

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

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Foreword by the Vice-Chancellor

Multiple perspectives throughout the year

The past year has presented a variety of perspectives and even the occasional surprise. The year began with our visit to South Africa together with thirteen other Swedish higher education institutions as part of the South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF) project. Though we were basically on the opposite side of the planet, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Tshwane University of Technology (and an alumna of Umeå University) Vatiswa Papu-Zamxaka and I realised that our universities share many of the same challenges. This was also apparent in the autumn when the University arranged its Research & Innovation week within MIRAL, a collaboration among eleven Swedish and nine Japanese universities. Our worlds are not so different, despite being separated by long distances and coming from different cultures. Experiencing this really does provide perspective on life.

Our own conference series, Perspectives, also exemplified this theme. Over the year, the series had nine events in the form of podcasts, webinars and conferences centred around societal transformation. The concluding conferences consisted of a scientific seminar and an open conference with representatives from the Swedish Police Authority, the county administration, the forestry sector, journalists, trade unions, academia, the environmental movement, politics, regional health authorities, the business community, industry and others. This breadth was essential for shedding light on societal transformation from as many perspectives as possible, and the reports from the events were unanimous - the conference expanded our knowledge base.

Another perspective on societal transformation in the north is the issue of access to talent and skills. During the year, Umeå University has educated many students at our campuses in Umeå but has also launched a new education for vocational teachers in Skellefteå. The University has also started programmes both for nurses and midwives that students can participate in remotely and with the potential for practical training in the students' hometowns. This is a vital component in creating a vibrant region with the potential for growth. Somewhat paradoxically, however, we sometimes have difficulty filling new programmes with students. The strong labour market absorbs potential students, and those relocating to northern Sweden come because of job opportunities in industry and not

for the opportunity to receive a university education. This is a perspective on societal transformation that perhaps not everyone is aware of.

Unfortunately, it is unavoidable to mention all conflicts the world is facing, which were more numerous at the end of the year than when it began. New and deep wounds are being cut between people and regions. Wounds so deep that they require not just medical care, but also diplomacy, knowledge and research to heal. Human progress and finding new ways of living together require sharing our own perspective and learning from the perspectives of others.

On a hopeful note, over the year we received several large donations from foundations and individuals who, like me, are convinced that all the fantastic people we educate and all the new research we are conducting will make the planet a better place for everyone.

And with that, I will close with my personal perspective - that it is never too late to make the world a better place. Even when we experience setbacks around us and are surprised when politicians make decisions related to the details of our work, such as abbreviating the term of office for the University's external board members, we must never lose faith that new knowledge and new research are crucial for developing society and making the world a better place.

It all begins here, at Umeå University, but also at other universities, including Tshwane University of Technology in South Africa. All of us at universities around the world are creating a better future through education and research. This is something we must never forget. New knowledge but also new, well-educated citizens are needed, perhaps now more than ever before.



A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, flowing 'H' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Hans Adolfsson
Vice-Chancellor

Table of contents

About Umeå University	3
Summary	4
Significant information	6
Events this year	7
Financial reporting.....	11

About Umeå University

Founded in 1965, Umeå University is a broad university conducting research and education in the fields of medicine, natural sciences and technology, social sciences, arts and humanities, and educational sciences.

The University is characterised by its traditions and stability and by change and innovation. Our cohesive campus promotes a dynamic and open culture with a strong sense of community. As a knowledge-driven organisation, Umeå University strives to provide students and staff with optimal opportunities for learning and development, while at the same time providing society with new knowledge and creative citizens.

Umeå University offers over 150 degree programmes and 1,800 courses. Of these, over 40 programmes and 450 courses are taught entirely in English. A common thread throughout all of our courses and programmes is the quality of our teachers and how closely research, education, collaboration and innovation are integrated.

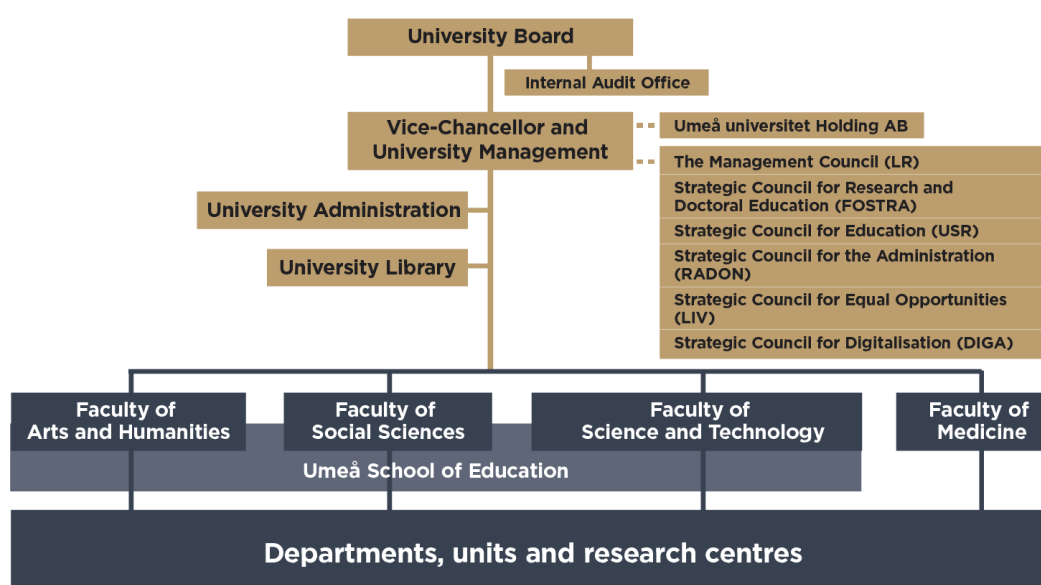
Umeå University has a rich heritage of interdisciplinary collaboration stretching back to the founding of the University. This is readily apparent in many of the University's most successful research environments.

Many of the University's over 2,000 researchers work at a high national and international level, with access to the best possible equipment and

research infrastructure. Researchers at Umeå University are helping to push the frontier of research forward in a range of scientific disciplines. Umeå University is also the place where the groundbreaking CRISPR-Cas9 gene-editing tool was discovered, starting a revolution in genetic engineering and earning Emmanuelle Charpentier the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

The University's departments and units are organised under four faculties: Arts and Humanities, Medicine, Science and Technology, and Social Sciences. The faculties have 39 departments, six of which are schools and institutes, and there are 19 centres and 16 units. The faculties, the University Administration and Umeå University Library all provide important support functions to the departments, units, centres, schools and institutes providing education and research.

Meeting the changing demands and expectations of the outside world and driving the transition to a sustainable society are key missions for Umeå University. The University is also focused on helping to achieve the sustainable development goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda and the climate goals of the Paris Agreement. We are doing this by educating and informing the next generation of students and decision-makers and through research on sustainability issues that will provide innovations and solutions.



Summary

In 2023, Umeå University maintained its position as the country's fifth largest university in terms of the number of first-time applicants to degree programmes. There continues to be great interest in higher education, even more than during the pandemic, both nationally and at Umeå University. To meet society's specific need for skills and expertise, Umeå University offers one of Sweden's largest selection of vocational training programmes and is authorised to award degrees in the largest number of fields. Umeå University has long been among the most popular universities nationally for distance education in terms of the number of applicants, and in recent years the proportion of full-time equivalent students in distance education at Umeå University has continued to increase.

In 2023, Umeå University strengthened its international efforts in line with the EU's European Universities Initiative. Unfortunately, the application to form the AcrossEU alliance within this initiative did not receive funding in 2023, but the assessment of the alliance's application received high points. During the year, the University also approved a special initiative to recruit international students during the period 2023–2025 with a focus on Europe. The number of fee-paying students continued to grow in 2023, and last year's record was broken with a new record of 220 full-time equivalents.

Umeå University awards three types of bachelor's and master's degrees: general degrees, professional degrees and fine, applied and performing arts degrees, and all types of degrees have increased in number in 2023 compared to the previous year. The University will likely be relatively close to achieving the Government's target for the total number of degrees awarded in the teacher, preschool teacher and healthcare programmes during the period 2021–2024. As of 2023, 72 per cent of the target has been achieved with a quarter of the period remaining.

The University has prioritised issues related to the volume of bachelor's and master's education and the fact that it has not achieved its funding agreement targets for the past six years. Together with the faculties and the Umeå School of Education, several measures were taken that

seem to have yielded results as the number of full-time equivalents did not decrease to the same extent as the previous year. In 2023, the University had the equivalent of 18,358 full-time equivalents, which is a decrease of 0.3 per cent compared with 2022. For the year, compensation for completed bachelor's and master's education fell short of the allocated budget framework from the Government by SEK 60 million. This led to a decrease of direct government funding for bachelor's, adversely affecting the financial result for 2023.

The number of active doctoral students continued to increase in 2023. For the year, the University had 999 active doctoral students, the highest number since 2016. The number of awarded doctoral degrees also increased to pre-pandemic levels. The number of newly admitted doctoral students increased compared with 2021, which is the most recent comparable year, as the Faculty of Arts and Humanities only admits doctoral students every other year. In 2023, the first university-wide doctoral student day was organised together with the doctoral student sections of the student unions. The evaluations of the day show that the participants were satisfied; among respondents, all recommended the doctoral student day for colleagues.

Throughout the year, the work of university researchers and teachers was recognised through the award of research grants, donations, prizes and awards. These include the prestigious ERC Advanced Grant to Professor Ludvig Edman and the appointment of André Mateus and Nicolò Maccaferri as Wallenberg Academy Fellows, which is the largest private investment in early-career researchers in Sweden. During the year, the University also received a combined donation of SEK 40 million from the Fort Knox Charity and the Olsson and Olsson Charity Foundation. The donation was given to research into the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS).

In total, Umeå University received SEK 1.3 billion in research grants in 2023, which is at the same level as in 2022. In 2023, income from grants for research and doctoral education increased by 4.6 per cent compared with the previous year.

Another important metric of the University's research activity is the number and impact of scholarly publications. As seen in previous years, there is always a late reporting of publications. Considering natural annual variation in the number of publications, the total number of author fractions per year was relatively stable during the period 2019–2021. A certain decline was seen in 2022. It should also be noted that the University's average author fraction per publication dropped moderately but steadily each year during the tracked publication period.

Broad research strategic discussions at the University allowed a number of important areas to be prioritised. One of these is the wide-ranging university-wide process used as the basis of the University's strategic initiatives in high-quality research. This process led to an investment of just over SEK 50 million for the period 2024–2029 in three prioritised research areas with high international quality and clearly connected to societal benefits. The three areas deal with learning and brain plasticity throughout the life span, mastering microbial infections, and plant science for a sustainable green transformation of the Subarctic. Another prioritised area during the year is focused on strengthening the University's culture of quality. To this end, a policy for quality assurance and enhancement has been approved to provide guidance for quality assurance procedures within research at all levels of the University.

Collaboration is an integral part of research and education at Umeå University and occurs where it strengthens the knowledge development at the University while offering added value and expanding knowledge and expertise for our collaborating partners. In 2023, the University's knowledge and expertise were shared and made accessible through education, popular science lectures, publications, contract education, contract research, innovation processes and employees who served as experts in various contexts, to name a few areas.

Umeå University has been increasing the number of employees for several years. The average number of full-time equivalents was 3,922 in 2023. This is an increase of 90 full-time equivalents compared with the previous year. Increases occurred in many job categories, led by post-doctoral appointments, lecturers and technical and administrative staff. The percentage of female professors has been relatively stable over time at 33 per cent but increased to 35 per cent in 2023. For the period 2021–2023, the Government's goal was for Umeå University to reach a gender balance among newly recruited professors of 54 per cent women. The total proportion of newly recruited women for the period amounted to 45 per cent, which means that the University was unsuccessful in achieving the recruitment target for the period as a whole. Another Government goal for the University for the period 2021–2024 is for assistant professors to be two per cent of all research and teaching staff. The proportion of assistant professors continued to increase, from 3.0 per cent in 2022 to 3.9 per cent in 2023. In 2023, the percentage of teachers with doctorates also increased among research and teaching staff.

The University's total absence due to sick leave was 3.1 per cent, which is somewhat lower than the previous year. The decrease occurred in all age groups and both sexes.

To conclude, Umeå University had continued to work toward the adopted goal of the University Board to utilise all available resources for conducting high-quality education and research. Several measures were taken in the last year to achieve this goal and the annual change in capital of SEK –186 million is likely a result of these measures. Bachelor's and master's education reported a deficit of SEK –79 million while research and doctoral education reported a deficit of SEK –107 million. All in all, this reduced the University's agency capital to SEK 817 million at the end of 2023.

Significant information¹

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Education and research					
Total full-time equivalents – students ²	17,585	17,699	18,004	17,476	16,748
Cost per full-time equivalent (SEK thousand)	130.2	111.8	106.2	103.2	103.7
Total number annual performance equivalent ²	14,557	14,643	15,325	14,693	14,083
Cost per annual performance equivalent (SEK thousand)	157.3	135.1	124.8	122.8	123.4
Total fee-paying students (FTE) ³	220	194	179	166	156
Total newly admitted doctoral students	151	196	141	200	164
– of which, women/men (%)	51/49	58/42	52/48	59/41	48/52
Total doctoral students with some form of activity	999	977	903	885	830
– of which, women/men (%)	56/44	56/44	52/48	53/47	51/49
Total doctoral studentships (FTEs)	524	531	465	473	415
– of which, women/men (%)	56/44	55/45	54/46	52/48	52/48
Total doctoral students with doctoral grant (FTEs)	0	0	0	0	0
– of which, women/men (%)	–	–	–	–	–
Average programme length for licentiate degrees ^{5, 6}		–	–	6.0	6.2
Average programme length for doctoral degrees ⁵		8.2	8.2	8.0	8.1
Total doctoral degrees ²	127	98	121	118	144
– of which, women/men (%)	51/49	45/55	51/49	46/54	49/51
Total licentiate degrees	2	0	2	6	9
– of which, women/men (%)	50/50	–	0/100	33/67	56/44
Total number peer-reviewed scholarly publications ⁸	1,098.5	1,186.8	1,249.2	1,240.7	1,235.2
Cost per peer-reviewed scholarly publication (SEK million)	2.8	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.1
Staff					
Total full-time equivalents – employees	3,922	3,832	3,704	3,596	3,528
– of which, women/men (%)	55/45	54/46	54/46	53/47	53/47
Average number of employees	4,559	4,372	4,211	4,121	4,035
– of which, women/men (%)	55/45	55/45	55/45	54/46	54/46
Total number of teachers (FTEs)	1,645	1,526	1,475	1,452	1,426
– of which, women/men (%)	49/51	48/52	48/52	47/53	45/55
Percentage of teachers with a doctorate (FTEs)	1,406	1,346	1,319	1,300	1,281
– of which, women/men (%)	46/54	46/54	46/54	45/55	44/56
Number of professors (FTEs)	312	308	299	303	299
– of which, women/men (%)	33/67	33/67	33/67	32/68	31/69
Finances					
Total revenue (SEK million), of which	5,159	4,977	4,823	4,645	4,505
bachelor's and master's education (SEK million)	2,211	2,135	2,136	2,014	1,937
– percentage direct government funding (%)	78%	80%	81%	81%	82%
– percentage from external revenue (%)	22%	20%	19%	19%	18%
research and doctoral programmes (SEK million)	2,948	2,841	2,687	2,631	2,568
– percentage direct government funding (%)	48%	49%	52%	52%	51%
– percentage from external revenue (%)	52%	51%	48%	48%	49%
Total costs (SEK million), of which	5,344	5,001	4,721	4,541	4,470
– percentage staff	63%	64%	66%	64%	62%
– percentage premises ⁷	10%	9%	9%	10%	10%
Premises costs ⁴ per m ² (SEK)	2,224	2,022	1,999	2,090	1,977
– percentage of adjusted total costs (%)	10%	10%	10%	11%	11%
Balance sheet total (SEK million), of which	3,429	3,515	3,509	3,151	2,869
– unused grants	1,203	1,192	1,149	1,015	922
– annual change in capital	–186	–24	101	105	35
– agency capital (incl. annual change in capital)	817	1,001	1,023	921	816
i) in bachelor's and master's education	391	469	493	433	382
i) in research and doctoral programmes (SEK million)	405	512	512	471	418

² Excluding contract education and contracted courses.

³ Excluding contracted courses.

⁴ Reported in accordance with SUHF's recommendations on premises costs in the part related to the compilation of premises costs; see Appendix 2 for the recommendations (REK 2014:1, Reg. No. 14/069).

⁵ Semesters. Information for 2023 had not yet been reported when statistics were retrieved from Statistics Sweden.

⁶ There are fewer than six degrees, so this information is not included in statistics retrieved from Statistics Sweden.

⁷ According to the income statement.

⁸ Refers to author fractions. Data for 2023 is preliminary. Data for 2019–2022 has been updated due to a backlog in registration of publications.

EVENTS THIS YEAR



Prestigious grant from ERC

During the year, Professor Ludvig Edman, Department of Physics, was awarded an ERC Advanced Grant. He will develop his research on technologies behind a new type of extremely thin and flexible light source, LEC. André Mateus at the Department of Chemistry and André Nyberg at the Section of Physiotherapy under the Department of Community Medicine and Rehabilitation were awarded a 2022 ERC Starting Grant aimed at promising early-career researchers.

Photo: Mattias Pettersson

Major donations for ALS research

The Umeå-based Fort Knox Charity Foundation and Olsson and Olsson Charity Foundation have each donated SEK 20 million to Umeå University's research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as ALS.

"This amazingly generous donation amplifies Umeå University's already strong ALS research," says Hans Adolfsson, Vice-Chancellor of Umeå University.

In addition, Karin Forsberg and Per Zetterström, both from the Department of Medical Biosciences, received research grants from the recently established Börje Salming ALS Foundation, which awarded SEK 6.3 to Swedish ALS research.



Photo: Freepik, Layout Inhousebyrå, Umeå University

Nine events with different perspectives

Over the course of the year, from 8 March to 1 December, nine events were held as part of the conference and event series "Perspectives". This is a new forum where researchers, decision-makers, the interested public, media and civil society organisations can meet to highlight different perspectives on relevant subjects. This year's theme was "Societal transformation in the

North". Events included seminars, a podcast with a live audience, and a larger two-day concluding event with both an academic meeting and a meeting open to the public.

"Knowledge is often acquired in interaction with others. 'Perspectives' is to be a forum where we can meet each other face-to-face," says Dieter Müller, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Umeå University.

Virginia Dignum appointed to UN advisory body on AI

In autumn 2023, Professor Virginia Dignum at the Department of Computing Science, was appointed to the UN's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. Virginia Dignum is the only Swedish member of the 38-member body tasked with providing advice and proposing solutions for the governance and management of AI at the global level. The body's

members come from different scientific fields and backgrounds.

"I'll be working to ensure this advisory body conducts balanced debates on AI's opportunities and challenges, without fear-mongering or down-playing of opportunities and challenges," says Virginia Dignum.



Cathrine Norberg new Deputy Vice-Chancellor

On 1 January 2023, Cathrine Norberg became Umeå University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for bachelor's and master's education. In taking the position, she returns to the University where she began her academic career.

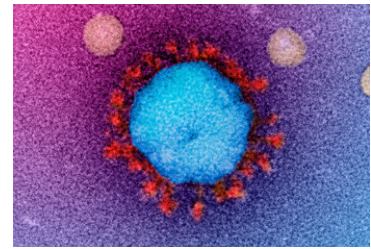
"Being responsible for educational matters is a position that suits me well. I'm passionate about the topic and am very interested in

quality and collaboration issues, which are closely related," says Cathrine Norberg.

She is a professor of English and has had leading positions at Luleå University of Technology and national assignments within teacher training.

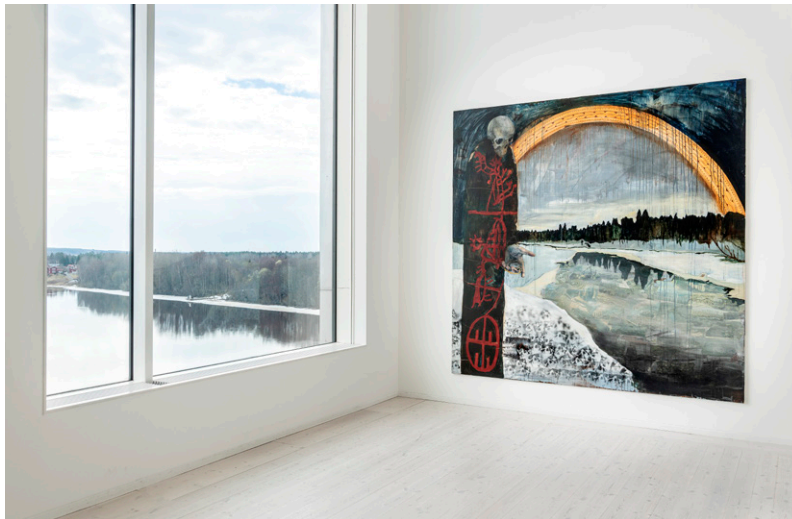


Photo: Mattias Pettersson



Record-sized study of post-COVID arrhythmia

A new study from Umeå University shows that COVID-19 can increase the risks of arrhythmia, such as fibrillation, for up to six months after infection. There was a twelve times higher risk in the first month, and this risk continued to be high for two months. Older patients, patients with severe COVID-19, and unvaccinated patients had a higher risk. The findings were published in the *European Heart Journal Open*.



Anders Sunna's painting and the river landscape outside Bildmuseet's window.
Photo: Mikael Lundgren, Bild i Norr, Umeå, Sweden

Contemporary art in the Arctic

In the major exhibit *Down North*, Bildmuseet presented works by thirty contemporary artists from Canada, Denmark, Faeroe Islands, Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and the United States, along with artists from Sápmi and other Indigenous nations in the Arctic. The exhibition traced shared experiences within Arctic regions through a wide range of works of art in different media.

The exhibit reflected novel affinities and chasms within societies and among nations in the North Atlantic. The exhibit and Bildmuseet were the natural back-

drop for Arctic Forum 2023, where researchers, decision-makers, the public and the business community discussed sustainable development from an Arctic perspective. The exhibit included a rich programme of panel discussions and lectures with artists and researchers on Indigenous issues, societal transformation in the north, climate change and other contemporary challenges in the Arctic regions. *Down North* was the result of a multi-year collaboration among Bildmuseet (Sweden), Portland Museum of Art (USA) and Reykjavik Art Museum (Iceland).



Surprising discovery linked to photosynthesis

Plants supply us with oxygen through photosynthesis. Researchers at the Department of Plant Physiology have discovered that when times are difficult, conifers use oxygen instead of producing it. The findings, published in *Nature Communications*, surprised the international research group.

"I thought something was wrong with the instruments," says researcher Tatyana Shutova, at Umeå Plant Science Centre.

Interdisciplinary IceLab receives grant for excellence in research

Umeå University's IceLab has been awarded SEK 30 million in the Swedish Research Council's new excellence in research initiative. The grant is to be used for research on what happens when living systems are put under stress, such as how plants handle drought or bacteria adapt to new environments.

Distance-based Occupational Therapy Programme attracts new groups

In preparation for the autumn 2023 semester, the campus-based Occupational Therapy Programme was refashioned into a distance-learning programme. The success of the change was seen in the significantly increased number of applicants (469 per cent) and with applicants from throughout the country. It is worth noting that the number of applicants from the northern region, including inland areas, was high and there was a large distribution of age groups and backgrounds among applicants.



Royal Jubilee Medal

A Jubilee banquet was held when Carl XVI Gustaf celebrated 50 years on the throne. At the banquet, Professor Lars-Erik Edlund was awarded the Jubilee Medal, which was created specifically for the occasion. In connection with the royal visit to Umeå, the professor also held a well-received lecture on the town square.

Photo: Per Melander



New board chaired by Anna Ekström

On 1 May, the former Minister of Education, Anna Ekström,

became the chair of the University Board. In connection with the appointment, the Government announced that the board's term of office would be shortened, a move both questioned and criticised by the Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF). The new board's term of office now ends on 30 September 2024. In addition to the new chair, there are also six new members of the board:

- Sandra Finér, Master of Engineering from Chalmers University of Technology;
- Sverker Sörlin, Professor of Environmental History at KTH Royal Institute of Technology;
- Kenneth Ruud, Professor of Theoretical Chemistry and Director General of the Norwegian Defence Research Establishment; and
- Eva Malmström Jonsson, Professor of Coating Technology and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

Photo: Mattias Pettersson



Lotta Isaksson, Amanda Vikström and Peter Johansson studying in the Skellefteå campus library. Photo: Patrick Degerman

New teacher programme in Skellefteå – important for societal transformation

On 18 January, Umeå University started a vocational teacher programme in Skellefteå. The programme is strategically important for both Skellefteå municipality and the entire region's access to talent and skills since there is a severe shortage of vocational teachers in the region.

"The establishment of a vocational teacher programme in Skellefteå is

very positive and important in our efforts to ensure access to talent and skills in Skellefteå municipality. The fruitful partnership between Skellefteå and Umeå has led to an increased presence of Umeå University in Skellefteå, which is very encouraging," says Kristina Sundin-Jonsson, Director of Communications at Skellefteå municipality.



Research and innovation week MIRAI 2.0 in Aula Biologica. Photo: Mattias Pettersson.

Enthusiastic participation in Swedish-Japanese research and innovation week

In November, Umeå University hosted the research and innovation week MIRAI 2.0, with over 230 researchers, students and university leaders from Sweden and Japan. The theme of the conference was “Creating Resilient and Sustainable Societies”. Umeå University and Kyushu University were appointed the new coordinating institutions, taking over responsibility from the University of Gothenburg and Nagoya University.

“At Umeå University, we are proud of the confidence shown in us to

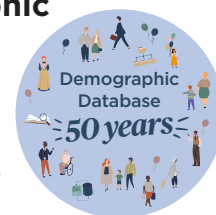
coordinate MIRAI for the 2024-2026 period. This is the largest collaboration between Sweden and Japan of its kind, and we look forward to continuing to lead the project together with Kyushu University and all the partner universities. I’m convinced that MIRAI will generate new findings useful in the future and will encourage participation in the collaboration,” says Katrine Riklund, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Umeå University with special responsibility for research and doctoral education.

Decentralised educational programmes for a vibrant northern Sweden

Umeå University was one of five higher education institutions to participate in the Government’s initiative on decentralised health sciences education. The first such education was the decentralised nursing programme that began in autumn 2023 in Dorotea, Lycksele, Malå, Norsjö, Sorsele, Storuman, Vilhelmina and Åsele. The purpose is to improve access to nurses within the health and medical care system in southern Lapland.

In autumn 2024, Umeå University, as the only higher education institution in the country, will also start a decentralised mid-wife programme. This will be offered in Gällivare and Luleå in Norrbotten, in Umeå, Skellefteå and Lycksele in Västerbotten, in Sundsvall and Örnsköldsvik in Västernorrland, and in Östersund in Jämtland-Härjedalen.

Demographic Database celebrates 50 years



During the year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Umeå University’s first major research infrastructure, the Demographic Database (DDB). With the establishment of the database in 1973, the University entered an entirely unexplored area: using information-rich Swedish parish registers to build population databases for research. This was a pioneering effort that had a major impact, both nationally and internationally. Since 2015, the database has been a part of the Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research (CEDAR) at Umeå University.

Unique bachelor’s programme in philosophy and AI established

In 2023, the University established a bachelor’s programme in philosophy and artificial intelligence. This is a customised multidisciplinary programme aimed at scientific, ethical and political perspectives of artificial intelligence. Currently, no other Swedish university offers this type of education.

Two Umeå researchers named Wallenberg Academy Fellows

Nicolò Maccaferri, Assistant Professor at the Department of Physics, and André Mateus, Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry, were appointed Wallenberg Academy Fellows by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. They were awarded grants that provide both researchers funding for five years.

Financial reporting

Economic overview

The following is a summary of the University's income, costs and change in capital for 2023 compared with the period 2019–2022. Umeå University's income increased by 14.5 per cent during the period 2019–2023, while during the same period costs increased by 19.6 per cent. In 2023, revenues increased by SEK 182 million (+3.7 per cent) compared with 2022, while costs increased by SEK 344 million (+6.9 per cent). Increased costs are primarily a result of measures taken by the University to ensure that all available resources are utilised every year, although they are also a consequence of increased operating costs with increasing expenses caused by inflation in 2023 and increased staff costs resulting from more employees and increases in salaries.

Table 47: Income statement for the period 2019–2023, SEK million.

Economic summary, Umeå University in total	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Income</i>					
Direct government funding	2,894	2,993	3,135	3,115	3,153
Fees, remuneration	620	614	654	690	735
Grants	989	1,037	1,033	1,152	1,190
Financial income	2	1	0	18	80
Total income	4,505	4,645	4,823	4,977	5,159
<i>Costs</i>					
Staff	2,765	2,913	3,094	3,199	3,377
Premises	458	463	447	471	529
Other operating costs	1,019	955	972	1,105	1,189
Financial costs	5	1	1	6	23
Depreciations	223	208	207	220	226
Total costs	4,470	4,541	4,721	5,001	5,344
Operating result	+35	+105	+101	–24	–186
Annual change in capital	+35	+105	+101	–24	–186

Income from direct government funding accounts for the largest percentage of revenue (61 per cent), which is a 2 per cent decrease year over year. Income increased by SEK 38 million for 2023 (+1.2 per cent) compared with the previous year. The increase was the result of state indexing both for bachelor's and master's education and for research and doctoral education. In 2023, no new educational or research initiatives were approved by the Government for Umeå University. Income from direct government funding included reduction of SEK 60.0 million since the University was unable to spend the allocated budget for bachelor's and master's education.

Income increased by SEK 38 million for 2023 (+3.3 per cent) compared with the previous year (2022: +11.5 per cent), meaning the percentage of total income remains unchanged: 23 per cent. In 2023, grant income in research and doctoral education did not increase as much as in the previous year, but it should be noted that the increase in 2022 was unusually high. In comparison, grant income increased between 2019 and 2021 by +4.4 per cent. Grant income within bachelor's and master's education decreased from 2022 to 2023.

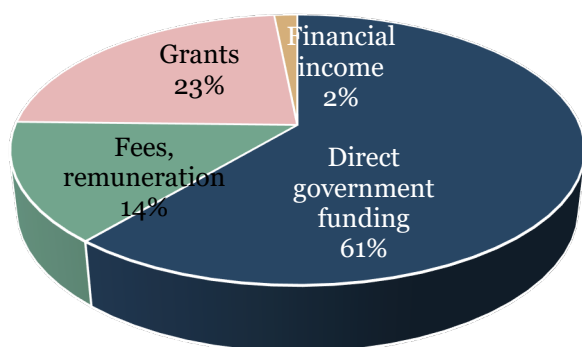


Diagram 13: Division of revenue 2023, per cent.

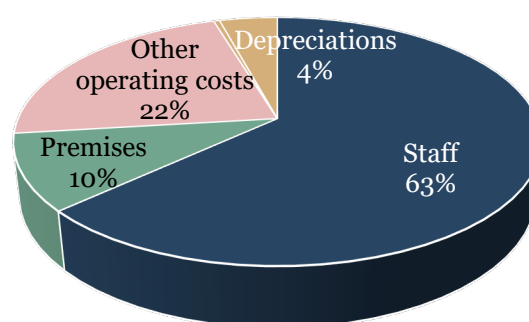


Diagram 14: Division of costs 2023, per cent.

Staff costs account for the largest percentage of costs, although the percentage continues to decrease (–1 per cent compared with 2022), despite increased staff costs by SEK 178 million (+5.6 per cent) year over year (2022: +3.4 per cent). This is largely due to salary increases and an increase of 90 full-time equivalent employees or +2.3 per cent (2022: +128 FTEs or 3.5 per cent). Other types of cost remain at unchanged percentage levels year over year. Between 2022 and 2023, operating costs increased by SEK 84 million (+7.6 per cent). The percentage increase is roughly the same in both areas of operation. Premises costs increased by SEK 58 million (+12.3 per cent), which is a higher increase than in previous years. This is mainly attributable to high inflation impacting the consumer price index, which led to higher rents in rental agreements, but also to cost increases for electricity, district heating and district cooling.

Annual change in capital

The result for 2023 amounts to a deficit of SEK 186 million (2022: –24 million). This is equivalent to –3.5 per cent of total costs in 2023 (2022: –0.5 per cent).

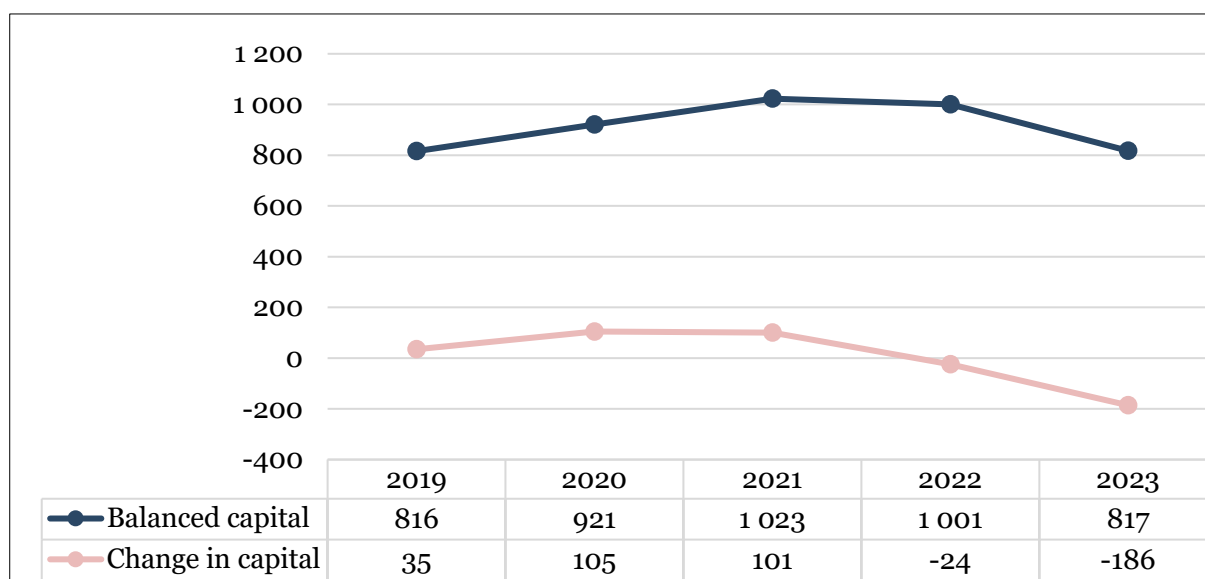


Diagram 15: Changes in capital during the period 2019–2023, SEK million.

It is the stated goal of the University Board that, as far as possible, the University should utilise all available resources each year to conduct high-quality education and research. Several measures have been taken over recent years to ensure that this goal is achieved. In April 2021, the University Board adopted the focus and scope for *Initiatives intended to support research and education* (totalling SEK 315 million for the period 2021–2025). The conducted follow-up after 2023 shows that all activities are ongoing and that the accumulated proportion of funds used has increased over time, which has contributed to the negative change in capital over the past two years. Another ongoing initiative (2020–

2024) is the research investment of a total of SEK 135 million that the Vice-Chancellor approved in 2020. The Vice-Chancellor also decided that, from and including 2019's results, annual surpluses of agency capital above a certain level per branch of operation will be reclaimed from faculties, the Umeå School of Education, University Administration and Umeå University Library. In all likelihood, this year's reduction in capital of SEK –186 million is the result of these measures.

Bachelor's and master's education had a deficit of SEK –78.6 million, equivalent to –3.4 per cent of costs for this branch of operation. This deficit is entirely within state-funded education (–84.3 million) and is mainly due to the reduction in direct government funding caused by the University's underproduction of bachelor's and master's education in 2023. Contract education, on the other hand, reports a surplus of SEK +5.7 million. Every faculty and the Umeå School of Education reported deficits within bachelor's and master's education.

Research and doctoral education reported a deficit of –107.0 million, equivalent to –3.5 per cent of costs for this branch of operations. This deficit is split between SEK –96.9 million for state-funded research and doctoral education and SEK –10.2 million for contract research. The result for contract research is planned for and financed through the surplus accumulated over previous years. The faculties of Social Sciences, Medicine, and Science and Technology report deficits for research and doctoral education while the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Umeå School of Education report surpluses.

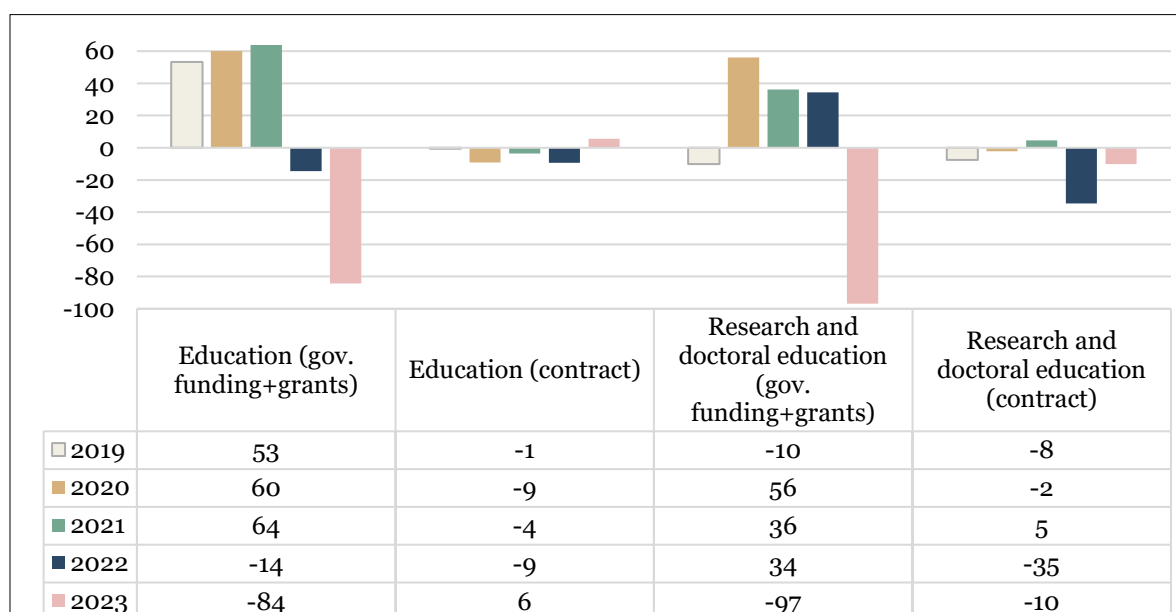


Diagram 16: Change in capital per branch of operation during the period 2019–2023, SEK million.

Balance sheet

The University's assets, equity and liabilities decreased by SEK 86 million in 2023 (2022: +5 million) and as of 31 December 2023 amounted to SEK 3,429 million. The University's interest account balance has decreased the most in terms of assets, and this year's change in capital has had the greatest impact in terms of equity and liabilities.

Unused grants amount to SEK 1,203 million, an increase of SEK 11 million compared with 2022. Agency capital had decreased to a total of SEK 817 million at the close of the year.

Financial tables

Income statement (SEK thousand)

		Result	Result
	Notes	2023-01-01– 2023-12-31	2022-01-01– 2022-12-31
Operating income¹			
Income from direct government funding	1	3,153,269	3,115,331
Income from fees and other remuneration	2	735,112	690,477
Income from grants	3	1,190,407	1,152,316
Financial income	4	80,002	18,394
Total		5,158,790	4,976,518
Operating costs²			
Staff costs	5	3,377,450	3,198,746
Costs for premises	6	529,092	471,056
Other operating costs	7	1,188,703	1,104,835
Financial costs	8	22,752	6,081
Depreciations and write-downs	9	226,454	219,817
Total		5,344,451	5,000,535
Operating result		–185,661	–24,017
Transfers			
Funds received from the central government budget to finance grants		39,557	39,022
Funds received from public authorities to finance grants	10	111,236	125,903
Other funds obtained to finance grants	11	70,397	61,080
Paid grants	12	–221,190	–226,005
Balance		0	0
Annual change in capital	13	–185,661	–24,017

¹ Operating income includes revenue related to the Ladok Consortium (see note 2).

² Operating costs include costs related to the Ladok Consortium (see notes 2 and 7).

Income statement per branch of operation (SEK thousand)

2023-01-01 – 2023-12-31

	Total (SEK thousand)	Bachelor's and master's education		Research and doctoral education	
		Bachelor's and master's education	Contract education	Research and doctoral education	Contract research
Operating income					
Income from direct government funding ¹	3,153,269	1,729,535	0	1,423,734	0
Income from fees and other remuneration	735,112	201,878	187,901	191,426	153,907
Income from grants	1,190,407	51,582	0	1,138,825	0
Financial income	80,002	39,784	4	40,156	58
Total	5,158,790	2,022,779	187,905	2,794,141	153,965
Operating costs					
Staff costs	3,377,450	1,365,510	58,674	1,878,603	74,663
Costs for premises	529,092	259,374	31,203	207,036	31,479
Other operating costs	1,188,703	391,567	87,896	652,411	56,829
Financial costs	22,752	11,048	21	11,654	29
Depreciations and write-downs	226,454	79,561	4,452	141,303	1,138
Total	5,344,451	2,107,060	182,246	2,891,007	164,138
Operating result	-185,661	-84,281	5,659	-96,866	-10,173
Transfers					
Funds from the central government budget to finance grants	39,557	0	0	39,557	0
Funds from public authorities to finance grants	111,236	22,454	0	88,782	0
Other funds obtained to finance grants	70,397	3,598	0	66,799	0
Paid grants	-221,190	-26,052	0	-195,138	0
Balance	0	0	0	0	0
Annual change in capital	-185,661	-84,281	5,659	-96,866	-10,173

¹ Income from direct government funding for bachelor's and master's education includes remuneration for ALF and TUA agreements.

Balance sheet (SEK thousand)

ASSETS	Notes	2023-12-31	2022-12-31
Intangible fixed assets			
Balanced expenditure for development	14	187,875	168,624
Rights and other intangible fixed assets	15	4,821	5,735
Total intangible fixed assets		192,696	174,359
Tangible fixed assets			
Expenditure for improving other's property	16	159,190	149,023
Machinery, inventory, installations, etc.	17	437,610	390,376
Total tangible fixed assets		596,800	539,399
Financial fixed assets			
Shares in wholly or partly owned companies	18	17,914	16,914
Total financial fixed assets		17,914	16,914
Inventory	19	2,025	2,102
Current receivables	20		
Receivables		38,485	43,703
Accounts receivable with other public authorities		132,101	103,885
Other current receivables		339	209
Total current receivables		170,925	147,797
Accruals and deferrals	21		
Prepaid expenses		154,639	147,671
Accrued grant income		215,693	207,547
Other accrued income		2,732	13,973
Total accruals and deferrals		373,064	369,191
Settlement with the state treasury	22	-143,825	-83,809
Cash and bank balances			
Balance in interest-bearing account with the Swedish Debt Office	23	2,218,047	2,348,241
Cash and bank balances	24	1,057	617
Total cash and bank		2,219,104	2,348,858
TOTAL ASSETS		3,428,703	3,514,811

Balance sheet, continued (SEK thousand)

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES	Notes	2023-12-31	2022-12-31
Agency capital	25		
State capital		21,363	19,900
Balanced change in capital		981,289	1,005,306
Change in capital as per income statement		-185,661	-24,017
Total agency capital		816,991	1,001,189
Provisions	26		
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations		33,395	30,652
Others provisions		31,943	33,134
Total provisions		65,338	63,786
Debts, etc.			
Loan with the National Debt Office	27	634,319	577,132
Other long-term liabilities		71	72
Current liabilities to other public authorities	28	124,480	118,327
Accounts payable	29	203,128	187,815
Other current liabilities	30	53,349	53,130
Total debts, etc.		1,015,347	936,476
Accruals and deferrals	31		
Accrued costs		246,337	222,946
Unused grants		1,203,262	1,192,131
Other prepaid income		81,428	98,283
Total accruals and deferrals		1,531,027	1,513,360
TOTAL CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES		3,428,703	3,514,811
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES			
Other contingent liabilities	32	SEK 44.8 million	SEK 46.5 million



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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