



#### Academics for Life

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Membership in the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers is an important token of appreciation of your own professional identity. At the same time, it emphasises the importance of research.

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#### THE FINNISH UNION OF UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS AND TEACHERS ACADEMICS FOR LIFE

The Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers is a trade union of university and research institute researchers, teachers and other academic experts.

We want to foster the importance of research in society and the appreciation of university teaching. University researchers and teachers shall have secured careers and proper working conditions. Academics are for life, and research must enable a good life for academics.

We negotiate on the salaries and other employment terms and conditions of university staff with the university employer. We had a decisive impact on the fact that people working under a scholarship were included within the scope of statutory pension insurance and employer's liability insurance. Our representatives are continuously in contact with decision-makers influencing the position of university staff, both nationally and in all universities. The Ministry of Education and Culture, universities and the Academy of Finland request statements from the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers and its member associations. We are consulted by Parliament when it deals with university and research policy.

We actively influence the position of people in fixedterm employment contracts, the situation of early stage researchers, the employment of PhDs, and the funding of both universities and research through public debate and our stakeholders. The Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers also actively participates in the operation of international organisations in its field.

### UNION FOR ALL RESEARCHERS AND TEACHERS

The Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers was established in 1967, and it is the largest member organisation of Akava, the Confederation of Unions for Professional and Managerial Staff in Finland, in the university sector.

The Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers has its roots in a salary mutiny of universities' post-graduate staff at the end of the 1960s. The union has been a member of the central organization Akava since 1986.

In the same year, the union concluded a cooperation agreement with the Finnish Union of University Professors. The current name, the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers – Forskarförbundet, was adopted in 1997.

The union has close to 7,000 members, and the most common titles of its members are: university lecturer, research doctor, early stage researcher, post-graduate student, researcher, librarian/information specialist, university teacher, designer.



#### DEMANDS OF THE UNION

- Academia must be made into a positive working community in which university researchers and teachers have decision-making power over their own work and academic freedom. Universities must be encouraged to invest sufficiently in the well-being of the working community and the appreciation of researchers and teachers.
- All researchers and teachers shall be equal regardless of their position and the length of their employment contract. Unjustifiable fixed-term employment contracts shall not be used.
- Researchers and teachers shall have opportunities for career development.
- The salaries and position of members shall be improved. Salaries must correspond to the demands of the work.

### UNEMPLOYMENT SECURITY

Members of the union are provided with unemployment insurance through the Teachers' Unemployment Fund. The fund pays an income-related daily allowance to an unemployed member who has paid a membership fee for at least 26 weeks previously and worked at least 18 (part-time teachers 7) hours per week during this time. **During scholarship and unemployment periods, members of the union pay an exceptionally low membership fee (EUR 8 per month).**  77

The Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers operates close to its members: it has 13 associations in universities and two national associations. In addition, the union has a comprehensive shop steward network.



## JOIN THE UNION

The employer has not and will not improve the position and advantages of staff on its own initiative. For example, salary increases, family leave and holidays have been secured as a result of the work of the professional organisation.

As a member of the union, you gain a feeling of security in your life. The union will advise, support and defend you in various problem situations

related to working life. Through your decision to join, you strengthen the union of your own workplace and professional group.

Individual members join the Finnish Union of University Researchers and Teachers through some member association. A membership application form is available on the union's website. Membership fees are tax-deductible.

## AS A MEMBER, YOU GET

- advice and help in employment-related issues
- payroll advice
- legal advice in employment-related and personal issues
- the Acatiimi magazine
- liability and legal expenses insurance, leisure-time accident and passenger insurance, and other insurance benefits
- an Akava calendar
- holiday opportunities from A-lomat
- other benefits offered by the union and Akava



# MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

- Aalto-yliopiston tieteentekijät ATTE ry
- Forskarföreningen vid Svenska handelshögskolan rf
- Forskarföreningen vid Åbo Akademi FfÅA rf
- Helsingin yliopiston tieteentekijät Forskarföreningen vid Helsingfors universitet ry - Helsinki University Researchers and Teachers Association HUART
- Informaatioalan akateemiset INA ry Akademiska Informationsspecialister rf
- Itä-Suomen tieteentekijät ITTE ry Association of Researchers and Teachers of Eastern Finland
- Jyväskylän yliopiston tieteentekijät JYTTE ry
- Lapin tieteentekijät Lati ry
- Lappeenrannan tieteentekijät LaTKA ry
- Oulun yliopiston akateemiset OYA ry
- Suomen akateemisten tutkijoiden yhdistys SATY ry
  Finnish Association of Academic Researchers
- 3T Tampereen tekniikan tieteentekijät ry
- Tamperen yliopiston tieteentekijät TATTE ry
- Turun yliopiston tieteentekijät ry
- Vaasan yliopiston tutkijayhdistys VYTY ry



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