

**Description of the appointment process of a tenure track position  
(assistant/associate/full professor)****Machine Learning**

Location: School of Engineering Sciences, Department of Computational Engineering,  
Lappeenranta or Lahti campus

The rector has approved the description and initiated the appointment process on  
4 February 2025.

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**Applied statutes**

Universities Act (558/2009)  
Government decree on universities (770/2009)

Regulations of LUT University (8 December 2022, amended 5 April 2024 and 17 June 2024)

Rector's decision: Academic career tracks of the Lappeenranta–Lahti University of Technology  
LUT (16 January 2025)

**Additional information**

Further information on the duties of the professor is provided by Satu-Pia Reinikainen, head  
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## **1 Background**

Clean energy, water and air are life-giving resources for which we at LUT University seek new solutions with our expertise in technology, business and social sciences. We help society and businesses in their sustainable renewal.

LUT University was established in 1969. Our entrepreneurially thinking scientific and international community comprises approximately 7300 students and 1400 experts engaged in scientific research and academic education. There are more than 100 nationalities present on our modern campuses in Lappeenranta and Lahti.

In our schools – the LUT School of Energy Systems, the LUT School of Engineering Sciences and the LUT School of Business – we conduct research and provide education that are internationally recognised and relevant to both society and business.

Times Higher Education (THE) has ranked LUT among the top 11 small universities across the globe in 2022. The THE university rankings present the world's top universities for interdisciplinary research.

### **Department of Computational Engineering**

The position is located at the Department of Computational Engineering (CopE) of the LUT School of Engineering Science (LENS). CopE's research is multidisciplinary and focuses on inverse problems, numerical analysis, computer vision and pattern recognition, atmospheric modelling and computational spectroscopy. We focus on in-depth understanding of data and related algorithms, data-analysis and machine learning. Our cross-cutting theme is machine learning enhanced computational engineering.

Our Centre of Excellence in Inverse Modelling and Imaging, and the recent Flagship status (Flagship of Advanced Mathematics for Sensing, Imaging and Modelling 2024-2031) strengthen our scientific status. The department has 65 employees and 4 research groups working together.

## **2 Vacant professorship**

We are looking for a full professor / an associate professor / an assistant professor (tenure track) in machine learning who will be co-affiliated with ELLIS institute. The position offers a unique opportunity to engage in groundbreaking research and collaborations within the expanding field of machine learning methodologies and solutions on a global scale.

This position strengthens CopE's expertise in developing statistical learning methods for artificial intelligence with impact in basic research and society. The duties include supervision of researchers and doctoral students as well as advanced education in topics belonging to computational sciences.

You will work in a cutting-edge, interdisciplinary research environment in a diverse academic setting, fostering collaborations across multiple disciplines. You will benefit from LUT's international community and networks that enable global partnerships and offer insights into different cultures and perspectives. You will have great possibilities for career growth and development.

You will enjoy Finland's high quality of life, known for its high standard of living, excellent health care and social services, and a clean and safe environment.

Your objective will be to set up your own research group and offer expertise in the field of your professorship.

Your duties will include basic and advanced education in key areas of the field of professorship; the exact educational responsibilities will be agreed on with the head of the degree programme. Professors are expected to supervise theses and doctoral dissertations.

We expect proof of high-impact international research and publishing – one of the most important duties of professors at LUT University.

Skills for collaborating both within LUT and with national and especially international partners are crucial to the position, and you will be expected to provide evidence of successful international collaboration and the acquisition of research funding. Preparations for national and especially international research and education projects are part of the work of professors at LUT University.

The duties of a professor also include societal engagement that serves industry, the economy, and society, and general administrative work related to the university's operation.

The field of the professorship can include themes such as the following:

- computational engineering
- statistical learning
- hybrid/surrogate models
- physics/chemistry-informed machine learning
- mathematical foundations of machine learning
- uncertainty quantification
- computer vision
- pattern recognition

Expertise in several areas is considered an advantage. You must present proof of successful project work and research collaboration with research institutions and industry. In addition, we require evidence of experience in managing an organisation and acquiring competitive funding.

The duties related to the field of research include the following:

- high-impact international research
- planning and implementation of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral education
- supervision of final theses and doctoral studies
- preparation of national and international research and education projects
- increasing awareness in a way that serves industries and society
- taking part in the preparation of projects in other LUT units as an expert
- general administrative work related to the university's operation
- acquisition of research funding
- cost-conscious leadership and project management
- close collaboration and interaction with businesses in the field
- teamwork, as most of the research and work is conducted in research groups and teams

The position is at the assistant/associate/full professor levels of the tenure track and will be filled through an open call for a fixed term of four years (assistant/associate professor) or permanently (full professor). The tenure track system offers researchers a possibility to advance to a full professorship. LUT is committed to providing tenure track researchers the possibility to advance to the next level, provided they meet the requirements in the promotion reviews, are suitable for the position, and conduct research that fits LUT's strategy and operation.

More information on the LUT tenure track system:  
<https://www.lut.fi/en/research/research-career-lut/tenure-track>

The position starts with a six-month trial period. The position is based either in Lappeenranta or Lahti. The main location will be discussed with the superior.

### **3 Qualifications**

According to the administrative regulations of LUT University, adopted on 8 December 2022 (amended 5 April 2024 and 17 June 2024), assistant/associate/full professors are required to have a doctorate, high-level scientific qualifications, experience in heading scientific research, the ability to acquire funding, the ability to provide high-level instruction based on research, the ability to supervise final theses, proof of international cooperation in their field of research, and when relevant to the duties of the position, practical experience in the field of the professorship.

Practical experience in the field is not a requirement in this position, but it is considered an advantage. Applicants must demonstrate in their application how they have collaborated with industry.

The applicant must have research and teaching merits, proof of effective research and the acquisition of external research funding, and international experience. The appointed applicant will be the immediate supervisor of a research group and may need to perform other demanding management duties assigned by the university. Therefore, related skills will be taken into consideration in the appointment, and attention will be paid to the applicant's merits as defined in LUT's tenure track system.

Under the universities decree (770/2009), persons in teaching and research positions at universities are required to master the language, Finnish or Swedish, in which they teach. According to the university regulations, section 28, foreign or naturalised Finnish citizens may be appointed to teaching or research positions even if they have not demonstrated skills in Finnish and/or Swedish. Applicants for professorships may demonstrate their language skills with a language certificate accepted by the academic council and/or in an interview.

According to the university regulations, section 28, professors are required to have the language skills needed for the successful completion of their duties.

In this position, spoken and written fluency in English is required. The appointed person is encouraged to acquire the necessary Finnish skills during the employment relationship. For that purpose, LUT offers in-house Finnish language courses to staff members.

### **4 Applying for the position**

#### **Application**

The application must specify the tenure track level applied to. The deadline for applications is indicated in the vacancy announcement. The application and material for expert assessors should be submitted through the online recruitment system mentioned in the ELLIS vacancy announcement. All application documents must be in English and in PDF format.

The application documents required are listed in the ELLIS vacancy announcement.

## **Contact information**

Applicants must give the university an email address at which they can be reached. Applicants who do not wish to be contacted by email must give a postal address at which they can be reached during the appointment process. The university prefers email.

## **5 Expert evaluators**

### **Selection of experts**

The experts must be impartial. Before the selection of expert evaluators, the applicants must be provided the possibility to comment on their possible disqualification.

Based on the proposal of the selection committee, the dean invites at least three internationally recognised experts to submit a statement on the qualification of the applicants. The university's staff members may not be invited as expert evaluators. To the extent possible, the experts should be chosen with the applicants' fields of specialisation in mind and with a view to impartiality.

Sections 27–29 of the Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003) apply to the disqualification of an expert evaluator.

### **Applications forwarded to expert evaluators**

The selection committee may limit the number of applications forwarded to expert evaluators if there are four applicants or more. At least three applications must be forwarded to the experts. The applications may be limited to the most suitable candidates for the position in the view of the person making the decision. The selection committee must state the grounds for its decision. The applicants will be informed if any applications are excluded from the evaluation.

### **Expert statements**

The expert evaluators must give their statements in writing within four weeks. More specific dates will be sent to the evaluators along with instructions. In their statement, the experts must evaluate especially the scientific qualification of the applicant, and if possible, also other merits related to the professorship, and rank the applicants in order of preference.

Expert evaluators may not take part in the appointment process at a later stage.

The statement must be submitted to the university (separate instructions issued) by the deadline.

## **6 Interview and trial lecture**

Applicants deemed qualified for the position by the experts will be invited to an interview. The selection committee may ask the applicants to give a public trial lecture.

## **7 Appointment**

The selection committee makes an appointment proposal to the tenure track committee and then to the dean. The dean then makes a proposal to the rector on filling the position or leaving it vacant. The proposal shall be based on the merits presented by the applicants, expert statements, possible trial lectures and other related matters.

The evaluation of the applicant's qualifications takes into account scientific publications and other research results with scientific value, pedagogical expertise, teaching experience, teaching-related merits, a trial lecture if needed, the number of supervised dissertations, and management and leadership skills. In addition, the applicant's activity in the scientific community, success in raising research funding, scientific work abroad and international positions of trust are considered.

The rector decides either to appoint an applicant or to leave the position vacant.

The appointment proposal may be made or let lapse even if all of the experts have not submitted their statements, provided that the time limit for the statements has expired, at least three experts have submitted their statements, and the impartial treatment of the applicants is not compromised by doing so.

After the rector has made the appointment decision, an employment contract is concluded with the appointed person. If no employment contract is concluded, the rector may, based on the proposal by the dean, make a new decision and appoint another applicant. The rector may also leave the position vacant. When the employment contract is concluded with the person appointed, the final decision is made known to all applicants.

## **Tenure track appointment criteria**

The positions below require a doctorate in an applicable field, a research field that fits the LUT strategy (see LUT Strategy 2030), a goal-oriented plan for the work in question, teaching experience and an up-to-date account of teaching merits (teaching portfolio).

LUT has joined the international CoARA Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment (<https://coara.eu/agreement/the-agreement-full-text>), which emphasises qualitative assessment in recruitments and promotions to specialist positions. This is highlighted especially in the assessment of peer-reviewed scientific publications. We require high-level publications. The quality of publications is evaluated based on their content, such as novelty and impact. High-level publications have also passed a high-level peer review, where only the best manuscripts are accepted for publication.

In the tenure track criteria below, we apply the classification of the Finnish Publication Forum (JUFO) as a guiding indicator of high-level publications (ratings 2 and 3), but applicants always select their best publications for a qualitative evaluation by experts.

In international recruitments, the evaluation must take into account that applicants from beyond Finland and Europe may not have been involved in Finnish or European research projects and may not have taken into consideration the Finnish Publication Forum classification. Such applicants are evaluated in terms of their success in acquiring competitive funding through their own national channels or through international ones, and in terms of impact factors of scientific journals in their own field. Only in promotion and tenure reviews are the same criteria be applied to them as to Finnish persons.

The following qualifications are to be considered in the recruitment of researchers for different levels. LUT University's tenure track appointment criteria have been prepared from the viewpoint of technology and business.

### **Assistant professor:**

- peer-reviewed scientific publications
- contacts with the international scientific community in the field
- the ability to take part in applying for external funding in the research group and for fellowships of the Research Council of Finland
- the ability to participate in teaching and final thesis supervision

### **Associate professor:**

- successful publication history after the doctoral defence, target of three high-level publications a year
- proof on international cooperation
- successful acquisition of external funding and acting as, e.g., a project manager in externally funded projects
- applying for Research Council of Finland research fellow positions
- participation in the supervision of doctoral students
- participation in the commercialisation of research results
- participation in teaching, the development of teaching and the supervision of final theses

Full professor:

- proof of the successful performance of duties
- 1. Scientific research
  - publications: target of three high-level publications a year; emphasis on publications from recent years
  - supervised dissertations: target of approximately one doctorate a year
  - other scientific publications, such as books and chapters
  - citations
  - important keynote/plenary presentations and scientific awards
  - editorial work in scientific journals
- 2. Academic teaching experience
  - high-quality teaching proven in different ways, such as feedback received
  - up-to-date teaching portfolio
  - development of teaching modules
  - supervision of final theses
- 3. Academic leadership
  - establishing and heading a research group
  - leadership experience and evidence of leadership and interpersonal skills
  - other leadership experience and feedback received
- 4. Acquisition of external funding
  - EU, ERC, Research Council of Finland, and Business Finland
- 5. Work in the scientific community
  - international scientific societies and expert advisory duties
  - duties with an impact on the scientific community
- 6. Societal impact
  - presence in societal dialogue
  - corporate funding and external funding not referred to in point 4 above
  - professional experience beyond universities
  - innovations, patents, collaboration with companies (e.g., board memberships)
  - activity in the university's stakeholder groups