



### ENTHUSIASM ALLOWED

"The Teachers' Academy allows you to be enthusiastic about teaching."  
**Kirsti Lonka**, Professor of Educational Psychology, first President of the Teachers' Academy



### INTEREST IN STUDENT LEARNING

"Since we have information about human learning, shouldn't we take advantage of it?"  
**Szabolcs Galambosi**, University Lecturer in Physics

### FRUITFUL CHAIN REACTIONS

"My appointment to the Teachers' Academy has had a significant impact on my career."  
**Kimmo Vehkalahti**, University Lecturer in Statistics

### TEACHERS DESERVE TO BE RECOGNISED

"The Teachers' Academy is not an elite club, but a group of distinguished experts and an empowering network."  
**Jukka Kola**, Rector



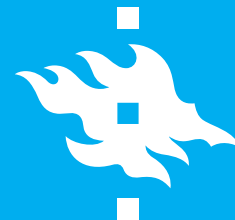
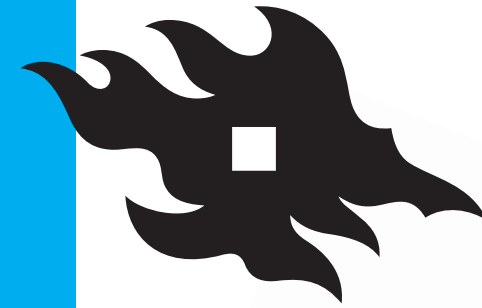
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### HELSENKI.FI/UNIVERSITY

<b>1640</b> ESTABLISHED	<b>8 300</b> PERSONAL	<b>6 000</b> DEGREES/YEAR
<b>11</b> FACULTIES	<b>35 000</b> STUDENTS	



FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE EUROPEAN LEAGUE OF RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES



# TEACHERS' ACADEMY

# PASSION TO LEARN



## A NETWORK OF TOP TEACHERS

The University of Helsinki Teachers' Academy is a network of distinguished university teachers, the only of its kind in Finland. While the Academy aims to promote teaching and improve its general standing in the academic community, it also encourages teachers to upgrade their qualifications and rewards them for their teaching merits. By investing in teachers, the University also invests in students and the quality of learning. Appointment to the Teachers' Academy signifies special recognition for teaching merits and scholarship in the field of teaching.

The theoretical cornerstone of the Teachers' Academy is the concept of the scholarship of teaching, which places teaching at the centre of academic competence on a par with research. It also emphasises that, similarly to research competence, teaching skills can be learned, developed systematically and shared collegially. A separate project has been established to study the Teachers' Academy and its impact ([helsinki.fi/ty/english/research](https://helsinki.fi/ty/english/research)).

## SELECTION PROCESS

Teachers must apply for the Academy fellowship independently. The application documents include a teaching portfolio, a short CV as well as letters of recommendation from students and colleagues. In the teaching portfolios, the applicants must present, describe and analyse their teaching innovations and related competence with respect to the Teachers' Academy criteria. The applications are evaluated by multidisciplinary peer review panels.



## INSPIRER OF LEARNING

The Teachers' Academy logo, the acorn, stands for knowledge, a new beginning and the spread of wisdom. It is a sign of the distinguished university teacher as an inspirer of learning.

The oak tree, a symbol of knowledge and wisdom, stands for community and the Teachers' Academy as a network of scholarly teachers. It evokes the idea of a university community that is proud of its teachers, appreciates their skills and encourages them in their quest for better teaching.

## REWARDS SYSTEM

The Teachers' Academy rewards both outstanding teachers and the communities that support their work. The selected teachers are recognised as permanent members of the Academy and receive a personal two-year grant, in addition to which the teacher's home unit (e.g., division or discipline) receives a grant for development efforts for the same time period.

## SCHOLARSHIP OF TEACHING

The Teachers' Academy fellows are strong experts in their fields who have fulfilled the Academy's selection criteria, which include the following:

- Continuous development of expertise in teaching and supervision
- Teaching and supervision practices that enhance student learning
- Expertise in using and developing teaching materials
- Participation in the collaborative development of teaching

## DISSEMINATION OF EXPERTISE

The University of Helsinki Teachers' Academy was established in 2012, and its founding members were appointed in 2013. The Academy fellows form a multidisciplinary network that shares its expertise and actively develops learning and teaching at the University. Specialists in university pedagogy support the fellows of the Teachers' Academy and serve as advisors for the Academy.

## TEACHING INNOVATIONS

Fellows of the Teachers' Academy are pioneers in the development of learning environments and processes. Various methods, such as debate, drama, role play, learning workshops, extreme apprenticeships and team teaching, are in active use. To them, the flipped classroom, problem-based learning and game-based learning are natural teaching methods. The fellows are also comfortable using the latest educational technologies.

