Source: Wikipedia

**The meaning of the word professor** ([Latin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Latin): *professor*, *person who professes to be an expert in some art or science, teacher of highest rank*[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor%22%20%5Cl%20%22cite_note-0%22%20%5Co%20%22)) varies. In some English-speaking countries, it refers to a senior [academic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic) who holds a departmental **chair**, especially as head of the [department](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_department), or a personal chair awarded specifically to that individual. For example, in the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), [Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland), [South Africa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa), [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia) and [New Zealand](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand) it is a legal title conferred by a university denoting the highest academic rank, whereas in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada) and [Hong Kong](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hong_Kong), the term *professor* is used as a form of address for any [lecturer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecturer) or [researcher](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Researcher) employed by a [college](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College) or [university](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University), regardless of rank. In some countries, e.g. [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria), [Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazil), [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France), [Kosovo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo), [Romania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romania), [Slovenia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenia), [Serbia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serbia), [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland) and [Italy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Italy), the term is an honorific applied also to [secondary level](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secondary_education) [teachers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teacher).

Professors are qualified experts, of the various levels described above, who may do the following:

* conduct [lectures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecture) and [seminars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seminar) in their field of study (i.e., they "profess"), such as the basic fields of [science](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science), [humanities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humanities), [social sciences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_sciences), [education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education), [literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Literature) or the applied fields of [engineering](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engineering), [design](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Design), [music](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music), [medicine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medicine), [law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law), or [business](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Business);
* perform advanced [research](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research) in their fields.
* provide [pro bono](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pro_bono) [community service](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Community_service), including consulting functions (such as advising government and nonprofit organizations);
* teach campus-based or [online](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/On-line) courses with the help of [instructional technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Instructional_technology);
* train young or new academics ([graduate students](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graduate_students)).

The balance of these five classic fields of professorial tasks depends heavily on the institution, place (country), and time. For example, professors at highly research-oriented universities in the U.S., and Canada, and, as a general rule, in European universities, are promoted primarily on the basis of their research achievements as well as their success in raising money from sources outside the university.

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**Tenure**

A [*tenured*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenure) professor has a lifetime appointment until retirement, except for dismissal with "due cause". The reason for the existence of such a privileged position is the principle of [academic freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_freedom), which holds that it is beneficial for state, society and academe in the long run if learned persons are free to examine, hold, and advance controversial views without fear of losing their jobs. Tenure allows professors to engage in current political or other controversies. Critics assert that it also means that lazy or unpleasant professors cannot be forced to improve, and have suggested including management techniques from the business world such as performance review, audits, and performance-based salaries.[[2]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-1) The argument has also been made that tenure actually diminishes academic freedom, as it forces all those seeking tenured positions to profess to the same views (political and academic) as those deciding who is awarded a tenured position. For example, according to physicist [Lee Smolin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lee_Smolin), "...it is practically career suicide for a young theoretical physicist not to join the field [of string theory]."[[3]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-2)

In some countries tenureship is a practice that is not exercised by any institutions; largely, whether tenured positions are available varies from faculty to faculty and from institution to institution.

**United States and Canada**

*Main article:* [*Professors in the United States*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professors_in_the_United_States)

The term "professors" in the United States refers to a group of educators at the [college and university level](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Higher_education). In colloquial language, usage of the term may refer to any educator at the post-secondary level, yet a considerable percentage of post-secondary educators do not hold the formal title of "professor," but are instead lecturers, instructors, and teaching assistants.[[4]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-U.S._Department_of_Labor._.284_August.2C_2006.29._Occupational_Outlook_Handbook.-3)

Educators who hold a formal title of "professor" (referred to as tenured/tenure-track faculty) typically begin their careers as *assistant professors*, with subsequent promotions to the ranks of *associate professor* and finally *professor*. There is usually a strict timeline for application for promotion from assistant to associate professor - usually 5 or 6 years following the initial appointment. Applicants are evaluated based on their contributions to research, teaching, and administration. The relative weighting of these contributions differ by institution, with PhD-granting universities usually placing more emphasis on research than the other two and with liberal arts colleges placing more emphasis on teaching. In many universities, the decision to grant tenure and promotion from assistant to associate levels is made at numerous levels, with a common sequence being: 1) External reviewers - several high-profile researchers will be asked to review the candidate's application for promotion and will submit a confidential report; 2) based on this report and letters provided by members of the university, a subcommittee of members from the candidate's department will make a recommendation for tenure/promotion or denial of such; 3) the department will vote; 4) the department decision is communicated to a university panel comprised of individuals from outside of the department who evaluate the application and decide whether they agree or disagree with the departmental recommendation; 5) the dean; 6) the board of governors/president or other upper level governing body.

A decision to reject a candidate for tenure/promotion requires that the individual leave the institution within a year.

Otherwise, tenure is granted and promotion from assistant to associate professor. Although tenure and promotion are usually separate decisions, they are often highly correlated such that a decision to grant a promotion coincides with a decision in favor of tenure, and vice versa.

Assistant professors who are granted tenure and promotion move to the rank of associate professor. This usually results in an increased administrative load and membership on committees that are restricted to tenured faculty. Some people remain at the level of associate professor throughout their careers. However, most will apply for the final promotion to full professor; the timeline for making this application is more flexible than that for assistant to associate positions and the associate professor does not normally lose his/her job if the application is rejected.

As with promotion from assistant to associate professor, promotion from associate to full professor involves review at multiple levels, similar to the earlier tenure/promotion review. This includes external reviews, decisions by the department, recommendations by members of other departments, and high-ranking university officials. Usually, this final promotion requires that the individual has maintained an active research program, and excellent teaching, in addition to taking a leadership role in important departmental and extra-departmental administrative tasks. Full professor is the highest rank that a professor can achieve (other than in a named position) and is seldom achieved before a person reaches their mid-40s. The rank of full professor carries additional administrative responsibilities associated with membership on committees that are restricted to full professors.

* **Non-Tenure Track Positions** Individuals in these positions typically focus on teaching undergraduate courses, do not engage in research, do not engage in departmental decision-making, and are not eligible for [tenure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenure).
	+ **Teaching assistant (TA) or teaching fellow (TF)** Positions typically held by graduate students. TAs play a supportive role involving grading, review sessions, and labs. Teaching fellows (and at some universities, TAs) teach entire courses.
	+ **Adjunct instructor/**[**professor**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adjunct_professor)**/lecturer or Faculty Associate** Typically part-time non-salaried, non-tenure track faculty members who are paid for each class they teach. This position does not always require a completed Ph.D.
	+ **Instructor or Lecturer** A full-time position at a University that does not involve tenure or a research program in the classical sense. This position does not necessarily require a Ph.D. and usually involves teaching undergraduate introductory courses.
	+ **Research Professor** A position that usually carries only research duties with no obligation for teaching. Research Professors typically must secure most or all of their salary from [external funding sources](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Research_funding) such as grants and contracts. Although Research Professor positions usually are non-tenure track their ranks parallel those of tenure-track positions; i.e., Research Assistant Professor, Research Associate Professor, and Research Professor.
* **Tenure-Track Positions** These full-time faculty members engage in both undergraduate and graduate teaching, mentoring, research, and service. Only faculty in these positions are eligible for [tenure](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenure).
	+ **Assistant professor** an introductory level professor. A position generally taken after receiving Ph.D. and/or completing a post doctoral fellowship. After 4-8 years, assistant professors will be either tenured or dismissed from the university.
	+ **Associate professor** a mid-level, usually tenured, professor.
	+ **Professor (sometimes referred to as "full professor")** a senior, tenured professor.
	+ **Distinguished professor / Endowed chair (e.g., "the John Q. Smith Professor of Physics")** An honorary position in which a full professor's salary is increased by being tied to an endowment derived from the university, private individuals, firms, or foundations.
	+ **Professor emeritus/emerita** is an honorary title bestowed on retired faculty members.

**Most other English-speaking countries**

*See* [*Lecturer*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecturer) *and* [*academic rank*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_rank) *for an explanation of these titles*

In the [United Kingdom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), the [Republic of Ireland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland), [Australia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia), and most [Commonwealth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Nations) countries (but not [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada)), a professor traditionally held either a departmental chair (generally as the head of the department or of a sub-department) or a personal chair (a professorship awarded specifically to that individual). In most universities professorships are reserved for only the most senior academic staff, and other academics are generally known as "[Lecturers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecturer)", "[Senior Lecturers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senior_Lecturer)" and "[Readers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reader_%28academic_rank%29)" (in some Commonwealth countries such as Australia and New Zealand the title "Associate Professor" can be used instead of "Reader"[[5]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-4)). In some countries Senior Lecturers are generally paid the same as Readers, but the latter is awarded primarily for research excellence, and traditionally carries higher prestige.

During the 1990s, however, the [University of Oxford](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Oxford) introduced [Titles of Distinction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title_of_Distinction), enabling their holders to be termed Professors or Readers while holding academic posts at the level of Lecturer. The [University of Exeter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Exeter) has adopted the [Antipodean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antipodes) style of "[Associate Professor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Associate_Professor)" in lieu of Reader. The varied practices these changes have brought about has meant that the previous consistency of academic rank in the United Kingdom is threatened.

In some countries the title of "Professor" is reserved in correspondence to full professors only; lecturers and readers are properly addressed by their academic qualification (Dr. for a [Ph.D.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ph.D.), [D.Phil.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_of_Philosophy) etc. and Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms otherwise). In Australia and New Zealand, Associate Professors are often (though formally erroneously) addressed as Professor.

**Egypt**

Public universities have five ranks for faculty members: *moeed* (معيد, strict transliteration *Mu`īd*; equivalent to teaching assistant), *modares mosaed* (مدرس مساعد, strict transliteration *Mudarris musā`id*; equivalent to senior teaching assistant), *modares* (مدرس, strict transliteration *Mudarris*; equivalent to assistant professor), *ostaz mosaed* (أستاذ مساعد, strict transliteration *'Ustāḏ musā`id*; equivalent to associate professor), and *ostaz* (أستاذ, strict transliteration *'Ustāḏ*; equivalent to professor)

**Teaching assistant**: Academic departments hire teaching assistants by either directly hiring the top ranking students of the most recent graduates, or publishing advertisements. Once hired, a teaching assistant must obtain a master’s degree within five years of commencing employment. Otherwise, s/he must either leave the university, or be transferred to any administrative department that s/he is qualified for. Teaching assistants duties include preparing and delivering tutorial and lab sessions, preparing assignments and term projects requirements, preparing and conducting laboratory examinations, and tutorial quizzes, and co-supervising graduation projects.

**Senior teaching assistant**: After a teaching assistant obtains a master degree, s/he is promoted to a senior teaching assistant. Usually, the duties do not change, but the salary increases slightly. To keep her/his post, a senior teaching assistant must obtain a doctorate degree within five years. Otherwise, s/he must either leave the university, or be transferred to any administrative department that s/he is qualified for.

**Assistant professor**: Once a senior teaching assistant obtains a doctorate, s/he is hired as an assistant professor, and receives tenureship. Assistant professors duties include delivering lectures, supervising graduation projects, master theses, and doctorate dissertations.

**Associate professor**: After at least five years, an assistant professor can apply for a promotion to the rank of associate professor. The decision is based on the scholarly contributions of the applicant, in terms of publications and theses and dissertations supervised.

**Professor**: After at least five years, an associate professor can apply for a promotion to the rank of a professor. The decision is based on the scholarly contributions of the applicant, in terms of publications and theses and dissertations supervised.

Academic duties of associate professors and professors are nearly the same as assistant professors. However, only associate professors and professors can assume senior administrative posts like a department chair, a college vice dean, and a college dean.

**India**

There are two routes to enter academia, one through direct selection by a university or college, and the second through competitive selection by a centralised commission. The commission's selection is based on scores for MA/MSc, national exams and the commission's interviews.

The ranking system is a hybrid of the American and British systems. In some places there are five faculty ranks while at others there are three. Entry level positions are known as **lecturers** (or sometimes assistant professors). The positions of **Reader** is similar to associate professor and the highest is **Professor**.

**Iraq**

Holders of [Master](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master) and [Ph.D](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ph.D) degree can be:

* Professor (أستاذ )
* Assistant Professor (أستاذ مساعد)
* Lecturer (مدرس )
* Assistant Lecturer (مدرس مساعد)

**France**

After the [doctorate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctorate) granted by a university, scholars who wish to enter academia may apply for a position of *maître de conférences* ("master of lectures"). To get this position they must first be approved by the National University Council, made up of elected and appointed professors, and then be chosen by the scientific committee of the University, made up of elected professors. Thus recruitment is mostly made by other professors, rather than by administrators.

The salary scale is national and does not vary from one university to another.

After some years in this position, they may take an "[habilitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habilitation)" to direct theses before applying for a position of *professeur des universités* ("university professor"). Their suitability for such a position will be judged mostly on their published original research.

In the past, this required a higher doctorate [a "State Doctorate"]. In some disciplines such as [Law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Law), Management ["Gestion"] and [Economics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economics), candidates take the [agrégation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agr%C3%A9gation#Higher_education) competitive examination; only the higher-ranked are nominated.

Both maître de conférences and professors are civil servants; however they follow a special statute guaranteeing [academic freedom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_freedom). As an exception to civil service rules, these positions are open regardless of citizenship. There also exist equivalent ranks as state employees (non civil service) for professors coming from industry. These ranks are *maître de conférences associé* et *professeur des universités associé*, depending on the professor's experience.

Teaching staff in higher education establishments outside the university system, such as the [École polytechnique](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole_polytechnique), may follow different denominations and statutes. In some establishments, such as the [EHESS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89cole_des_hautes_%C3%A9tudes_en_sciences_sociales), *professeurs des universités*, are called *directeurs d'étude* (Research advisors).

In recent years, an increasing proportion of maîtres de conférences have been replaced by teachers who are not paid to do research (and therefore teach longer hours).

**Denmark**

In Denmark the word professor is only used for full professors. An associate professor is in Danish called a *lektor* and an assistant professor is called an *adjunkt*. Before promotion to full professorship, one can get a time limited (usually 5 years) post of a professor "with special responsibilities". This position gives time to gather enough publication record, as well as for the school to raise funds for the permanent professorship. An additional step between lektor and full professor is [*docent*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Docent). A docent has the same work as a professor but they do not actively take part in senior administrative duties, such as heading a department. Both adjunkts, lektors and docents usually have other jobs on the side.

**Germany**

After the doctorate, German scholars who wish to go into academic work usually work toward a [Habilitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habilitation) by writing a second thesis, known as the *Habilitationsschrift.* This is often accomplished while employed as a *Wissenschaftlicher Mitarbeiter* or *Wissenschaftlicher Assistent* ("scientific assistant", C1) or a non-tenured position as *Akademischer Rat* ("academic councilor", both 3+3 years teaching and research positions). Once they pass their Habilitation, they are called [*Privatdozent*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Privatdozent) and are eligible for a call to a chair. Alternatively they may be hired to fill a "Junior-Professorship."

Note that in Germany, there has always been a debate about whether Professor is a title that remains one's own for life once conferred (similar to the doctorate), or whether it is linked to a function (or even the designation of a function) and ceases to belong to the holder once she or he quits or retires (except in the usual case of becoming Professor emeritus). The former view has won the day - although in many German [*Länder*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/L%C3%A4nder) ("states"), there is a minimum requirement of five years of service before "Professor" may be used as a title without the respective job - and is by now both the law and majority opinion.

When appropriate, the joint title *Professor Doktor* (Prof. Dr.), has also been heard in the German system. This reflects the fact that most academics who have reached this stage will indeed have written both a doctoral thesis and a habilitation (i.e. a second academic work beyond the doctorate).

Similar or identical systems as in [Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germany) (where a Habilitation is required) are in place, e.g., in [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria), the German-speaking part of [Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Switzerland), as well as in [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland), [Slovakia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovakia), [Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary) and [Slovenia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovenia).

**Main positions**

* **Professor ordinarius** (*ordentlicher Professor*, *o. Prof.*): professor with chair, representing the area in question. In Germany, it's common to call these positions in colloquial use "C4" or "C3" professorships, due to the name of respective entry in the official salary table for [*Beamte*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beamter) (civil servant). (Following recent reforms of the salary system at universities, you might now find the denomination "W3 or W2 professor".)
* **Professor extraordinarius** (*außerordentlicher Professor*, *ao. Prof.*): professor without chair, often in a side-area, or being subordinated to a professor with chair. Often, successful but junior researchers will first get a position as ao. Prof. and then later try to find an employment as o. Prof. at another university.
* **Professor**: In addition to old universities Germany also has [*Fachhochschulen*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fachhochschule) (FH) as institutions of higher learning, mostly referred to as "universities of applied science". Since a new salary scheme has been introduced in 2005, there are both W2 and W3 professors for the *Fachhochschulen* as there are for the old universities. Hence, the last formal difference has been eliminated. A professor at an FH does not have to have gone through the process of habilitation or junior professorship but can rather apply for the position only after his doctorate and at least three years in industry. He is not able to confer doctorates.
* **Professor emeritus**: just like in North America (see above); used both for the ordinarius and for the extraordinarius, although strictly speaking only the former is entitled to be addressed in this way. Although retired and being paid a pension instead of a salary, they may still teach and take exams and often still have an office.
* **Junior professor**: an institution started in 2002 in Germany, this is a 6-year time-limited professorship for promising young scholars without Habilitation. It is supposed to rejuvenate the professorship through [fast-track](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fast_track) for the best, who eventually are supposed to become professor ordinarius. This institution has been introduced as a replacement for the [Habilitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habilitation), which is now considered more an obstacle than quality control by many. Being new, the concept is intensely debated due to a lack of experience with this new approach. The main criticism is that *Juniorprofessors* are expected to apply for professorships at *other* universities during the latter part of the six year period, as their universities are not supposed to offer tenure themselves (unlike in the [tenure track](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tenure_track) schemes used, e.g., in the USA).

Recent studies have found that both the interest in applying for 'junior professorships' and the willingness of academic institutions to create these positions has declined since they were first made possible.

For references (all in German) and more see <http://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juniorprofessur> (the German page 'Juniorprofessur)

**Other positions**

* **Honorarprofessor** (*Ehrenprofessor, Professor honoris causa*): equivalent to the North American adjunct professor, non-salaried.
* ***außerplanmäßiger* Professor** (*apl. Prof.*): either a tenured university lecturer or *Privatdozent* to whom the title is given if she or he has not attained a regular professorship after a while, or likewise an adjunct professor. The word *außerplanmäßig* (meaning "outside of the plan (of positions and salaries)") denotes that he is not paid as a professor but only as a researcher.
* **Lehrbeauftragter** a paid part-time (for example 2 hrs per week in a semester) teaching position for scientists in general with non university position who holds a PhD, *Lehrbeauftragter* is maybe comparable with a junior adjunct professor.
* **Vertretungsprofessor**: is a professor who "substitutes" a vacant chair for a limited amount of time (in German: "Vertretungsprofessor"), mostly 1 or 2 semesters. Very often academics with a "Habilitation" who use this job as a changeover position before getting this particular job in a tenured way or before getting a tenured professorship at another institution.

**Other professors**

Some other uses of the title *professor*:

* **Professor as an honorary title**: In some countries using the German-style academic system (e.g. [Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria), [Finland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finland), [Sweden](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweden)), Professor is also an honorific title that can be bestowed upon an artist, scholar, etc., by the President or by the government, completely independent of any actual academic post or assignment.
* ***Gymnasialprofessor*** (High School Professor): Senior teachers at certain senior high schools in some German states and in Austria were also designated Professor in the late 19th and early 20th century. In Austria, tenured high school teachers are still called *Professor*. However, it is unclear whether Austrian high school teachers starting their career today will have equally easy access to tenure when they become older.
* **Music teachers**: In the United States, the title of professor has sometimes been used for music teachers, especially in small towns. This use is now considered nearly obsolete and humorous. (Copperud, 306).[[*citation needed*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed)] However in Great Britain and Ireland, the term professor is properly and in formal situations given to singing and instrumental tutors in the music colleges / conservatories of music, usually the older and more august ones: The Royal College of Music, Royal Academy of music, Royal Northern College of Music, Trinity College of Music, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Birmingham Conservatory, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and the Royal Irish Academy of Music. The expression has nearly become obsolete for singing and instrumental tuition in the universities however, save for one or two.

**Netherlands**

The ranking system in Dutch universities is as follows:

* Lecturer (*universitair docent*, abbreviated UD)
* Senior Lecturer (*universitair hoofddocent*, or UHD)
* Professor (*hoogleraar*, carrying the title *prof.*).

A professor should have substantial research achievements and international reputation, and is typically the head of a department or of a "chair-group" within a department. Most scientific staff will have both research and teaching duties.

Although the ranks are often translated as if they were aligned with the American system (i.e. assistant, associate, and full professor), this is clearly not the case. There is no promotion system to go from one rank to the other. That is, a lecturer can only become senior lecturer or professor by applying for such a position if there is a vacancy. The concept of tenure is very different. In Dutch universities, permanent positions must be offered upon the third extension of fixed-term position to avoid [permatemps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Permatemp) (as is the case in all government jobs).

Dutch universities can also appoint **Extraordinary Professors** on a part-time basis. This allows the University to bring in specialized expertise that otherwise would not be available. An extraordinary professor usually has his main employment somewhere else, often in industry or at a research institute or University elsewhere. Such a professor has all the privileges of a full professor (*(gewoon) hoogleraar*), may give lectures on special topics, or can supervise graduate students who may do their research at the place of his main employment. Due to this system, many university research groups will have several professors. There is however a clear distinction between *bijzonder hoogleraar* and *buitengewoon hoogleraar*. The *bijzonder hoogleraar* does not get paid by the university, but receives his salary from an external organization, such as a company, an organization or a fund. The *buitengewoon hoogleraar* on the other hand is under a direct contract with the university. Both types of extraordinary professor allow using the title *prof.*, but contrary to full professors, they are not allowed to keep it after their contract ends.

Some Dutch universities have also instated Institute Professorships, which sometimes carry special rights, e.g. the absence of any obligation to teach undergraduate students.

**Israel**

The ranking system combines the American system and the German one. There are four faculty ranks rather than three: lecturer (*martze*), senior lecturer (*martze bakhir*), associate professor (*profesor khaver*), and full professor (*profesor min ha-minyan*). Traditionally, lecturer was equivalent to the American assistant professor rank, and senior lecturer to associate professor ranks. The two higher ranks had German rather than American equivalents: *profesor chaver* was comparable to professor extraordinarius, while *profesor min ha-minyan* was the equivalent, and Hebrew translation of, professor ordinarius. In recent years, however, most tenure-track faculty members are hired at the rank of senior lecturer (*martze bakhir*), which has then become equivalent to the American assistant professor rank, and are promoted to *profesor chaver* when they receive their tenure after 3-7 years (depending on institution and academic achievements). Hence a *profesor chaver* is in fact comparable to the American associate professor. The academic programs of the university are controlled by a Senate, of which every full professor is a member. Israeli universities do not, as a rule, grant tenure to new hires, regardless of previous position, rank, or eminence. A candidate is considered for tenure together with promotion to the next highest rank, or after a year for initial appointments made at the rank of full professor.

**Norway**

In Norway the word professor is only used for full professors at universities or scientific institutions at a similar level. The position below professor is called *førsteamanuensis* ("first [amanuensis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanuensis)"), which is officially translated to English as *Associate Professor*, and which require, as a minimum, a doctoral degree or similar competence (note that Norwegian doctoral degrees are higher than doctoral degrees in most other countries, and are comparable to the German [Habilitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habilitation)). The position of [Docent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Docent), applied to people of the same competence as a Professor who did not hold a Professoral *chair*, was abolished in 1985, when all Docents received the title of Professor.

Historically, Professors were appointed for life by the [King](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/King_of_Norway) upon the advice of the Cabinet. Due to the increasing number of appointments, this changed in the 1970s when it became the responsibility of the individual institution to formally appoint professors.

All people who are appointed as Professors must have their competence evaluated by a scientific, independent committee, and given Professorial competence.

Appointments usually are for life, although time-limited appointments are possible (especially if the position is externally funded). Professors who only work part-time, typically 20 %, and who usually have a different main job (for instance as a [Consultant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consultant_%28medicine%29) at a university hospital), are called Professor II, meaning this is a secondary job, but they need to have the same competence as other Professors and are styled as simply Professor.

**Serbia**

University career usually begins with an “assistant” academic position. “Assistant” assists to the **professor** or [lecturer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecturer), helps in performing exercises or, sometimes, also gives lectures, under the supervision of the professor. “Assistant”, however, is not permitted to hold a chair, or to examine students alone. The level of the “assistant” does not require [Ph.D.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ph.D.) but “[Magister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magister)” or, in recent times, just “[Master](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master)” grade.

The next level is reserved for Ph.D. holders only (except in the arts: visual, performing arts, music, film etc.) where “Magisterium” is the highest degree). It is called “[docent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Docent)” (in Latin “instructor”, “lecturer”, “teacher”) and is approximately equivalent to the [Assistant Professor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assistant_Professor) level in the English-speaking areas. Unlike “assistant”, “docent” is permitted to give lectures independently, to be examiner, supervisor of paper works and theses, and to even hold a chair in a certain subject. It can also happen that more persons are employed within one chair (e.g. nuclear physics): a [full-professor](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Full-professor&action=edit&redlink=1), “docent” and “assistant” for instance. In that case, the full-professor is normally a chair-holder, while “docent” and “assistant” are chair-related. If this is the case, “docent” usually has some kind of dependence upon the professor, but still possesses much independence, unlike the “assistant”.

After four or five years or more (exceptions are rare), and a significant scientific record, “docent” can be elected to become “vanredni profesor” ("extraordinary professor") which is approximately equivalent to the [Associated Professor](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Associated_Professor&action=edit&redlink=1) position, or re-elected for the same (docent) position. The rank of the “vanredni profesor” is normally the minimal requirement for the highest Faculty and University positions, such as [Dean](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dean_%28education%29) of the Faculty, member of the University Senate or [Rector](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rector). In the process of electing an associated professor, just those members of the Department, Faculty or University, who hold associated- or full- professorship are able to vote.

After four or five years and significant score of publications, “vanredni profesor” can be re-elected for the same possition, or elected into the next and the highest Univesity and scientific title of “redovni profesor” ("ordinary professor") – the (Full) **Professor**. “Redovni profesori”, the full-professors, are excluded from further electing processes, that take place for all other University teaching positions, normally after four or five years.

The title of “[Emeritus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emeritus)” Professor should usually be granted to small number of professors who had extraordinarily academic and scientific score, as well as to all former Rectors.

**Spain**

**Background information**

In the past twenty-five years, Spain has gone through three university reforms: 1983 (Ley de Reforma Universitaria, LRU), 2001 (Ley Orgánica de Universidades, LOU) and 2007 (a mere reform of the LOU with several specific modifications of the 2001 Act). We can name them LRU 1983, LOU 2001 and LOU 2007.

The actual categories of tenured and untenured positions, and the basic department and university organization, were established by LRU 1983, and only specific details have been reformed by LOU 2001 and LOU 2007. The most important reform introduced by these later acts has affected the way in which candidates to a position are selected. According to LRU 1983, a committee of five members had to evaluate the curricula of the candidates. A new committee was constituted for each new position, operating in the same university offering that position. These committees had two members appointed by the department (including the Secretary of the Committee), and three members who were draw-selected (from any university, but belonging to the same "knowledge area"). With this system, the department only had to "persuade" one of the three "external" members of the committee into giving the position to their "insider" (the applicant from their own department). As a consequence, good applicants were often discarded in favor of mediocre "insiders", and shameless nepotism was common for 20 years.

The LOU 2001 and LOU 2007 acts have granted even more freedom to universities when choosing applicants for a position. Each university now freely establishes the rules for the creation of an internal committee that assigns available positions. It would seem that "insiders" are now even more advantaged. This is not the case, however, as the last two reforms also have introduced an external "quality control" process. To better understand these reforms, it is worth examining the situation both before and after 2007. The situation before 2007 was this: LOU 2001 had established a procedure, based on competition at national level, to became a civil servant. This procedure, and the license a candidate obtained, was called "habilitación", and it included curricula evaluation and personal examination. The external committee was formed by seven draw-selected members (belonging to the same "knowledge area" and fulfilling requisites related to research curricula), who could assign a fixed and pre-determined number of "habilitaciones" (but not positions). An applicant to a particular position in any university had to be "habilitado" (licensed) by this National Committee in order to apply. Non civil servants had a slightly different "quality control" process. A specific institution, called ANECA (Agencia Nacional de Evaluación de la Calidad), examined the applicants' curricula and issued them an "acreditación" (similar to the "habilitación", but for non civil servant positions). Today, following the LOU 2007 reform, the whole process has been simplified, and both civil and non civil servants only need to pass a faster and simpler "acreditación" process (the "habilitación" is gone). The curricula are now examined by an "external" committee, and there is no personal exam. This "outside of university" quality control process has remarkably increased the level of applicants to tenured positions (civil or non-civil servants) since 2001.

To sum it up, although in the past people could become *catedrático* or *profesor titular* with a random curriculum, since local support was the most important requirement for a candidate, independently of his/her research or teaching quality (LRU 1983), the certification system introduced by the LOU 2001 act (*habilitación*), which requires the candidate to pass a competitive exam at a national level for each category before applying for a position, has increased the standards of Spanish university professors to those of most countries. With LOU 2007, the "habilitación" has become "acreditación", and the committee will only evaluate the applicants' curricula, without making them go through a personal exam.

Before the LOU 2001 reform, tenure implied becoming a civil servant (*funcionario*). A civil servant, as in other European countries, cannot lose his job even in the case of remarkably bad performance. This had caused the level of many universities in Spain to drop. The LOU 2001 included two other tenured positions, not of civil servant type: **Profesor Colaborador** (this category has disappeared in 2007), and **Profesor Contratado Doctor** (equivalent to *Profesor Titular de Universidad*). Non-tenured positions include: **Profesor Asociado** (a part-time instructor who keeps a parallel job, for example in the industry, in a hospital or teaching in a school), **Profesor Ayudante** (a doctoral student working as teaching assistant), and **Profesor Ayudante Doctor** (a promotion from the latter, after completing the doctoral dissertation).

Under present legislation (LOU 2007), only the following positions are available:

**Tenured positions:**

* **Catedrático de Universidad**: tenured, full time, civil servant, Ph. D required, "acreditación" required, only a Catedrático can be President of the University (Rector), European Union citizenship is required.
* **Profesor Titular de Universidad**: tenured, full time, civil servant, Ph. D required, "acreditación" required, European Union citizenship is required.
* **Profesor Contratado Doctor**: tenured, full time, not a civil servant, Ph. D required, "acreditación" required.
* **Profesor Asociado**: can be a tenured position, part time, not a civil servant, no Ph. D required.

**Non-tenure positions:**

* **Profesor Ayudante Doctor**: non tenured, full time, not a civil servant, Ph. D required, "acreditación" required, only for a limited period of time.
* **Profesor Ayudante**: non tenured, full time, not a civil servant, no Ph. D required, only for a limited period of time.

**Other positions:**

* **Profesor Visitante**: non tenured, not a civil servant, no Ph. D required, only for a limited period of time (visiting professor).
* **Profesor Emérito**: non tenured, not a civil servant, only for a limited period of time, works under the specific rules established by the employing university.

Currently, a professor can be in one of the abolished categories (Profesor Titular de Escuela Universitaria, Profesor Colaborador), but no new position in these categories can be created. Of these six categories of tenured positions, four imply becoming a civil servant (*funcionario*): **Catedrático de Universidad** (usually the head of department, but not necessarily), **Profesor Titular de Universidad** (professor), **Catedrático de Escuela Universitaria** (fully equivalent in rank and salary to Profesor Titular de Universidad; this category has been abolished by LOU 2007), and **Profesor Titular de Escuela Universitaria** (this category has been abolished by LOU 2007). This last category was intended for instructors at technical schools and colleges without a PhD (the instructors currently in this category will be able to keep their job until retiring, but no new positions will be created). The *Catedrático de Escuela Universitaria* and the *Profesor Titular de Universidad* categories have been merged by the LOU 2007 reform. The two *de Escuela Universitaria* categories are intended mainly for teachers of three-year degrees (e.g. technical engineering, nursing, teaching in primary schools), while the two *de Universidad* categories include professors of any undergraduate or graduate degree.

The retiring age for university professors in Spain is 65, just like all other workers. However, a university professor can work until he is 70, if he so wishes. Even then, he, or she, can apply for a **Profesor Emérito** position. It is a non-tenured position and it has a limited duration (4 additional years). Also, there are specific rules established by the university.

Spain is not an easy country to work in for people with a foreign academic qualification[*[citation needed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACitation_needed%22%20%5Co%20%22Wikipedia%3ACitation%20needed)*]. People with a degree from a foreign school or university (even if they are Spanish citizens) must apply to the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science for a conversion into its equivalent to any of the current Spanish degrees. First, one's Bachelor's or Master's degree must be converted; after that, it is possible to apply for the conversion of the PhD degree. This procedure can take sometimes more than three years, and can fail if the courses taken by the applicant in his lower degree are too different from those required for the closest Spanish degree. For European citizens, there is a somewhat faster procedure called recognition (which can also fail) but it is only suitable for positions that do not require a curriculum evaluation by ANECA (i.e., only Profesor Ayudante). People with a Bachelor's degree who have completed a PhD immediately afterwards (that is, skipping a two year master's) have found it impossible to convert their degree, since the duration of their Bachelor's was three years, while the Spanish Bachelor's degree lasts from four to six years (four years for some degrees, including Law, Economics and Physics; six years for others, like Architecture, Engineering and Medicine). In addition, a Ph. D course in Spain lasts 2 years, but it usually takes two or more additional years to successfully complete and discuss one's dissertation. Furthermore, to become a professor of civil servant type, the applicant must be a European citizen, or be married to a European citizen. As a last consideration, besides a good knowledge of the Spanish language, in regions such as Catalonia, the Balearic Islands, Valencia, the Basque Country and Galicia, a knowledge of the local language may be required. This is one of the most serious constraints to mobility for university professors in Spain, together with low salaries (see below).

**Brazil**

In [Portuguese](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language), *professor* means both professor and teacher.

**Main positions**

* **Professor Catedrático**: now in disuse, refers to a professor who holds a chair.
* **Professor Titular**: the highest current position in most Brazilian universities, corresponding to a full professor.
* **Professor Associado**: associate professor. In São Paulo, a faculty member who has completed a "[livre docência](http://pt.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livre-doc%C3%AAncia%22%20%5Co%20%22pt%3ALivre-doc%C3%AAncia)", which requires a [Habilitation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habilitation) thesis and public examination.
* **Professor Adjunto**: intermediate position between associate and assistant professor requiring a doctoral degree. This position exists only in the federal public universities; in the São Paulo state universities, the closest equivalent rank is now referred to as *Professor Doutor*.
* **Professor Assistente**: an assistant professor, usually holding a master's degree only.
* **Auxiliar de Ensino**: a teaching asssistant who has a bachelor's degree only; referred to as *Professor Auxiliar* in the federal universities.
* **Professor Substituto**: the same as an adjunct professor in the US system, i.e. someone who does not have a permanent position at the academic institution.
* **Professor Visitante**: the same as visiting professor.

See more on: [Academic rank#Brazil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_rank#Brazil)

**Salary of professors (Europe)**

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| http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/9/99/Question_book-new.svg/50px-Question_book-new.svg.png | This article **needs additional** [**citations**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3ACiting_sources) **for** [**verification**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AVerifiability)**.** Please help [improve this article](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Professor&action=edit) by adding [reliable references](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AReliable_sources). Unsourced material may be [challenged](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template%3AFact) and removed. *(September 2008)* |

In interest of an expert's report from 2005 of the [“Deutscher Hochschulverband DHV”](http://www.hochschulverband.de), a lobby of the German professors, the salary of professors in the United States, Germany and Switzerland is as follows:

* The annual salary of a German professor is €46,680 in group "W2" (mid-level) and €56,683 in group "W3" (the highest level), without performance-related bonuses. The anticipated average earnings with performance-related bonuses for a German professor is €71,500.
* The anticipated average earnings of a Swiss professor vary for example between 158,953 CHF (€102,729) to 232,073 CHF (€149,985) at the [University of Zurich](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Zurich) and 187,937 CHF (€121,461) to 247,280 CHF (€159,774) at the [ETH Zurich](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ETH_Zurich); the regulations are different depending on the [Cantons of Switzerland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cantons_of_Switzerland).
* The salaries of Professors in Spain vary widely, depending on the region (universities depend on the regional government, except the UNED, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia) and different bonifications. These salary complements include "trienios" (depending on seniority, one for each three years), "quinquenios" (depending on the accomplishment of teaching criteria defined by the university, one for each five years of seniority) and "sexenios" (depending on the accomplisment of research criteria defined by the national government, one for each six years of seniority). These bonifications are quite small. However, the total number of "sexenios" is a requisite for being a member of different committees. The importance of these "sexenios" as a prestige factor in the university was increased by the LOU 2001. Some indicative numbers can be interesting, in spite of the variance in the data. We report net monthly payments (after taxes and social security fees), without bonifications: Ayudante, 1,200 euros; Ayudante Doctor, 1,400; Contratado Doctor; 1,800; Profesor Titular, 2,000 euros; Catedrático, 2,400 euros. There are a total of 14 payments per year, including 2 extra payments in July and December (but for less than a normal monthly payment). These salaries are comparatively low, even for the Public Administration, and far from the usual market salaries for similarly qualified professionals. Considering the cost of a rented flat in Madrid (50 square meters costs 700-900 euros per month), the incredible increase in the cost of housing during the past decade combined with frozen salaries has impoverished university professors in Spain in real terms.
* In 2007 the Dutch social fund for the academic sector [SoFoKleS](http://www.sofokles.nl) commissioned a comparative study of the wage structure of academic professions in the Netherlands in relation to that of other countries. Among the countries reviewed are the United States, Great Britain, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, France, Sweden and the Netherlands. To improve comparability adjustments have been made to correct for purchasing power and taxes. Because of differences between institutions in the US and UK these countries have two listings of which one denotes the salary in top-tier institutions (based on the Shanghai-ranking).The table below shows the final reference wages expressed in net amounts of Dutch euros (i.e. converted into Dutch purchasing power).[[6]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-SEO_Economic_Research._.2829_May.2C_2007.29._International_wage_differences_in_academic_occupations.-5)





Salary of professors as reported in the 2005 report the *Deutscher Hochschulverband DHV*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Assistant prof.** | **Associate prof.** | **Professor** |
| Netherlands | € 30,609 | € 37,991 | € 46,180 |
| Germany | € 24,492 | € 30,383 | € 34,657 |
| Belgium | € 29,244 | € 33,778 | € 38,509 |
| Switzerland | € 60,158 | € 69,118 | € 78,068 |
| Sweden | € 22,257 | € 26,666 | € 31,639 |
| UK | € 37,424 | € 46,261 | € 60,314 |
| UK-top | € 42,245 | € 47,495 | € 82,464 |
| France | € 23,546 | € 29,316 | € 37,118 |
| **U.S. comparison, using OECD PPP rates** |
| United States | € 58,662 | € 69,911 | € 98,974 |
| **Egypt comparison, using 2007 rates, salary consists of the basic salary and the benefits** |
| Egypt | € 2,000 (€ 330 basic salary plus € 1670 benefits) | € 2,340 (€ 340 basic salary plus € 2000 benefits) | € 4,350 (€ 350 basic salary plus € 4000 benefits) |  |

* Note that these countries provide different social benefits, social security, child care, etc, to their citizens making these numbers very hard to compare.

**Historical Islamic usage**

In [Muslim civilisation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamic_Golden_Age), the Chair was designated by the [Caliph](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caliph) himself. Mostly through recommendation, the Caliph made appointments to a professorial chair (*Kursi* in [Arabic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabic_language)) in a [*jami’*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madrassah) ([university](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University) or congregational [mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mosque)). Such was the case of [Ibn 'Aqil](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_%27Aqil) (died 1119 CE) who was appointed to a well-known chair in Jami' al-Mansur ([Baghdad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baghdad)), becoming the main teacher of the mosque. In other cases, a scholar could be appointed in two chairs as the same time, holding a chair in one jami’ and simultaneously holding another in another jami’ or in one of the exclusive institutions.[[7]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-6)

This is the case of particularly distinguished and popular scholars. For example a certain Ibn al-Banna' (d. 1079) had a chair in Jami' al-Mansur (Baghdad), located in the centre of the riwaq (nave of the mosque); while simultaneously holding another in Jami' al-Qasr (also Baghdad), around the maqsura (a separate room inside the mosque). Some chairs were also known by the discipline they represented; as, for instance, the chair or study-circle of the traditionalists (*halqat ahl al-hadith*), and that of the grammarians (*halqat al-nahwiyin*). Others were known by the name of the family whose members occupied it in succession; as, for instance, the chair of the [Barmakids](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barmakid) (*halqat al-Barâmika*). Sometimes institutions were specialised in particular study and therefore received a corresponding chair, e.g. the Nizamiya did not have a chair of [Islamic theology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kalam), but only a chair of [Islamic law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sharia).[[8]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-7)

In relation to the nature of Tenure of the chair, once a professor was appointed by the Caliph to a chair in one of the main mosques (Jamii), he ordinarily held it for the remainder of his lifetime. Cases of lengthy tenure are often reported by biographers, for example [Abu 'All al-Kattani](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ibn_al-Kattani) (d. 1061), who was in his eighties when he died, had occupied his chair for 50 years. According to George Makdisi and Hugh Goddard, "the fact that we still talk of professors holding the '[Chair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chair_%28official%29)' of their subject" is based on the "traditional [Islamic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islam) pattern of teaching where the professor sits on a chair and the students sit around him", and the term '[academic circles](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Study_circle)' is derived from the way in which Islamic students "sat in a circle around their professor".[[9]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-8) The term 'professor' itself is believed to be a translation of the Arabic term [*mufti*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mufti), which meant "professor of [legal opinions](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fatw%C4%81)".[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_note-G-Makdisi-9)

**Professors in fiction**

*Main article:* [*List of Fictional Professors*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Fictional_Professors)

As portrayed in fiction, in accordance with a [stereotype](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stereotype), professors are often depicted as being shy and absent-minded. An obvious example is the 1961 movie [*The Absent-Minded Professor*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Absent-Minded_Professor). Professors have also been portrayed as being misguided, such as Professor Metz, who helped the villain [Blofeld](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Stavro_Blofeld) in the [James Bond](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Bond) film [*Diamonds Are Forever*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diamonds_Are_Forever_%28film%29); or simply evil, like the [Professor Moriarty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor_Moriarty), who fought [Sherlock Holmes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sherlock_Holmes). Animated series [Futurama](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Futurama) has a typical absent-minded but genius [Professor Hubert Farnsworth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professor_Hubert_Farnsworth). (See also [mad scientist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mad_scientist).) [Vladimir Nabokov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vladimir_Nabokov), author and professor of [English](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_studies) at [Cornell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cornell_University), frequently used professors as the [protagonists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protagonist) in his novels. Professor Higgins is also a main character in [My Fair Lady](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/My_Fair_Lady). In the popular [Harry Potter](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter) series, a few school students are the most important characters, but their professors play many important parts. In the board game [*Cluedo*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cluedo), Professor Plum has been depicted as absent minded. In the movie, see [*Clue (film)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clue_%28film%29), Professor Plum was a psychologist who had an affair with one of his patients. He was played by [Christopher Lloyd](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christopher_Lloyd).

An example of a fictional professor not depicted as shy or absent-minded is [Indiana Jones](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_Jones), a professor as well as an archeologist-adventurer. The character generally referred to simply as [The Professor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Professor) on the television series [Gilligan's Island](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gilligan%27s_Island) is depicted as a sensible advisor, a clever inventor, and a helpful friend to his fellow castaways.

John Houseman's portrayal of law-school professor Charles W. Kingsfield, Jr., in [The Paper Chase](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Paper_Chase) (1973) remains the epitome of the strict, authoritarian professor who demands perfection from students.

Mysterious, older men with magical powers (and unclear academic standing) are sometimes given the title of "Professor" in literature and theater. Notable examples include Professor Marvel in *The Wizard of Oz* [[1]](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0032138/) and Professor Drosselmeyer (as he is sometimes known) from the ballet *The Nutcracker*. Also, the magician played by Christian Bale in the film *The Prestige* [[2]](http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0482571/) adopts 'The Professor' as his stage name. Other professors of this type are the infamous Professor Digory Kirke of C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia, and his relative the less-known Professor Pevensie (father of the Pevensie children).

In the British sitcom *Time Gentlemen Please,* there is a learned character who people refer to as the 'Prof' being short for professor.

The title has been used by comedians, such as "Professor" [Irwin Corey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irwin_Corey) and [Soupy Sales](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soupy_Sales) in his role as "The Big Professor." In the past pianists in [saloons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_saloon) and other rough environments have been called "professor." [[3]](http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0%2C9171%2C930955%2C00.html) [Hans Asperger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Asperger) called the children he studied "Little Professors."

**See also**

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| Sister project | Look up [***professor***](http://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/Special%3ASearch/professor) in[Wiktionary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiktionary), the free dictionary. |

* [Academic discipline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_discipline)
* [Academic rank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_rank)
* [Lecturer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lecturer)
* [Scholarly method](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scholarly_method)
* [School and university in literature](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/School_and_university_in_literature)

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2. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_ref-1) [State-Level Post-Tenure Review Policies](http://people.virginia.edu/~mam5mc/ptreview.html)
3. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_ref-2) The Trouble with Physics, Lee Smolin
4. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_ref-U.S._Department_of_Labor._.284_August.2C_2006.29._Occupational_Outlook_Handbook._3-0) "[U.S. Department of Labor. (4 August, 2006). Occupational Outlook Handbook.](http://www.bls.gov/oco/ocos066.htm#nature)". Retrieved on 2007-07-22.
5. [**^**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_professor#cite_ref-4) [5.41.4 Use of the Title Associate Professor - Handbook of University Policies and Procedures at The University of Queensland](http://www.uq.edu.au/hupp/index.html?page=25211&pid=25173)
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| [hide][v](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template%3ASocial_titles) • [d](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template_talk:Social_titles&action=edit&redlink=1) • [e](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Social_titles&action=edit)**Primary** [**social titles**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Title) **in English** |
|  |  |
| Feminine | [Miss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miss)**·** [Mrs. (Mistress)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mrs.)**·** [Ms.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ms.)**·** [Madam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madam)**·** [Lady](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lady)**·** [Dame](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dame_%28title%29) |
|  |  |
| Unisex | [Dr. (Doctor)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dr.)**·** **Prof. (Professor)** |
|  |  |
| Masculine | [Master](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Master_%28form_of_address%29)**·** [Mr. (Mister)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mr.)**·** [Esq. (Esquire)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Esquire)**·** [Sir](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sir)**·** [Lord](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord) |

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