



# Professor in Biomass Refining and Wood Chemistry



Aalto University



Aalto University

# Aalto University is a multidisciplinary community of bold thinkers where science and art meet technology and business.

Aalto University is a university where research, art and education are promoted hand in hand. We are committed to **identifying and solving grand societal challenges** and building an innovative future.

With high-quality research we aim at creating significant impact on the international scientific community, industry and business, as well as the society at large. Disciplinary excellence is combined with **multidisciplinary** activities, engaging both students and the local innovation ecosystem.

Aalto has over 13 000 students and **six schools** with more than 400 professors. We are an international community: more than 45% of our academic personnel have an international background.

Aalto University was **founded in 2010** as three leading Finnish universities, Helsinki University of Technology, the Helsinki School of Economics and the University of Art and Design Helsinki, were merged. Our campuses are located in Espoo and Helsinki, Finland.

The University campus in Espoo is developing into a unique, open innovation hub and a center of collaboration that attracts partners from all around the world. It encourages sharing of ideas, inter-disciplinary encounters, creativity, growth and entrepreneurship. The core of the campus will be a vibrant city with versatile services and attractive places to meet.



Aalto University

More info at  
[aalto.fi](https://aalto.fi)



# School of Chemical Engineering

## Providing novel solutions to help society transform on a sustainable economy based on utilization of natural resources.

The School of Chemical Engineering combines natural sciences and engineering in a unique way. Research carried out at the School is focused on forest products technologies, chemical engineering, industrial biotechnology, materials science and nanotechnology, metals and minerals processing and energy technology. The activities cover the whole chain from scientific research and theory to processes resulting in innovative products and applications. The School is backed by strong cooperation with the business world: new knowledge created through research is used to reform industry and promote new forms of business.

**A"**

Aalto University  
School of Chemical  
Engineering

The school has **three departments**: Bioproducts and Biosystems, Chemical and Metallurgical Engineering, Chemistry and Materials Science.

It hosts two infrastructures: Bioeconomy infrastructure that enables research from molecular level to biobased technology concepts; Raw Materials research infrastructure supports the research of circular economy targeting to closed metallurgical and hydrometallurgical processes and inorganic energy materials.

The school has **approximately 500 staff members** in total, 47 professors and 200 doctoral students and approximately 800 students annually. It educates a wide range of responsible, broad-minded experts for industry.

More info at  
[chem.aalto.fi](https://chem.aalto.fi)





# Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems

## Department of Bioproducts and Biosystems

[The department of Bioproducts and Biosystems \(BIO2\)](#), one of the three departments in the School of Chemical Engineering, has an internationally leading reputation in basic and applied research for the conversion of natural resources to chemicals and advanced materials. It is one of the leading European research and higher education institutions in the field of sustainable chemistry and engineering for the utilization of renewable resources.

BIO2 aims to contribute to the development of novel solutions to move towards sustainable primary production and processing systems that can produce materials with less environmental impact and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. At the BIO2 department, we offer state of the art laboratory facilities for wood chemistry analytics and research on biomass refining in general.

### Tenure track in Aalto University

The tenure track is open to talented individuals who have excellent potential for a scientific career. Individuals placed on the Aalto University professorial tenure track have the possibility to advance in their career through regular performance assessments, which take into account their merits in all areas of their scope of duty.

Launched in 2010, the tenure track has attracted a wide range of international applicants, giving Aalto University the possibility of recruiting top experts and young research talent to join the Aalto University community. Read more about the Aalto University tenure track system at [www.aalto.fi/en/tenuretrack](http://www.aalto.fi/en/tenuretrack) and <http://www.aalto.fi/en/about/careers/careerstories/>



# Professor in Biomass Refining and Wood Chemistry

**The position is to be filled at any level of the Aalto University tenure track system (Assistant, Associate or Full Professor). The position is full-time and depending on the positioning on the tenure track, either on fixed or permanent term.**

This tenure track position [at the department of Bioproducts and Biosystems \(Bio2\)](#) is open for individuals who hold a doctorate in chemical engineering or a closely related field, have a track record in research work related to biomass processing, and possess potential for a productive scientific career. Specifically, we are looking for qualified experts who have demonstrated outstanding research in one or several of the key areas the department wishes to develop:

- Unit operations in lignocellulosic biomass processing, for example, chemical pulping and bleaching
- Chemicals production from lignocellulosic biomass and related side-streams
- Chemical reactions during pulping, bleaching, or depolymerization of biomass
- Lignocellulosic biomass analytics

Demonstrating the industrial relevance of the research and establishing contacts to industrial stakeholders, particularly within the forest industry, are seen as strong assets for the candidate.

## Further information

Professor Eero Kontturi or HR Partner Noora Katisko (firstname.lastname@aalto.fi)

## How to apply

Please submit the following application materials in English and in PDF format:

- Cover letter (max. 1 page)
- Curriculum Vitae. Please use [the template](#) recommended by The Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity (TENK). Please include a list of publications in which the 10 most significant publications/patents are highlighted.
- Research portfolio. This is a concise (max. 5 pages) self-reflection on the merits, long-term vision, and research plan of the candidate. The text should be supported by fact-based evidence.
- Teaching portfolio. Please see the instructions for the portfolio and the guidelines for the assessment of teaching competence [here](#).
- Optional: industrial portfolio. In case a substantial share of your merits lies within industrial work – and is therefore not published in traditional scientific forums – you can add a concise (max. 2 pages) portfolio where you elaborate on the research related achievements in an industrial setting.

## Application deadline

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025

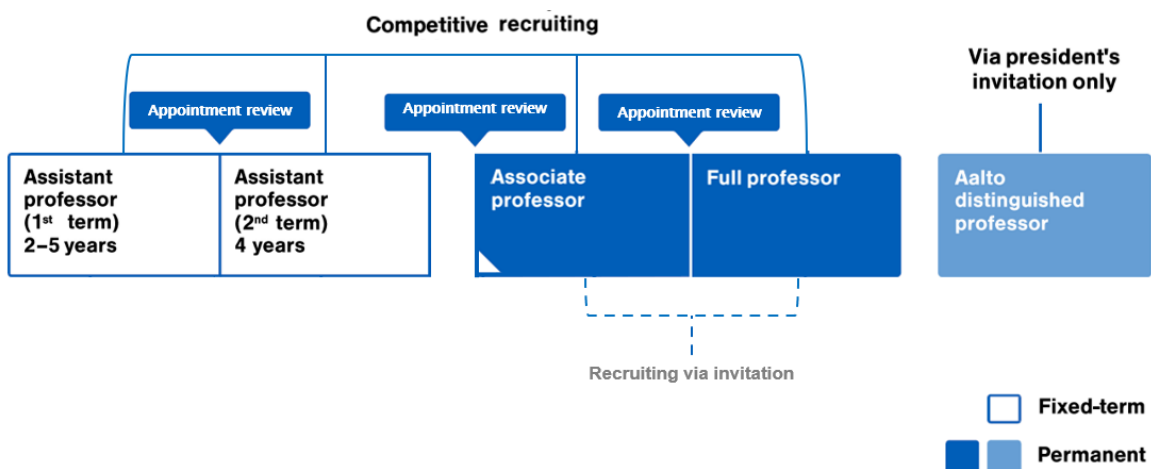
More info at  
[position.aalto.fi](https://position.aalto.fi)



# Tenure Track Career

Aalto University's tenure track career system offers a well-supported and clear career path.

- **Clear and transparent** criteria and processes for recruitment, evaluation, and promotion.
- **Compensation of success** – Adequate salary and compensation to motivate towards Aalto's vision and objectives.
- **Equal opportunity to succeed** – Motivation and cooperation increase as people in tenure track compete only with themselves, not against one another.



More info at  
[aalto.fi/tenuretrack](https://aalto.fi/tenuretrack)



# Tenure Track

## General time allocation for tenure track professors

	Assistant Professor (1)	Assistant Professor (2)	Associate Professor	Full Professor	Aalto Distinguished Professor
<input type="checkbox"/> Fixed term					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Permanent					
Research/ artistic/ professional work	65% +/-10%	60% +/-10%	50% +/-10%	40% +/-15%	Negotiable
Teaching	30% +/-10%	30% +/-10%	30% +/-10%	30% +/-15%	30% +/-15%
Service	5% +5%	10% +/-5%	20% +/-10%	30% +/-15%	Negotiable

### Key principles

- Research emphasis high in the beginning to obtain research portfolio.
- Teaching relatively constant to maintain required teaching scale and senior professors in touch with students.
- Contribution for academic leadership and collaboration in research and artistic community increase with seniority through increased leadership, committee membership and societal interaction.
- Mandatory teaching for Distinguished Professors, otherwise work profile negotiated.

More info at  
[aalto.fi/tenuretrack](https://aalto.fi/tenuretrack)



# Working at Aalto University

## Why join us?

Established in 2010 as a merger of three leading Finnish Universities, we are both **challenger of the old, and traditional with strong history** and legacy.

Our unique combination of fields in **art and design, technology and business** **enable multi-disciplinarity** and finding clever solutions for the world's most wicked problems in the interfaces of these fields.

We aim for **societal impact**, educating game changers to drive sustainability.

We enjoy working at our evolving **collaborative campus close to the heart of Helsinki**, with good connections, great architecture and amazing nature.

We are **international and diverse**: more than 40 % of our faculty comes from outside of Finland. Our working environment is multi-cultural, widely English-speaking and its easy to settle in, despite of wherever you come from.

**We have strong [academic standing and reputation in our key fields](#)** – Aalto University is among top 10 of New Universities in the world (QS ranking).

Our **well-functioning and fair Tenure Track career system** enables building a successful academic career, providing support for fulfilling your professional ambitions.

**Culture that inspires and includes everyone.** It's the people that create Aalto, now and in the future. We want to be an open community where equality and inclusion enable curiosity, innovation, collaboration and wellbeing. We constantly keep learning to find the most impactful ways to empower – and invest in – our people.



A wide-angle photograph of the Aalto University Otaniemi campus interior. The space is a large, modern atrium with a high ceiling featuring a complex network of white structural beams and large glass skylights. On the left, a wide staircase with a glass railing leads to an upper level. In the foreground, a young woman with glasses and a colorful beanie, and a young man with blonde hair, are smiling and looking towards the right. The background shows multiple levels of the building with glass railings and various indoor plants.

# What do we offer?

## **Meaningful and inspiring environment**

We are proud of our purpose to shape a sustainable future. We spark the game changers of tomorrow, and renew society with research-based knowledge, creativity and an entrepreneurial mindset.

## **Culture that inspires and includes everyone**

All our work is guided by the values of the university: responsibility, courage, and collaboration. It's the people that create Aalto, now and in the future. We want to be an open community where equality and inclusion enable curiosity, innovation, collaboration and wellbeing.

## **Collaboration reimaged**

At Aalto University, a unique combination of science, art, tech, and business brings talent together. We have over 12 000 students and 4 000 employees joining forces to shape a sustainable future. Together with the surrounding companies, startups and technology parks at the Otaniemi campus, we are committed to driving ground-breaking research, educating the game changers of tomorrow, and renewing society.

## **Vibrant campus at a central location**

The vibrant Otaniemi campus, only 10 km away from Helsinki city centre, is the home of a bold and curious community, where science and art meet technology, business and innovation. Finland is famous for being the Happiest Country in the World, and having the world's best education system, world class academic freedom\*, cleanest air, high trust, and a low hierarchy – themes also important to Aalto.



**Aalto University**



# Living in Finland

Finland is [among the best countries in the world](#) according to many quality of life indicators, including being the [happiest country in the world \(UN study 2023\)](#).

We are humble people, but dare to say we have **one of the most advanced education systems in the world**.

The Nordic values of **equality and co-operation** are rooted deeply into our society. We are one of the world's top countries in press freedom and consider the many voices in our society a strength.

With high investments in R&D, a strong innovation culture, open data and advanced state of digitalization, we are a nation of **innovation and entrepreneurship**.

Gender equality, flexibility and low hierarchy are at the core of our **Nordic working environment**. Professional ambitions can be combined with a fulfilling personal life.

We are one of the world's most **reliable and stable** nations with low levels of corruption and high level of safety. We are proud to provide exceptionally high standards of social security and healthcare, financed by the state.

Having four distinct seasons, clean air and thousands of lakes, we are some nature-loving people and take good care of our **unique environment**. We enjoy our midnight sun in the summer and northern lights in the winter.

Finnish language is known to be a bit on the complicated side, but don't worry, we Finns are fluent in English, and have an **international mindset**.

We have **wide and reliable transport networks**, with Helsinki airport serving over 100 direct destinations. The comprehensive public transport makes it easy to commute. Our campus is situated within a 10 minute metro ride from the heart of Helsinki.

Want to live in the best country in the world?

More about [Helsinki](#)

More about [Espoo](#)

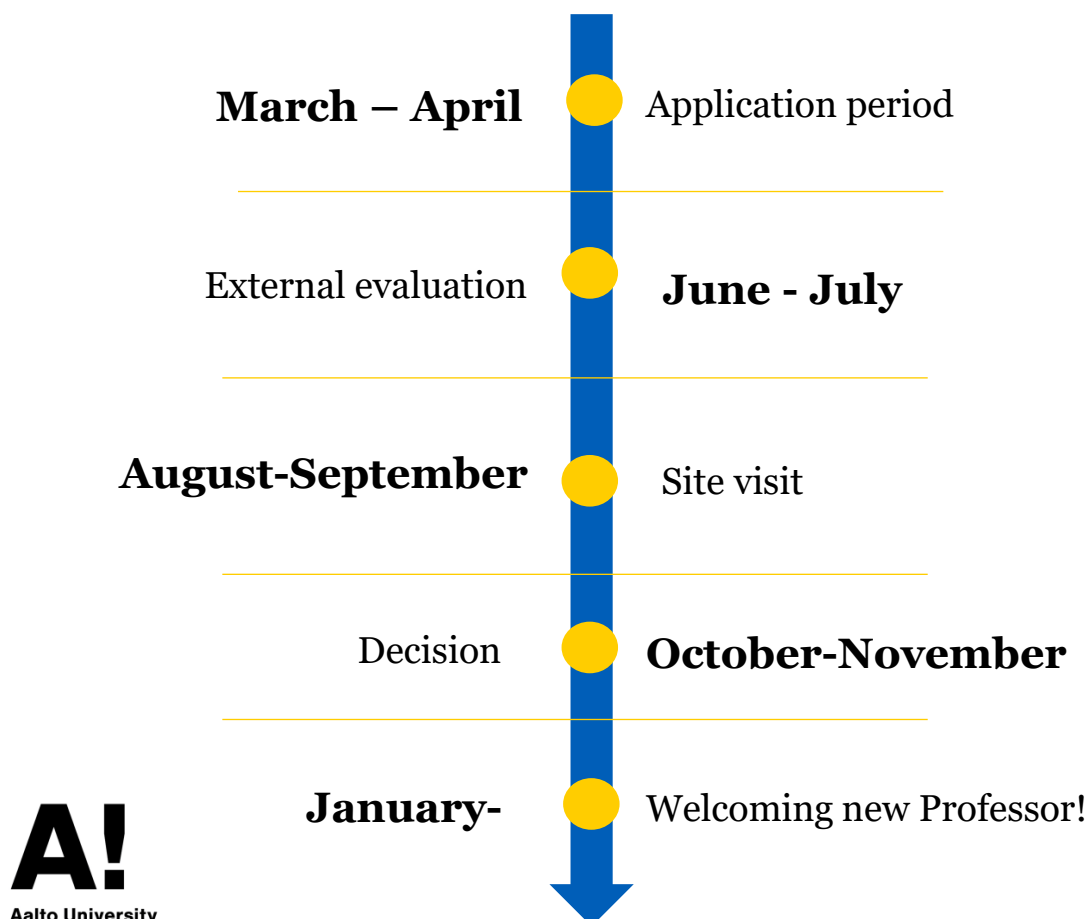
More about [Finland](#)

More about [working at Aalto](#)





# Recruitment process







**We want *you* to be part of our  
community – join us in shaping  
the sustainable future!**

**Eero Kontturi**  
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**Noora Katisko**  
HR Partner  
[noora.katisko@aalto.fi](mailto:noora.katisko@aalto.fi)



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**Aalto University –  
a community of  
game changers**  
*aalto.fi*



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