

Thank you Malmö University for your trust in me!

My name is Anders Kottorp and I am currently working as professor with tenure at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) in the United States. I have now been appointed to the position of Dean at the Faculty of Health and Society, a great and unique opportunity.

My professional background is as a registered occupational therapist. My research focus has always been on the consequences of those with various diagnoses and/or disabilities in everyday life, and how we can aim to minimise these.

As a researcher, I have specialised in modern test theory applications in order to better measure various concerns we are interested in impacting on in health care and social services/research. I have had the opportunity to collaborate with almost all types of clients and participants in my research, often in multidisciplinary and multi-professional contexts.

My last employer in Sweden was Karolinska Institutet (2003-2014), where I worked as associate professor as well as division head and vice department head (2006-2014). In addition, I was chair of the National Research School in Health Care Sciences. I also have a broad competence and experience in international collaboration and run and collaborate with a number of different research projects in Japan, Uganda, America and several European countries. Over the years I have had several collaborations with the health care systems and the National Board of Health and Welfare. These experiences are crucial as these organisations have a high impact in several overlapping domains with our faculty's target areas.

So why leave a fully-financed tenured professor position and move to Malmö? I had not really planned to leave Chicago, but this opportunity looked so challenging that I did not want to miss it. As a Swede living abroad you tend to miss the Swedish traditions and, in my case, the Swedish academic culture. Malmö and Chicago do actually have some similarities: a multicultural context with a high level of diversity, challenges in relation to criminality, close proximity to water, and a university that prioritises its impact and collaboration with the city that surrounds it.

I have come to realise that I missed the opportunity to lead a complex organisation within an academic system. This position at Malmö University offers me the opportunities to develop and mature in a multidisciplinary context with new challenges. Malmö University has a profile and an engagement with the surrounding community that impresses and challenges me. The faculty demonstrates an exciting balance between strong educational programmes as well as strong research areas. To join at an exciting time as it makes the status change from 'högskola' to 'university' is also a unique opportunity I did not want to miss. I know the importance of maintaining and strategically developing an effective and smooth organisational structure with opportunities for each employee's development.

Again, I thank you for your trust in me, but I am also aware that one has to maintain that trust in order to stay a good leader and dean, and I will work hard to do just that!

Kind regards,
Anders

PS If any of you find yourself in Chicago before the end of June, please let me know so we can touch base and I can give you some tips on the best places to eat!