

W2- Professorship Regional Circular Economy

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

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Gustav-Heinemann-Ufer 54

50968 Köln

Position-related questions to:

Prof. Dr. Sabine Schlüter

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E: sabine.schlueter@th-koeln.de

Professional, didactic and methodical profile

The candidate holds a completed university degree in Economics, Business Administration, Industrial Engineering, Environmental Engineering, or a comparable field, as well as a doctoral degree (PhD). The candidate possesses at least five years of relevant professional experience, including a minimum of three years outside the academic sector.

Professional Competences

The candidate possesses expertise in economics as well as technical and scientific knowledge related to industrial or regional circular economy and waste management, as evidenced by their university studies and relevant research and professional experience. Teaching experience is demonstrated through academic teaching activities or professional training and development, supported by a teaching portfolio, as well as supervision of theses and project work at universities, research institutions, or companies.

Research competences

The candidate demonstrates research competence, for example, through scientific publications and/or presentations, successful acquisition of third-party funding, experience in conducting research projects, supervision of academic theses, and scientific expertise in the field of regional circular economy within the mentioned areas.

Research competence is expected to be proven through a structured written and oral presentation of a research concept that clearly defines the motivation for the research task, the current state of knowledge, objectives, methods, and a work plan.

Collaboration with other professorships and research areas at TH Köln, especially within the Faculty of Spatial Development and Infrastructure Systems, plays a key role and should be further developed. This includes engagement with the extensive research and stakeholder network of the international Institute for Natural Resources Technology and Management (ITT).

Additional opportunities for transdisciplinary research arise through TH Köln networks such as the Circular TransformationLab, Co-Site, :metabolon, AKT@HoMe, as well as through exchanges with stakeholders in Cologne and its surrounding region.

Future research priorities are expected to cover several of the following application areas within regional circular economy:

- Circular and waste management in industrial and low-wage countries
- Economics in spatial planning
- Circular economy in agriculture across different farm sizes
- Integrated planning
- Urban and regional resource cycles and recycling
- Sustainable resource use, eco-balancing, and decision-support systems - Sustainable and innovative business concepts
- Material flow forecasting and decision-making tools
- Collaborative recycling strategies through corporate cooperation

The candidate should have relevant research experience in at least one of these application areas.

International competences

The candidate can demonstrate international and intercultural competence through experiences abroad during their studies, research stays, or other professional activities, participation and contributions at inter-national conferences, and academic publications.

Proficiency in English (business fluent) is required, and strong skills in an additional foreign language are desirable.

Intercultural competence is proven by documented collaboration with international partners, which will be assessed during the interview.

Didactic competences

The candidate possesses the ability to select and convey knowledge, insights, and contexts in a learning-objective-oriented, situational, and target-group-appropriate manner, thereby initiating learning processes and facilitating successful learning outcomes. This competence is demonstrated by the quality of trial lectures, teaching concepts, existing evaluation results, teaching awards, participation in higher education didactics training, as well as situational and target-group-appropriate behavior, attentive listening, eye contact, acknowledgment and development of arguments, understanding, and showing respect.

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

Management competences

The candidate demonstrates a high level of organizational, strategic, and communication competence, evidenced by experience in project management, leadership roles, participation in leadership development programs or trainings, and willingness to assume managerial responsibilities. The candidate has the ability to define clear, actionable goals and systematically monitor progress to achieve research and teaching objectives on time.

A strong degree of organizational skill is essential to successfully integrate innovative approaches in teaching and research. Experience in change management and adapting structures and processes is particularly valued, especially within the dynamic field of regional circular economy. Management competencies should also include efficient resource utilization and, notably, the capacity to establish strategic alliances with external partners to advance the faculty.

As the holder of the professorship in Regional Circular Economy, the candidate will collaborate closely with the professorship in Circular Value Creation as well as other professorships at TH Köln. TH Köln is a member of the REWIMET recycling cluster, the German research network GERRI for raw materials, and the European Knowledge and Innovation Community EIT RawMaterials. Active participation and cooperation in these networks and with additional research partners is expected.

Social competences and communication

The candidate is a person with the ability to actively develop social contacts, collaborate with others in a positive working atmosphere, work reliably within a team, and demonstrate empathy by understanding others' perspectives. This is proven by experience in establishing and maintaining information and contact networks, participating in collaborative projects within companies and with external partners, initiating interdisciplinary

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projects in industry, research, or teaching, cooperating with external institutions and companies, and active involvement in working groups and committees.

Gender competence is considered an essential aspect of social skills. The candidate has the ability to incorporate gender-sensitive perspectives into teaching and research to promote an inclusive and diverse academic environment.

Self-develop competences

We expect the motivation, willingness, and ability for continuous personal and professional growth. This includes the capacity for realistic self-assessment and self-reflection, openness to feedback, and proactive initiative. The candidate demonstrates a commitment to strengthening personal strengths and addressing weaknesses, which can be evidenced through extracurricular training, workshops, and additional qualifications.

Furthermore, professional and personal mobility is expected to take on new responsibilities and gain experience at different work locations. An interest in topics beyond the candidate's primary field of expertise should also be demonstrated.

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 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

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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.

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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