



Vision and strategies for 2020–2025

This is Umeå University

Umeå University is a strong higher education institution with a wide span of activities. The University is characterised by openness, collaboration and fresh thinking. Our unified campus encourages meetings between faculty, staff and students, the exchange of ideas and interdisciplinary co-operation. The closeness fosters a dynamic and open culture. We find pleasure in the success of others. We call it the Umeå University spirit.

Our students, faculty and staff broaden and enrich academia. They make us world-leading in several fields. Research findings add value and are utilised through innovations, novel services and patents. We are an attractive partner for collaboration, and are also perceived as one. We provide the Northern region, Sweden and the world with a well-educated workforce. The University actively takes advantage of its northern location in Sweden and in the Arctic region with its changeable environment, climate, culture and society. It provides us with unique opportunities to contribute with new knowledge.

Umeå University is the foremost resource for Sweden and the region by maintaining the highest quality in all our endeavours. We grow stronger by building upon what we have and by developing our ability to create, develop and share knowledge, not by continuing to grow. With the Umeå University spirit, and the academic values that characterise our University at the core, there is a genuine desire to change and constantly improve. We will continue to build our future upon that fundament.

Umeå University in the future

Umeå University takes responsibility for the future

Umeå University takes responsibility for a future society. The global societal challenges in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitute an incentive and inspiration for the questions we pose and for new knowledge we create, develop and spread. Through ethically grounded science-based knowledge, the University contributes to a society that is well equipped to meet current and future challenges, both globally and locally. Issues of sustainability are of particular importance.

One of Umeå University's most vital imprints on society is the diversity of students choosing to study here. With us, they gain the opportunity to develop their potential so that their post-graduation dreams can come true and in line with the Umeå University spirit they can distinguish themselves in the settings they join. We encourage these individuals as well as others to return to the University later in life to share their experiences and acquire new knowledge.

Systematic quality assurance activities enhance and permeate the organisation.

Joint development of knowledge

At Umeå University, science and education constantly move forward. Students, faculty and staff in all fields jointly generate new ideas and new knowledge. Research strengthens education. Education strengthens research. We function as a united force by using our resources efficiently and adequately. We have an inclusive culture characterised by equality, diversity and equal opportunities.



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Umeå University's broad subject knowledge in combination with our tradition of border-crossing collaborations provides advantages. Because of this, we can implement changes and contribute to fields we identify as particularly important.

Umeå University has close collaborations with strategically selected higher education institutions around the world. We have several deep and long-term relationships with the business and public sectors. Outreach and cooperation is conducted where it adds value to the outside world and where it strengthens and develops our own knowledge. By matching our strengths, challenges and needs with those of regional stakeholders, we continue to develop northern Sweden as a knowledge region.

Competitiveness and pride

Umeå University meets the increased demands of competitiveness brought on by globalisation. We have a strong position in Sweden and globally. Successful faculty and staff and motivated students choose Umeå University because of our academic and creative environment, the culture, infrastructure and high quality of education we offer. Security, trust and confidence creates the conditions for motivation and courage, and the risk-taking that is necessary for knowledge breakthroughs. The University develops knowledge based on science of the highest quality, which is reflected in our ability to attract the most promising students and researchers, obtain external funding, and through our impact within and outside the academic community. We invest in promising and novel environments that can take on urgent challenges to secure a sustainable future.

Our identity and visibility is created together with our successful faculty, staff, students and alumni. Umeå University is sought-after, and a confident player on national and international arenas. We have good networks and are influential in external organs where strategic topics are discussed and where decisions are made. Increased autonomy gives us the resourcefulness to make long-term and strategic priorities. We do so with forethought and boldness. We build upon our strengths.

Students, faculty, staff and collaborative partners contribute to our vision by ensuring that what we do tomorrow will be even better than what we do today.

We are Umeå University.



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The way forward for Umeå University

The vision of Umeå University is described in three main sections.

Umeå University takes responsibility for the future

Joint development of knowledge

Competitiveness and pride

The vision includes challenges and opportunities. In order to realise the vision, it is concretised through strategies and activities aimed at attracting, developing and creating good conditions for faculty, staff and students.

Umeå University can accomplish its vision by

- seeing diversity as an asset and by integrating equality into the planning, decision-making and implementation of the organisation
- developing our campuses to promote knowledge exchange and collaborations
- offering top-quality and attractive environments and infrastructures
- developing support and service that facilitate and contribute to cutting-edge research and education
- creating the prerequisites for leadership to keep advancing quality and to inspire faculty and staff to keep developing
- recruiting the most prominent and promising co-workers
- increasing our ability to participate in outreach activities – regionally, nationally and internationally
- offering education in areas where we conduct top-quality research
- ensuring that all teachers and researchers contribute to both research and education
- developing forms of education to meet different requirements
- facilitating cross-disciplinary collaborations
- integrating global sustainability goals across the University's activities and organisation.