

Masaryk University	
Faculty	Faculty of Science
Procedure field	Environmental Health Sciences
Applicant	doc. Ing. Vladimír Žlábek, Ph.D.
Applicant's home unit, institution	University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice
Board members	
Chair	prof. RNDr. Luděk Bláha, Ph.D. <i>Faculty of Science, Masaryk University</i>
Members	prof. MVDr. Zdeňka Svobodová, DrSc. <i>University of Veterinary Sciences Brno</i> prof. Dr. Ing. Jan Mareš <i>Mendel University in Brno</i> prof. Ing. Radka Kodešová, CSc. <i>Czech University of Life Sciences Prague</i> Prof. Bryan William Brooks, Ph.D. <i>Baylor University, USA</i>

Evaluation of the applicant's scholarly/artistic qualifications

The research of Vladimír Žlábek contributed to broad aspects of occurrence, accumulation and biotransformation of environmental pollutants in the aquatic environment covering traditionally studied priority compounds (toxic metals, POPs) as well as compounds of emerging concern (synthetic hormones, pharmaceuticals and personal care products). His research outcomes helped to identify and characterize toxic effects of pollutants in wild aquatic animals, namely fish or aquatic invertebrates, and elucidated toxicity mechanisms and biochemical markers of exposure and effects with specific focus on interactions with hepatic metabolism. The complex exposure and effect (hazard) assessment studies allowed to characterize complex impacts of contamination on functioning of aquatic ecosystems.

In line with international standards in the field, scholarly outcomes of Vladimír Žlábek primarily include research publications in peer-reviewed journals listed in Web of Science database. He authored over 100 WoS publications. In the past 10 years, his publication record includes dominantly papers in highly respected journals ranked above WoS median based on IF or AIS WoS (Chemosphere, STOTEN, Environmental Pollution, Toxicology Letters, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety and others), including also several publications in the top 10 (D1) journals such as Journal of Hazardous Materials, Water Research or Environmental Science & Technology. Working on the interface with application science, he also co-authored two verified methodologies (the optimized conditions for sustainable breeding of freshwater fish species) and three certified methodologies (hygienic assessment of fish meat, ecotoxicity testing with trout, production of early life stages of fish).

His research outcomes received major attention of scientists worldwide and have been cited at WoS by more than 2000 other works (excluding self-citations, h-index 34), which clearly demonstrates relevance and impact of his research.

Conclusion: The applicant's scholarly/artistic capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Environmental Health Sciences.

Evaluation of the applicant's pedagogical experience

Vladimír Žlábek has also complex teaching and student-supervision record covering 26 semesters of active teaching activities.

At his home institution, FROV JU, he has been the main person (leader, guarantor) of 2 full-semester lectures focusing on Cell biology (BSc) and Environmental Risk Assessment (MSc), which are accompanied by exercises or practical courses / case studies. Since 2021, he also organizes specialized class on Omics methods for PhD level students at FROV JU. Within these 3 main pedagogical activities, he authored pedagogical works – online supportive study materials for students. Further participation in semester lectures included class on Bioactive compounds in fish (2010; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala) and Enzymes / Biochemistry (2014-2019; FROV JU). V. Žlábek also participated in number of ad hoc educational lecturing activities in Europe (SLU and Umea Universities in Sweden, Aveiro University in Portugal, Aquaculture Advisory Council, Brussels, Belgium) and globally (Vietnam, China). He also authored materials (popular brochures) educating practical fishermen in the Czech Republic about fish contamination and safe food consumption.

V. Žlábek has been also active in supervising and mentoring pre-graduate and post-graduate students including BSc theses (3 successfully defended), MSc theses (2 defended, one in progress) as well as PhD (4 defended, 1 in progress). International graduates from his supervision defended at FROV JU and SLU Uppsala, Sweden and they successfully continue with their careers in science or applied – regulatory – fields. He is a chair of the doctoral programme Protection of Aquatic Ecosystems at his home institution (since 2019) and he contributed as a member to doctoral boards at other Czech universities including Faculty of Science of Masaryk University Brno, Veterinary University Brno or Czech University of Life Sciences Prague.

Conclusion: The applicant's pedagogical capabilities **meet** the requirements expected of applicants participating in a professor appointment procedure in the field of Environmental Health Sciences.

Evaluation of the applicant as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure in a given field

Vladimír Žlábek received his PhD in 2004 at University of South Bohemia, Ceske Budejovice, with his thesis focusing on monitoring of surface water pollution in the Czech Republic. During his PhD studies he participated in 6-month international stay at Szent Istvan University in Godollo, Hungary. After his graduation, he continued between 2004–2007 as post-doctoral researcher at the Faculty of Fishery and Protection of Waters (FFPW), University of South Bohemia, and Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Uppsala (total 3 years of research stays during 2007–2008 and in 2010). Then, he continued building his research programme as assistant and associate professor (habilitation 2012) at the Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters of University of South Bohemia. He became a recognized and independent academic professional in the fields of aquatic chemical contamination, ecotoxicology and fish biochemical toxicology.

Through short term stays and joint initiatives, Vladimír Žlábek established broad network of international collaborators disseminating his research and expertise impact in Europe (Leibniz Institute Berlin, DE, University Salzburg, AT, Tartu University, FI, RWTH Aachen, DE, Umea University and SLU, SE, Aarhus University, DK, and others) and globally (West Bengal University, India, Research Institute for Aquaculture, Vietnam, Chinese Academy of Sciences). Between 2019–2023 he served on the organizing and programming committees of 4 national and international FAO workshops on inland aquaculture and water protection.

Vladimír Žlábek was successful in receiving competitive scientific grants. He was principal investigator of 4 National Science Foundation (GAČR) grants and KONTAKT project from Ministry of Education, CZ, and he is currently the responsible leader in international HEU DANUBIUS-IP project. He largely contributed to the development and management of CENAKVA Large Research Infrastructure serving as the responsible scientist, and later director of this LRI holding significant national LRI budget, also responsible for implementation into the European ESFRI. He also gained additional experience as a team member in 8 other grants supported by the EU programmes, Ministry of Education CZ, Swedish Research Council, CZ Agency for Agricultural research (NAZV). Further, he served as principal investigator for 8 other developmental and strategic projects supporting advancements at his home university (study programmes, research infrastructure, international activities and student mobilities, advancing PhD school, HR Excellence in Science label).

His expertise and contributions to science and scientific community received several recognitions such as invitations to serve on boards for grant evaluations (GAČR and NAZV), scientific and doctoral boards (Masaryk University Brno, South Bohemian University) and two awards from the Rector of South Bohemian University.

Vladimír Žlábek is also active in the academic community. Since 2014 he serves as an elected member of the academic senates of the Faculty (FFPW) and the South Bohemian University. He has been involved in the management of the faculty and university as vice dean for international relationships at FFPW, member of the scientific board of FFPW, member of the Board of commerce and social relevance at FFPW (since 2021), general secretary of International Advisory Boards to FFPW, CENAKVA and University of South Bohemia (since 2021/2022).

Conclusion: The applicant **is** a respected and recognized scholarly figure in his/her field. The applicant **has** made a significant contribution to the development of his/her field. The applicant **constitutes** a leading figure in his/her field of scholarship or research.

Secret vote results

Voting took place: electronically

Number of board members	5
Number of votes cast	5
of which	5
in favour	5
against	0

Board decision

Based on the outcome of the secret vote and following an evaluation of the applicant's scholarly or artistic qualifications, pedagogical experience and role as a respected and recognized scholarly or artistic figure, the board hereby submits a proposal to the Scientific Board of the Faculty of Science of Masaryk University to **appoint the applicant professor** of Environmental Health Sciences.

In Brno on 20.11.2023

prof. RNDr. Luděk Bláha, Ph.D.