

Recommendations on general learning outcomes for the teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher and on mutual recognition

Background

SUHF appointed on June 5th 2014 a working group for a revision of the Recommendations on general learning outcomes for the teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher, adopted in 2005.

Since 2011, when the Swedish Higher Education Act was altered, the SUHF Recommendations have been the only national framework for academic teaching qualifications. They have played an important role in promoting mobility and national consensus on basic requirements for academic teachers. A revision was important to ensure that the recommendations reflect today's needs and existing regulations at Swedish higher education institutions.

The General Assembly of SUHF adopted the new recommendations at its meeting on 14 April 2016.

Recommendations on general learning outcomes for the teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher and on mutual recognition (Rek 2016:1)

The General Assembly of the Association of Swedish Higher Education (SUHF) decided at its meeting on 14 April 2016 to, first, approve these recommendations on general learning outcomes for the teaching qualifications required for employment as academic teacher and, second, rule that when an individual is assessed as meeting the professional requirements for teaching at one higher education institution (HEI), this assessment should be recognised at another. The professional requirements concerned are teaching qualifications for employment as a teacher in higher education (HE).

Irrespective of whether this professional education is arranged in the form of courses for which credits are awarded or as staff training, and of whether it can count, in full or in part, as qualifying for postgraduate studies, this education should be regarded as being in the second cycle (at the advanced level) of HE.

Scope and purpose of HE teaching qualifications

Professional training for academic teaching comprises a total of at least ten weeks' full-time studies. Previous knowledge required consists of a degree from HE or corresponding knowledge. The purpose of the training is to contribute to the basic teaching proficiency required for employment as a teacher in HE.

Learning outcomes for HE teaching qualifications

(in addition to the general objectives in Chapter 1, Section 9 of the Swedish Higher Education Act for the second cycle, i.e. advanced level)

The overarching objective of HE teaching qualifications is that, after completing the education, the participant shall demonstrate

- the knowledge, skills and approaches required for professional teaching in HE, in the participant's subject area, and for taking part in the development of HE.

The participant shall demonstrate the ability to

- discuss and problematise student learning in the participant's own subject area, on the basis of research in educational sciences and/or subject didactics of relevance for teaching in HE
- independently and jointly with others, plan, implement and evaluate teaching and assessment in higher education with a scientific, scholarly or artistic basis and within their own area of knowledge
- make use of, and assist in the development of, physical and digital learning environments to promote learning for groups and for individuals
- interact with students in an inclusive manner and demonstrate knowledge of rules and regulations regarding students with disabilities and of available student support
- apply relevant national and local rules and regulations, and to discuss society's objectives for HE and the academic teaching role in terms of the participant's own practice and students' active participation in HE
- reflect on their professional approach to academic teaching and their relationship with the students, and also towards the fundamental values of higher education, such as democracy, internationalisation, gender equality, equal opportunities and sustainability
- collect, analyse and communicate their own and others' experiences of teaching and learning practices, and relevant outcomes of research, as a basis for the development of educational practice and of the academic profession.

The participants must have started a teaching portfolio and reported on an independent project, concerning teaching and learning within their own field of knowledge, drawing upon relevant research in educational sciences and/or in subject didactics.