

W2- Professorship Energy Infrastructure Planning

Faculty of Faculty of Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems

Application deadline: January 4, 2026

Starting date: at the earliest opportunity

The general legal requirements in compliance with section 36 of the North Rhine-Westphalia Higher Education Act (Hochschulgesetz – HG) are as follows:

1. University degree
2. Proven track record of teaching ability, or as an exception, the teaching ability is to be proven during the first year through a probation period.
3. Particular proficiency in scientific work, usually demonstrated by the quality of the doctorate.
4. A strong track record in the application or development of academic findings and methods, gained during a minimum of five years of professional employment in a relevant field – at least three years of these five years must have been outside of a university environment.

Questions on the recruitment process to:

Claudia Gippert

T: + 49 221-8275- 3152

E: claudia.gippert@th-koeln.de

Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54

50968 Köln

Position-related questions to:

Prof. Dr. Ramchandra Bhandari

T: +49 221-8275-2416

E: ramchandra.bhandari@th-koeln.de

Professional, didactic and methodical profile

The candidate holds a completed university degree with a focus on engineering or natural sciences. The ability to conduct scientific research is demonstrated by a doctoral degree (PhD).

The candidate possesses at least five years of relevant professional experience in infrastructure system planning and has an excellent technical understanding of energy systems. At least three of these five years have been gained outside the academic sector.

Professional Competences

The candidate possesses technical expertise in energy infrastructure planning, demonstrated through independently or lead-managed projects in public institutions, research organizations, or companies.

Competence in the planning of renewable energies (generation, distribution, utilization) is evidenced by independently conducted projects within a company or research institution. The candidate has specialized knowledge in municipal energy planning (e.g., district heating planning), proven either through relevant education or participation in such projects. Expertise in spatial planning (e.g., at the national, regional, or municipal level) is desirable and should be demonstrated through independently conducted projects in companies, universities, or institutions.

Practical experience is required in at least one of the following areas: spatial planning of energy infrastructure; national, regional, or municipal energy planning; planning of renewable energy generation, distribution, and utilization; municipal district heating planning; or energy project management. Additionally, knowledge in energy system modeling is expected, and expertise in overarching infrastructure and spatial planning within the context of the energy transition is particularly valued. Ideally, the candidate has experience managing international energy projects.

Research competences

The candidate can demonstrate research competence through successful acquisition of third-party funding, experience in conducting research projects, scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, and/or supervision of academic theses. Additionally, the candidate has scientific expertise in energy system modeling, (spatial) energy planning, planning and planning procedures of energy infrastructure, and/or strategic planning in the context of the energy transition.

These competencies are to be demonstrated through a written and oral presentation of a research concept that clearly and structurally outlines the research task, current state of knowledge, objectives, methods, and work plan.

International competences

The candidate's international competencies include both linguistic and intercultural skills that enable effective collaboration with diverse cooperation partners. Proficiency in English as a language of instruction in intercultural contexts and for hybrid teaching and learning formats is required, to be demonstrated through relevant experience or alternatively via a language proficiency test. Conversational knowledge of an additional foreign language is considered desirable. Intercultural competence is demonstrated by experience in intercultural and/or international collaboration throughout the candidate's professional career.

Didactic competences

The candidate has the ability to select and convey knowledge, insights, and contexts in a goal-oriented, situational, and audience-appropriate manner to initiate learning processes and enable successful learning outcomes. This competence is demonstrated by the quality of the trial teaching session, the teaching concept, available teaching evaluation results, as well as by attentive listening, maintaining eye contact, engaging with and developing arguments, showing understanding, and respectful interaction.

Since the faculty particularly implements the didactic concept of "inquiry-based learning," experience with this teaching method is highly desirable.

Management competences

The candidate meets the requirements for organizational, strategic, and communication competencies, ideally demonstrated by experience in project management, holding leadership positions, participation in leadership development programs or trainings, and assuming managerial responsibilities, including voluntary and extracurricular roles. The candidate is capable of defining clear, actionable goals and systematically monitoring progress to ensure timely achievement of research and teaching objectives.

A high level of organizational skill is essential to successfully integrate innovative approaches in teaching and research. Experience in change management and the adaptation of structures and processes, particularly in a dynamic environment such as energy infrastructure planning, is highly valued. Management competencies should also include the ability to efficiently utilize resources and to develop strategic alliances with external partners to advance the faculty.

Social competences and communication

The candidate is a person capable of actively fostering social relationships, collaborating with others in a positive working environment, working reliably and collaboratively, and demonstrating empathy for others' situations. Evidence of this includes establishing and maintaining information and contact networks, managing collaborative projects within a company and with external partners, initiating interdisciplinary projects in business, research, or teaching, cooperating with external institutions and companies, and actively participating in working groups.

Gender competence is considered an essential component of social skills. The candidate is able to integrate gender-sensitive perspectives into teaching and research to promote an inclusive and diverse academic environment.

Self-develop competences

The candidate demonstrates motivation and ability for continuous personal and professional development, as well as self-reflection and openness to feedback. This is proven through extracurricular training, workshops, and additional qualifications. Willingness to embrace change is reflected in taking on new responsibilities and exploring different work environments. An interest in interdisciplinary topics and a realistic assessment of one's own skills and abilities are also important. Furthermore, the candidate shows initiative in further developing personal strengths and addressing weaknesses.

The execution of other activities not part of the professorship is subject to the regulations governing part-time employment.

With the advertisement of this position and the publication of the requirement profile, the TH Köln specifies which competencies must exist to successfully fulfill the tasks of the

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professorship at the TH Köln. Depending on the focus of the professorship these competencies are weighted and checked in the selection procedure. The pre-selection is based on the written application documents. The necessary competencies of the shortlisted candidates will be determined in a lecture, a scientific presentation and a structured interview. The personal introduction is completed by an interview with a personnel psychologist. In case you are shortlisted and invited to a personal interview, you will be asked to submit a written teaching and research concept in advance. You will receive more detailed information with the invitation to the lecture, the scientific presentation and the structured interview.

Additional information

Place of residence

You are expected to move/relocate to the city in which your campus is located/situated or its greater area. Remuneration

Professors are remunerated in accordance with the W2 remuneration scheme (www.lbv.nrw.de: the remuneration scale for North Rhine-Westphalia as well as information on the family supplement are available on the website of the North Rhine-Westphalia State Office for Salaries and Pensions – LBV NRW – at). In addition to the family supplement, the remuneration provisions make allowance for other benefits (performance-related benefits), in particular benefits related to the appointment as well as benefits granted on the grounds of extraordinary contributions or for securing third-party funding for research purposes. The Provisions on Performance-related Benefits at Universities in North Rhine-Westphalia are in accordance with the law (Hochschul-Leistungsbezügeverordnung – HLeistBVO) of December 17, 2004. Additionally, Cologne University of Applied Sciences has introduced individual regulations in its guidelines on W2-remuneration. Detailed information on the W2-remuneration bracket is available here: th-koeln.de/besoldung

Employment as a civil servant or as a non-civil servant

Professors may only be employed as tenured German civil servants if they hold a full-time position and comply with all legal provisions (e. g. being younger than 50 years old). The possibility of becoming a tenured German civil servant is always determined on an individual basis, and candidates should therefore contact the Head of Division for lecturers and assistants in the human resources department (Ms. Claudia Gippert / Phone: +49 221-8275-3152 / Email: Claudia.gippert@th-koeln.de). When employed under non-civil-servant conditions, professors will be remunerated in accordance with W2 gross remuneration. In contrast to tenured civil servant contracts, professors employed under such provisions are required to pay social security contributions.

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Additional employment

Full-time professorship: additional employment of up to eight hours per week may be authorized in compliance with the legal regulations for North Rhine-Westphalia (thus permitting work in positions of practical relevance). If you work on a freelance basis with your own office, then this is subject to specific conditions as laid down in the legal stipulations on additional employment for university personnel.

Part-time professorship (less than 50 %): If your work as a professor is less than 50 % then the legal stipulations on additional employment are not applicable.

Application information

Please apply via our application management system. Go back to the [job advertisement](#) and click here:

Apply here

Here we ask you for the personal data relevant for the processing of the application and to upload the following documents (maximum fill size 10 MB per file):

- cover letter
- photo (optional)
- curriculum vitae including list of publication and overview of the courses held (here or at the other documents)
- certificates (max. 5 files)
 - University certificates
 - job references or activity reports
 - certified translations in German or English for foreign certificates
- other documents
 - such as a list of publications
 - such as an overview of the courses held (evaluation)
 - **if necessary: professor's assessment (see page 1: The general legal requirements)**

In the application form you can select the option to submit the required professor's assessment within two weeks after the end of the application period.

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