Umeå University 2020
Vision and objectives

Adopted by the university board on 8 June 2012
Umeå University is facing the future with knowledge across borders and boundaries

Umeå University has a strong international position as one of Sweden’s leading universities. We have developed interaction between research, education, collaboration and innovation that challenges boundaries and plays a crucial role in the region’s development.
SOCIETY IS FACING major challenges. Current focuses of attention include financial crises, demographic changes, global warming, social exclusion, lack of natural resources, water and energy, hostility towards foreigners and outsiders, consequences of ill health and the threat of new pandemics.

KNOWLEDGE-BASED ACTIONS are required so we can meet these challenges. Research and education at all levels are thus increasingly important for humane and sustainable development of society. In this context universities play an important role in providing society with skilled employees and long-term knowledge acquisition that can contribute to the requisite leaps and shifts in knowledge; universities are at the same time part of society’s system of innovation. The need for interdisciplinary collaboration and collaboration between society’s various players will become increasingly crucial if the major challenges to society are to be successfully met.

THE POINT OF DEPARTURE for Umeå University is that by 2020 we need to have developed as an internationally prominent university for education and research that also plays a strong role in terms of regional development. We give our students and staff unique opportunities for professional and personal development, whilst simultaneously providing society with new knowledge and creative people, both locally and globally.

THROUGH ITS social commitment the university contributes on the one hand to development and renewal of a respectful, sustainable
and democratic society and on the other hand to competitive industry & commerce. Our collaboration with public and private players creates a mutual exchange and at the same time contributes towards improving the quality of education and research.

UMEÅ UNIVERSITY is firmly anchored in an academic tradition of freedom, knowledge-seeking and loyalty combined with marked social responsibility and commitment in which creativity, trustworthiness and the will to collaborate are crucial. Our university is characterised by its openness and approachability. The university is the people in it, and they are the most important resource.

THIS DOCUMENT and its constituent objectives are the starting point for the planning of operations at all levels at Umeå University. Trackable three-year interim objectives and strategies are thus given concrete form in the normal planning of operations.

Lena Gustafsson
Vice-Chancellor

Birgitta Johansson-Hedberg
Chair of the University Board
A university that makes things possible

Umeå University is characterised by long-term provision of skills, education and research. Creative environments featuring ground-breaking research and education are an international draw and create regional development.

Our overall objectives

• A long-term approach facilitates a high level of risk-taking
• Creative environments stimulate dynamic meetings
• Collaboration creates development and improves quality
A long-term approach facilitates a high level of risk-taking

OUR RESEARCHERS can take risks that allow ground-breaking research and can lead to leaps in knowledge, and they do not shrink from these risks. Strong contributory reasons are the fact that our services and career paths are internationally attractive in terms of resources and stability. High-quality research shapes our programmes at basic, advanced and research levels.
Creative environments stimulate dynamic meetings

THE UNIVERSITY IS a dynamic meeting place where interdisciplinary knowledge is generated and disseminated. Creative environments attract students, researchers, teachers and collaborating partners nationally and internationally. We are one of Europe’s leading universities with regard to innovative physical and virtual environments. A large part of our courses integrate campus and online teaching, and through flexible forms of teaching can be carried out regardless of time and space. This provides excellent opportunities for everyone to study, and puts a focus on lifelong learning.
Collaboration creates development and improves quality

THE UNIVERSITY HAS well-developed forms of regional and international collaboration with industry and commerce, the public sector and selected partner universities. The collaboration utilises our own strengths and those of all our collaborating partners and improves the quality of both education and research. A strong environment for research and education coupled with a professional system that supports innovation contribute to the development of society.
Education for boundless knowledge

Umeå University has a research-based educational offering at all levels. Internationalisation, skilled teaching staff and collaboration with the outside world contribute towards giving students a high-quality education and personal development.
Our objectives are:

An attractive educational offering at all levels

OUR PROGRAMMES are nationally prominent and internationally respected, and are characterised by national and international student movements. Students take an active part in planning and developing education at all levels. There is a high proportion of advanced-level education. International students choose Umeå University. We have an attractive educational offering that is developed together with prominent foreign universities.

Encounters with research and the outside world

OUR PROGRAMMES are based on excellent scientific environments and develop students’ generic skills and educational level. Involvement of students in current research and projects in collaboration with the outside world means they develop skills for a changing labour market and a knowledge-based society.

Skilled teaching staff

OUR TEACHING STAFF have a high level of scientific, pedagogic and professionally linked expertise. In our programmes we utilise the university’s combined knowledge and expertise. The teaching staff have excellent opportunities for continuous pedagogic and scientific development, and regularly take part in international exchanges. Our pedagogical merit-assessment system contributes towards creating skilled teachers.

A strong international dimension

ALL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES include courses delivered in languages other than Swedish. Our students spend part of their studies abroad, and advanced-level studies involve a high proportion of international students.
Research that breaks down boundaries

Research at Umeå University is innovative and makes an international impact in several fields. It is important to social development and attracts researchers from all over the world. The research programmes give us tomorrow’s successful researchers and creative shapers of society.
Our objectives are:

Ground-breaking research
WE ARE AN internationally renowned research university with excellent opportunities for investment in ground-breaking research. Our researchers are frequently published in prominent scientific journals, are often quoted and are successful when applying for jobs. The research results are disseminated, influence public debate and raise the level of knowledge in society.

Research that takes on society’s challenges
UMEÅ UNIVERSITY’S researchers work in scientifically interdisciplinary and creative environments and contribute towards resolving social and environmental problems.

Access to the best research infrastructure
WE HAVE a top-class research infrastructure and are international leaders in several fields that attract successful researchers from all over the world.

Attractive research programmes create competitiveness
WE TRAIN doctoral students both for academia and for society, applying an international outlook. Stringent quality requirements are set both for doctoral students and for their supervisors. Research programmes are individualised, and emphasise both scientific and personal development. The doctoral students work in interactive and multidisciplinary environments and in big international research networks.
The excellent and efficient university
UMEÅ UNIVERSITY is its staff and students, and is developed by them. Equality, diversity and equal treatment are thus crucial concepts. We offer long-term provision of skills and a stimulating work environment. Efficient business support gives us excellent opportunities for successful work.

WE HAVE A GOOD physical and psycho-social work environment that creates success and competitiveness and contributes to good health and a high level of enjoyment. The work environment is stimulating, secure and safe for employees and students alike. The university’s premises and campus environments are secure and available to all.

UMEÅ UNIVERSITY boasts efficient, internationally adapted and coordinated business support that is characterised by a clear division of responsibility and work. Our managers and heads are very skilled and get professional support. The business support is characterised by high quality, stands for continuity and provides flexible, solution-oriented support for students and employees.

THROUGH APPROPRIATE JOINT procedures for planning, follow-up and staffing we largely achieve our objectives. The campus premises are energy-efficient, function well and maintain a high standard. We are environmentally aware and contribute towards long-term sustainable social development.
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