. The docent committee will determine in each case which target group is to be intended. The applicant should be clearly informed about the proposed audience and the desired format and subject of the lecture. If the applicant fails this trial lecture, he/she may undergo a new test at the earliest one year after the previous test.

Assessment by external expert

Assessment of the applicant's research and educational expertise is made by an external expert working outside of Linköping University.

Applicants from outside of the Faculty of Science and Engineering

The same requirements are imposed regarding research expertise and studies in research supervision. Educational expertise may be demonstrated through educational activities, etc. within industry or the wider community and must be well documented.

Application and decision process

The docent application and decision process are conducted according to the information in Appendix 1.

Retraction of a docent title

A docent title can be retracted if it, in retrospect, is found that it was acquired on evidently false grounds.