

## **Instructions for affiliation of professors from top universities abroad**

*- with the aim of awarding the title of 'Honorary Skou Professor'*

Health wants to increase the faculty's international profile by affiliating recognized researchers from top universities abroad. This initiative will strengthen relations to leading research units abroad, creating ties that bring international aspects into teaching, facilitate exchange and academic cooperation, and lead to joint research projects and joint fund applications. Cooperation with international researchers thus benefits the individual's research and the overall research environment at Health. In the long term, the faculty wishes to establish a 'Faculty of Honorary Skou Professors and Champions'.

Affiliations are especially relevant when it has strategic and academic significance, and when it comes to internationally recognized professors from top universities abroad who have:

- A significant relation to one or more research groups at Health
- Qualifications that complement the research areas at Health

The honorary professor will normally undertake the following tasks:

- Participate in collaborations with researchers at the department
- General promotion of cooperation and knowledge exchange
- Guest lecturing at pre- and postgraduate level
- Guest lecturing at seminars and conferences
- PhD co-supervision
- Participate in search committees

The specific tasks of the honorary professor are agreed with the head of the department.

HR at Health supports the process of awarding the title.

### **The honorary professor**

The candidate must be a highly recognized researcher within his or her field and be employed as a full professor at his or her home university abroad. The candidate's home university must be in the top-100 at the QS World University Ranking and / or a member of The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities (updated lists will be submitted to the departments annually and may also be obtained from the International Advisor).

The candidate's professional profile must support the department's strategic objectives and enable the candidate to contribute to and participate in academic activities at the department. It is a prerequisite that the candidate is prepared to actively work for increased cooperation between the two institutions.

### **'Champion' (academic contact person)**

The department designates a 'champion' from the academic environment. The 'champion' has a prominent role in initiating professional cooperation and in integrating the Honorary Skou Professor in the research

community. As a 'champion', he or she is also responsible for welcoming the honorary professor and taking care of practical aspects of the professor's visits to Health.

### **Process for recommendation**

At the recommendation of 2-3 professionals from Health with insight into the candidate's field of research, the head of department recommends the candidate to the dean who appoints the title of Honorary Skou professor. The recommendation is presented to the dean at the regular meetings between the head of the department and the dean. Prior to the recommendation, the head of department ensures that the candidate is interested in receiving the title.

A recommendation contains the following information:

- Name and title of the candidate
- The candidate's research area
- University (name/city/country)
- Email address
- Birth date
- Gender (M / F)
- Name and title of the 'champion' (academic contact person)
- The following attachments:
  - A description of the candidate's relevant qualifications, contact to Health, the potential benefits of the affiliation, and a tentative plan for visits and activities
  - The candidate's CV incl. publications
  - A recommendation from the specialty, if the candidate is a clinical professor
  - Existing assessments / expert statements, if applicable, as documentation for the academic level of the candidate as corresponding to full professor

The candidate is expected to meet the criteria for a professor's appointment at Health through his or her professor's appointment at home. Therefore, the requirements for documentation differs from that of ordinary professor appointments at Health and the recommendation does not have to include research plans, publications and teaching portfolio.

The dean decides whether the title of Honorary Skou Professor can be awarded based on the existing documentation (i.e. the candidate's academic level is sufficiently documented). In that case, the department creates a 'Medarbejderstamkort' for the person concerned. It must be clearly indicated that it is an 'Honorary Skou Professor' and which university the professor comes from. The recommendation documents are forwarded for archiving by email to HR at Health. HR at Health hereby prepares the award letter for the title of Honorary Skou Professor.

Alternatively, the dean can decide that an assessment by a committee at Health is needed. In that case, the department contacts HR at Health and initiate an assessment in accordance with HR's general rules for appointment of honorary professors at Health. The title 'Honorary Skou Professor' will still apply if the criteria – e.g. full professor at a top-100 and / or Guild-member university abroad – have been met.

The period of an honorary professorship may not exceed five years. If it is in the department's interest, it is possible to extend the period by another five years.

The process is subject to confidentiality.

## Salary and financial compensation

The title of Honorary Skou Professor is an honorary title and is not associated with employment or salary. However, the department may remunerate the honorary professor in connection with, for example, guest lectures and participation in assessment committees. The department can also cover travel expenses and make office facilities available to the professor.

Following the dean's award of the title of Honorary Skou Professor, DKK 20,000 will be allocated as a contribution to the department's expenses. The funds are transferred to the department at the request of HR at Health when they prepare the award letter.

## Publication

To ensure visibility, HR at Health ensures that updated information on Honorary Skou Professors is available on the AU website for honorary titles.

Upon title award, HR at Health sends relevant material about the Honorary Skou Professor to Communication at Health, which prepares a news item for the Health website and handles press coverage.

## Follow-up

For the purpose of follow-up and evaluation, HR at Health registers all Honorary Skou Professors including the period of affiliation, department at Health and home university (name / city / country).

The Academic Council at Health assesses the initiative annually. Their discussion can include statements from 'champions'.

## Rules and regulations

Ministerial Order on conferment of the titles of affiliated professor and affiliated associate professor (2013) and pursuant to Section 6 of the Ministerial Order the delegation of competence by rector to the deans (2013).

These instructions only concern the award of the title Honorary Skou Professor to professors from top-100 and / or Guild-member universities abroad. For instructions and guidelines concerning honorary professors and honorary assistant professors in general, see "Guidelines for Department Heads on the Appointment of Academic Staff at Health, Aarhus University" (2016).

## Links

- Honorary titles at AU: <http://www.au.dk/en/about/profile/history/haedersbevisninger/honorary-professors-and-associate-professors/>
- QS World University Ranking: <https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>
- Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities: <https://www.the-guild.eu>