

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 an 'Academy 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 can for example 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 and mentoring
- 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 Skou 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. Highly specialized universities without ranking, e.g. The Rockefeller University, can also be approved but only if the recommendation documents a similarly high level.

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 deanery for award of the title. The departments receive a call for recommendations with a deadline. Prior to the recommendation, the head of department ensures that the candidate is interested in receiving the title.

A recommendation must be motivated and contain 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)
- H-index
- 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
 - 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 deanery decides whether the title of Honorary Skou Professor can be awarded based on the provided documentation (i.e. the candidate's academic level is considered sufficiently documented). If so, the Dean's Office will send a confirmation to the recommending department.

The department can then create 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 department also email the recommendation documents to HR at Health for archiving. HR at Health then send the professor an award letter for the title of Honorary Skou Professor.

Simultaneously the Dean's Office prepares a welcome letter from the Dean. The Dean's Office will send the welcome letter to the champion in a thank-you-mail cc the head of department and ask the champion to forward the letter to the newly appointed Honorary Skou Professor.

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.

Festive event for Honorary Skou Professors and champions

On October 8, 2019 and then by agreement a festive event will be held for Honorary Skou Professors and their champions. The purpose of the event is to thank all involved, support networking, and contribute to the establishment of an 'Academy of Honorary Skou Professors and Champions'.

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.

Communication at Health prepares a news item for Inside Health upon confirmation of title awards. The departments can arrange for further publicity with their communications partner.

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).

Following call for recommendations and festive event for Honorary Skou Professors and champions the faculty management evaluate the initiative. The Academic Council at Health is informed on an ad-hoc basis.

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 concern the award of the title Honorary Skou Professor. 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>