

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. In the absence of a doctorate, equivalent academic qualifications must be demonstrated through a written assessment by a university professor, to be submitted as part of the application.
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. Nadine Zinser-Junghanns

T: +49 221-8275-2859

E: nadine.zinser-junghanns@th-koeln.de

Professional, didactic and methodical profile

You have a university degree in architecture, ideally complemented by studies in the cultural or social sciences and a doctoral degree. You have at least five years of relevant professional experience, including a minimum of three years outside the higher education sector. You are able to teach in both English and German at C1 level.

Professional Competences

We are seeking a visionary individual to take a leading role in shaping the field of Spatial Design in both research and teaching. Your understanding of design goes beyond traditional notions of form-making, integrating spatial strategies with social, cultural, and ecological questions. You demonstrate a strong design ethos, underpinned by solid theoretical and methodological expertise in the analysis and transformation of space.

A key focus of your role will be the further development of the new English-language Master's specialisation Spatial Strategies, offered in cooperation with KISD. You bring an interdisciplinary perspective, combining architectural design practices with strategic spatial research. Your international network enables you to promote new ways of thinking and to actively shape the global discourse on spatial strategies.

You command experimental, adaptive, and sustainable design approaches and critically examine the production of space, particularly in relation to temporary, transformative, and situational environments. Your expertise lies at the intersection of architectural design practice and discourse, spatial theory and critique, encompassing sociological and cultural theory as well as critical urban studies. You critically engage with concepts such as design research, interdisciplinarity, intervention, and curating in the context of urban, global, and virtual spaces.

In your teaching, you will be responsible for both core and elective modules at the Bachelor's and Master's level, lead design projects, and supervise final theses. You foster a critical spatial practice that opens up new possibilities for design exploration.

Research competences

It is desirable that you have a proven track record of securing third-party funding and successfully carrying out research projects in the field of Spatial Design. Your research expertise should encompass architectural, urban, and/or design methodologies, ideally combining these with critical-theoretical reflection and/or experimental-practical application.

Your research should address processes of spatial transformation and propose innovative approaches to adaptive, sustainable, and socially inclusive strategies.

Additionally, you are expected to demonstrate new research and development outcomes through your own publications, successfully completed innovative competition entries prepared independently, or realised projects.

International competences

You should demonstrate the ability to deliver courses in both English and German at C1 level. International contacts and professional experience abroad would be beneficial in advancing the faculty's internationalisation.

Didactic competences

You should demonstrate your ability to effectively deliver the required teaching content using appropriate didactic methods, and to foster students' capacity for self-directed learning.

You possess excellent communication skills, enabling you to select and convey competencies, knowledge, insights, and contexts appropriately according to learning objectives, situations, and target groups, thereby initiating effective learning processes and ensuring successful outcomes. Moreover, you actively listen, engage constructively with arguments, and demonstrate understanding and respect when communicating with others. You can clearly articulate your own perspective, facilitate balanced discussions by encouraging others to contribute fully, remain focused on the topic, and steer interactions towards productive outcomes.

Leadership and management

You possess strong management skills that enable you to initiate and successfully lead research projects. You are expected to contribute actively to the faculty and to take on responsibilities within the university's self-governance structures. Ideally, your management competence is evidenced by the successful exercise of leadership roles in professional practice. Furthermore, these skills should enable you to effectively manage high student numbers in the subjects you are expected to teach.

Social competences and communication

The faculty seeks a candidate with the ability to actively foster social relationships, collaborate effectively within a positive working environment, work reliably and cooperatively, and demonstrate empathy towards others. Particularly in the context of cross-faculty and interdisciplinary collaboration, strong team-work, the ability to motivate others, conflict-resolution skills, and a readiness to cooperate with internal and external institutions—as well as to establish and maintain professional networks—are essential. Ideally, these competencies are evidenced through interdisciplinary research and teaching, collaboration with external partners, employment references, personal testimonials, or active participation in working groups.

Self-development skills

You demonstrate a strong commitment to continuous personal and professional growth, as well as the ability to reflect critically on your own practice and to engage constructively with feedback. This competence is evidenced through voluntary participation in professional development activities and will be further assessed during the appointment process through the sample teaching session and structured interview.

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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.

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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.

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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