Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Home Affairs FDHA
Federal Statistical Office FSO
Population and Education Division

Appointments of (full) professors at universities

Factsheet on data, December 2024

The aim of determining professorial appointments

The determination of appointments of (full) professors at universities (UNI), broken down by university, group of departments and gender is based on the FSO's data and definitions.

Procedure and definitions

Since the reference year 2015, the FSO has surveyed the total number of professors at universities by the refined personnel categories of the Swiss Higher Education Information System (SHIS, see definitions under Statistical sources and concepts). New appointments are not surveyed separately as part of the survey on higher education personnel. However, they can be determined from the higher education personnel data recorded in the FSO's SHIS.

The personnel category of professors is composed of the following refined categories: full professors, extraordinary and associate professors, assistant professors with tenure track, assistant professors without tenure track.

A distinction is made between two groups of persons, external and internal appointments:

- External appointments include persons who appear in the SHIS for the first time (and are thereby directly assigned to the personnel category of (full) professors) or are listed as (full) professors for the first time at the Swiss universities in question (even if they were already (full) professors at another Swiss university). Exceptions: the re-classification of a person in the category of professor following a sabbatical or stay abroad.
- Internal appointments include persons who were already employed at the Swiss university in question but were classified in a different category in the previous year (in the case of full professors, this may also be a refined personnel category). Exceptions: the re-classification of a person in the category of (full) professor following an assignment to the directorate staff, e.g., dean's office.

Delimitations

- Double counting is possible: individuals who were employed at more than one university or at different universities in the same group of departments or who changed universities during the three-year period may appear twice.
- In the presentation of the appointments of professors, promotions within the professorial category were not taken into account, while they were in the presentation of the appointments of full professors.
- Differences between the presentation by group of departments and by university (graphs and tables) may occur if (full) professors are assigned to the central services or cannot be assigned to a department.
- If a person has several appointments in different personnel categories, they are assigned to the category in which they have carried out the most full-time equivalent positions.

Deviations from the counting methods and university data are possible due to these delimitations.

Information

Contact person: persfinhs@bfs.admin.ch, Education Processes Section, FSO
Link: https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/education-science/educational-staff/tertiary-higher-institutions/universities.html