

Your instructors do more than what you can see them doing on a daily basis during the semester. Besides teaching your classes and grading your homework and exams, they also (in no particular order):

- (1) create original written content (syllabi, textbooks, slideshows, on-line material) for the courses they teach;
- (2) supervise BA and MA theses;
- (3) stimulate and prepare talented students for presentations at OTDK (national scholarly competitions for students), read and report on other students' OTDK theses, and serve on panels evaluating their presentations;
- (4) supervise doctoral research in their area of expertise, not just at ELTE but also at other universities in Hungary and elsewhere in the world (which involves reading the doctoral students' papers, conference abstracts, thesis chapters, and E-mails with questions, and having frequent meetings with the students, in person or via Skype);
- (5) serve on administrative committees within the university to ensure proper governance of the university, and to work towards a better infrastructure for teaching and research at the university;
- (6) do original academic research;
- (7) report on their research by writing journal articles, books, and book chapters that are published and cited by researchers all over the world;
- (8) review other scholars' written work, both in the form of published review articles and in the form of anonymous reports on articles submitted for publication;
- (9) serve as editors of journals, books and book series publishing scholarly research, and serve as members of editorial boards of journals and book series;
- (10) contribute scholarly content to handbooks and encyclopedias;
- (11) read their professional literature (books and journals) in order to stay abreast of developments in their field of expertise;
- (12) participate in reading groups in which key publications are discussed;
- (13) present papers at conferences at home and abroad, to report on the fruits of their research, and participate actively in the discussion of other papers presented at these conferences, providing feedback on other scholars' research;
- (14) review abstracts submitted to conferences at home and abroad, to evaluate whether the papers on which these abstracts are based are sound and worth including on the programmes of these conferences;
- (15) (co-)organise conferences, workshops and lecture series at home and abroad, to enhance dialogue between scholars working on similar topics and to help disseminate and finesse the fruit of academic research;
- (16) offer courses at summer/winter schools (while ELTE is in recess) at home and abroad, to make their expertise accessible to students all over the world;
- (17) conceive and compose original proposals for large research projects that are submitted to funding agencies at home and abroad (incl. the European Research Council, Europe's premier platform for financial support of cutting-edge academic research);
- (18) review project proposals submitted by others to research funding agencies at home and abroad, to evaluate whether these proposals are sound and worth funding;
- (19) serve on panels for national and international funding agencies to assess project proposals submitted to these agencies;

- (20) receive, read and reply to dozens of E-mail messages every day from students, prospective students, and colleagues all over the world regarding teaching, supervision, and research;
- (21) actively take part in professional organisations related to their academic field in Hungary and abroad (which means reading and answering even more E-mails, organising and moderating events, open public lectures, etc.).

Many of these activities contribute to the international ranking of the university, and give the university its reputation on the international stage, which in turn helps attract students and instructors from all over the world and creates a more diversified and competitive environment for all of you.

You may not realise that several of your instructors also have an affiliation with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, in which context they face a subset of the tasks listed above in addition to those they perform at ELTE.

You also may not realise that your instructors do all of the above without a sufficient number of functional computers in their offices, without data projectors or interactive boards in most classrooms, often without paper and toner in the photocopiers, without grants to go to conferences, without the possibility to go on sabbatical to do research and write more substantial articles or books, without a sufficient number of instructors to teach the courses that you can choose from, and without a sufficient number of adequate classrooms to hold the lectures and seminars in.

As you will appreciate when you go over the list, your instructors do not just 'have fun' when they don't stand in front of a classroom or grade your work. Doing research can certainly be fun, but it is hard work, on a daily basis, to keep coming up with original and ground-breaking contributions to research topics pursued by the global academic community. Flying halfway around the world to an exciting city for a conference can indeed have an element of fun, although most of the time conference trips amount to a lot of travel and a lot of time spent in a conference hall, with little or no time left for 'fun' things: after all, conferences usually take place during the teaching semester, and your instructors do their level best not to disrupt your course programme by cancelling classes; so they have to squeeze their conference trips in between classes.

The work of a university instructor never stops. It plays itself out at a wide variety of levels and in a wide variety of forms and formats, all of which require extraordinary degrees of concentration, dedication, and qualification. Your instructors will all agree that it is a privilege to be able to do this kind of work. But it also consumes a great deal of time and energy. Please think of this next time someone around you makes the familiar comment that university instructors only work for a few hours a week during the teaching semester.