

Finnish Institute for Educational Research
April 24, 2013

A scheme **for filling the vacancy of Professor in Educational Evaluation, since January 1, 2014.**; contract length open-ended

1. Professor's working conditions, duties, and salary

The Finnish Institute for Educational Research (FIER), established in 1968, is a national centre for educational research. The FIER acts as a separate institute of the University of Jyväskylä, and conducts multidisciplinary, nationally and internationally significant educational research, which advances learning, and supports teachers, educational institutions and decision-makers in developing education in the rapidly changing society. The societal impact of research is enhanced by cooperating with educational institutions, educational administration, working life, decision-makers and the media. The focus of research activities is on comparative assessment of educational systems in different parts of the world, processes of learning, teaching and guidance, human-centred information technology and research of higher education. The international evaluation research of the Institute is focused primarily on student achievement in reading literacy, science and mathematics as well as in civics (FIER projects include e.g. PISA, TIMSS, PIRLS, PIAAC, AHELO). The Institute organises post-graduate education together with various university faculties. The total number of staff is around 80.

Proposition on the vacant position:

- Professor in Educational Evaluation at the Institute for Educational Research, University of Jyväskylä

The vacancy is to be filled since January 1, 2014 onwards; contract length open-ended.

Scheme:

The Professor in Educational Evaluation is expected to carry out educational evaluation research in national and international cooperation, participate in methodological development in this field as well as in the introduction of research-based improvements for education and teaching. The professor's duties include responsibility for the national planning, management and implementation of international comparative studies on the outcomes of school systems. In addition, the Professor, in cooperation with other units of the university, is in charge of the development of post-graduate studies in this field and also of improving the conditions for research; for example by obtaining complementary funding for this domain.

In filling the vacancy, it is considered an asset if the applicant has experience from mathematics instruction and also from research on mathematics teaching and student performance and related development activities.

According to § 33 of the Universities Act (558/2009), a professor is expected to conduct and supervise scientific research, provide teaching based on it, and follow developments in science and art, as well as participate in societal interaction and international cooperation in his or her field.

The University of Jyväskylä Regulations § 67 states that members of the teaching and research personnel are obliged, within their respective job descriptions and work plan, to conduct and supervise scientific research, follow the development in their respective disciplines, examine theses and dissertations, teach and enhance teaching practices, provide study counselling, carry out relevant examinations, participate to student selection as well as attend to task derived from membership in the university's administrative bodies and to other tasks counted as part of their work or assigned to them. In addition, they are to provide the necessary accounts concerning teaching, counselling and supervision, publications and scientific activities, as well as the examinations they have arranged.

According to the salary system concerning teaching and research staff at universities, the professor's job-specific salary component is based on the job demands level 8-11. In addition, a personal performance-based salary component amounting to the maximum of 46,3 % of the job-specific salary component is also paid.

2. Qualifications

In accordance with § 57 of the University of Jyväskylä Regulations, a professor is expected to have a doctoral degree, high-level scientific competence, experience in leading research projects, ability to provide research-based, top-quality teaching and supervision, as well as evidence of international research cooperation in his/her field, and familiarity with the practicalities of the position.

The applicant's merits are assessed on the basis of his/her scientific publications, other scientific results, experience in teaching and supervising, as well as pedagogical training, production of textbooks and other teaching materials, other indications of skills achieved in teaching, and if necessary, pedagogical competence demonstrated by trial lectures. In addition to this, the applicant's activeness in the scientific community, success in acquiring complementary research funding, as well as involvement in international scientific work and international positions of trust are also regarded as merits. A good command of the English language is required in the position. Another asset considered here is the ability to teach in English.

According to § 1 of the Government Decree on Universities (770/2009), university teaching and research positions require a full command of the teaching language, Finnish. However, when considered appropriate, the university can grant an exemption from the language proficiency requirements.

In accordance with § 65 of the University of Jyväskylä Regulations, a professor is required to complete studies in university pedagogy or equivalent within two years of the beginning of the employment contract, unless studies have already been completed by the time of appointment.

3. Application procedure

Applicants are kindly asked to fill in the online application form at <https://www.jyu.fi/yliopistopalvelut/erpake/rekrytointi>. It is also possible to send the application on paper. Applications by ordinary mail should be sent to the following address: University of Jyväskylä, P.O. Box 35, FIN-40014 University of Jyväskylä, Finland. Applications will not be returned.

Information about the application period is presented in the call for applications.
Candidates need to include the following documents in pdf format in their application

1. Curriculum vitae or a written report including the candidate's scientific research, merits in scientific activity, in managing and supervising research work, in acquiring research funding, in international activities, and in teaching, as well as merits in research-based development activities and societal interaction, in addition to other merits by which the candidate wishes to demonstrate his or her qualifications for the post;
2. An account of how the candidate plans to develop the evaluation research in the Finnish Institute for Educational Research (FIER);
3. A numbered list of all the scholarly and other publications with which the candidate wishes to demonstrate his or her qualifications for the post;
4. A maximum of 10 main publications, numbered in accordance with the above list in one pdf file

All documents need to be attached to the online application in pdf format. The titles of the pdf files must include the name of the applicant.

4. Referees

Before the decision on the appointment is made, at least two referees are asked to give a report on the competence and qualifications of the applicants. The Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) § 27-29 are applied when considering the eligibility of the referees. The Director of FIER will appoint the referees.

The referees may consult each other during the review process. They may also issue a joint report according to their choice. However, if the referees disagree in their assessment of the candidates, separate statements are preferred. The appointment procedure and the applicants' CV's, lists of publications and other documents attached to the applications will be handed to the referees. The referees will be expected to hand in their reports within three months of receiving the documents and publications.

5. Sample lecture and interview

After the referees have handed in their reports on the applicants, possible sample lectures and interviews will be decided upon.

6. Nomination for the appointment

Based on the applicants' merits, the reports from the referees, possible sample lectures and other emerging factors, the FIER Governing Board will give the nomination for the appointment to the Rector. The Governing Board need to make the nomination or the decision not to nominate any of the applicants without delay. The Governing Board will inform all candidates in writing about the decision immediately after it has been made. The applicants have the right to express their opinion on the nomination in writing to the Rector within 14 days. The Rector is committed to withholding the decision until 14 days has past, unless a force majeure occurs.

7. Appointment

According to the University of Jyväskylä Regulations § 11, the decision on the appointment to the professorship will be made by the Rector.

Jouni Välijärvi, Professor
Director of FIER