

Appointment plan autumn 2026

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN DESIGN FOR EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES (TENURE TRACK level 2)

We are looking for a tenure-track Associate Professor focusing on Design for Emerging Technologies to strengthen our newly established Design and Services research community at the University of Lapland. In this role you will have a chance to make an impact by designing and leading high-quality research projects, using and developing research labs and studios, coordinating the research community activities, supporting students' learning and thesis research, and by engaging with diverse stakeholders.

We are seeking an Associate Professor in Design for Emerging Technologies whose research and studio teaching explores the intersection of XR, spatial systems, bodily interaction, and human perception. The successful candidate will advance a practice-led design research agenda that bridges hands-on digital/physical prototyping with the experiential and perceptual dimensions of emerging technologies.

Areas of Focus

We particularly welcome practice-led research and teaching centered on:

- **Spatial & Immersive Media:** Extended reality (XR/VR/AR), mixed-reality environments, and spatial computing paradigms.
- **Bodily & Physiological Interaction:** Interactive systems informed by bodily inputs, physiological signals (e.g., biometrics, gaze, movement, affective response), or wearable and sensor-based computing.
- **Perceptual & Multisensory Design:** Haptics, presence, cognitive/sensory experience, and bio-responsive or adaptive interaction.

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidate combines an active research record with the technical and pedagogical fluency needed to teach hands-on XR prototyping, creative technologies, and interaction design. Candidates are expected to bring deep focus to their chosen specialization rather than covering all areas. Optimal background for the candidate combines experience in Design, Human-Computer Interaction, Computer Science, and user research methods.

The candidate should have a proven track record of conducting cutting-edge research and publishing in the field of design for emerging technologies, experience in applying for research funding, and working in research projects. It is recommended that the candidate's research takes an advantage of the Faculty of Art and Design research facilities, for instance XR lab, physiological measurements, and/or fab lab.

The position of Associate Professor (Tenure Track level 2) in Design for Emerging Technologies is situated in the one of the University of Lapland's three core research areas, Design and Services. The Design and Services research community envisions, creates and evaluates future-oriented design solutions, and explores their impact at individual and societal levels. The research community emphasizes participatory design and prototyping approaches, and applies design research methods into various domains. The research utilizes emerging technologies as well as digital and physical design research infrastructures. The research community strengthens the

multi-disciplinary collaboration across the university, and with international partners and industry.

The position is filled for a fixed term of five years. Before the end of the fixed term, an evaluation process will be initiated to assess whether the employee meets the qualifications for a full professorship.

Join us in shaping the future!

Your duties include

- designing and leading high-quality research projects focusing on design for emerging technologies.
- conducting top-level research and actively publishing in international forums
- coordinating research community's activities
- strengthening the community's external funding, especially in terms of research funding
- participating in societal interaction and international cooperation
- providing research-based teaching and guidance, supporting students' learning and thesis research, and contributing to understanding of emerging technologies at the faculty
- being an active part of an inspiring academic community.

We offer

- engagement with an inspiring research community
- interesting work tasks
- state-of-the-art research labs and studios in HCI and design
- security provided by a stable organization
- opportunities for professional development
- comprehensive occupational health care
- sports, culture, and wellness benefits.

We expect

According to Section 30 of the University of Lapland's Rules of Procedure, the criteria and evaluation procedure for the positions of Assistant Professor and Associate Professor (fixed-term) filled through open application are defined in the Tenure Track career path model approved by the Board. The position of Associate Professor (fixed-term) requires a relevant doctoral degree, evidence of scientific research work, and the teaching skills needed in the position.

The position also requires the ability to conduct high-quality and up-to-date research, to lead a research group, and to obtain supplementary research funding. The Associate Professor is expected to supervise students and theses at all levels and to participate in the continuous development of the university education. The duties of the Associate Professor also include various institutional tasks.

The position requires proficiency in the English language. As for a foreign applicant or a Finnish citizen who is not a native speaker, reasonable proficiency in Finnish may be required within five years.

Teaching demonstration and interview

Having received the assessor statements, the selection committee appointed by the Faculty Council will decide whether to invite some of the applicants to give a demonstration lecture. At this point, the invited applicants are interviewed by the committee.

Regulations concerning expert assessors' tasks

A statement on the qualifications and merits of applicants and invitees to a position must be requested from a minimum of two assessors. The disqualification of an assessor is governed by the provisions in sections 27–29 of the Administrative Procedure Act. The assessor statement must be made in writing. It must cover the duties of the associate Professor, the qualification requirements, and matters that are advantageous in view of the position. The statement must be justified as regards the candidates who the assessor deems the most relevant ones in filling the position.

A justified statement must be given on at least three candidates, who must be placed in order of merit. However, a statement is given only on candidates that the assessor deems qualified for the position. The statement must clearly show the grounds on which the assessor has selected the candidates to be assessed more closely and why the other candidates have not been selected for closer scrutiny. The assessors may discuss matters with each other, and they may produce a joint statement.

Application

The following documentation must be submitted along with the application by the end of applying date:

- The application letter, an account of noteworthy merits and activities in view of the position (max. 2 pages)
- A field-related development plan concerning research, teaching, and societal interaction (max. 3 pages)
- Curriculum Vitae according to the [model of the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity](#) (TENK)
- A [teaching portfolio](#)
- A numbered list of publications according to the [instructions](#) of the Research Council of Finland
- List 10 of your most important publications with links to them. If there are no links, attach the publications as separate PDF files.
- Authenticated degree and work certificates qualifying you for the position.

The position is declared open for application internationally in autumn 2026, and the application period lasts for 30 days.

Further information

For more information about the position, please contact Director of the Design and Services research community Professor Jonna Häkkilä at firstname.lastname@ulapland.fi or, in matters concerning the recruitment process, contact Head of Administration Susanna Vuorjoki at firstname.lastname@ulapland.fi.

Job location: Yliopistonkatu 8, 96300 Rovaniemi

Duration: Starting from August 2, 2027 (or as agreed)

Working hours: Full-time

Probationary period: 6 months

Salary: The salary is based on the university salary system for teaching and research staff, level 7, with an additional task-specific supplement. In addition, a personal performance-based salary component is paid, amounting up to 50% of the task-specific salary component. The starting salary is approximately €5,250 - €5,770.

University of Lapland

The University of Lapland is an international science and art university located in the City of Rovaniemi on the Arctic Circle. Our university creates new knowledge, skills and competence from the arctic perspective – for the North and for the world. Our fields of education and research include educational science, law, art and design, and social sciences. Our strategic choices focus on global arctic responsibility, sustainable tourism, future services and governing distances.

Regulations and ordinances governing the procedure

Constitution of Finland (731/1999)

Universities Act (558/2009)

Government Decree on Universities (770/2009)

Act on the Implementation of the Universities Act (559/2009)

Administrative Procedure Act (434/2003)

Rules of Procedure of the University of Lapland