For more than half a century, Umeå University has been evolving as the premier destination of higher education in northern Sweden. Throughout our proud history, we have remained committed to providing a world-class teaching and research environment that is characterised by excellence, innovation, openness and diversity.

By the year 2020, our vision is that Umeå University will hold a strong international position as one of Sweden’s leading universities, and that the University will have developed interaction between research, education, collaboration and innovation that challenges boundaries and plays a crucial role in the region’s development.

We strive to provide our students and staff with unique opportunities for professional and personal development, whilst simultaneously serving society with new knowledge, and creative citizens, both locally and globally.

It gives me great pleasure to wish you a warm welcome to Umeå University.

Hans Adolfsson,
Vice-Chancellor of Umeå University
EDUCATION FOR ALL

Umeå University offers a wide range of programmes and courses given on campus, off-site (distance), via the Internet or as summer courses.

We offer over 40 undergraduate and master’s degree programmes and over 450 courses with instruction language entirely in English in a wide range of academic fields, including science and technology, the social sciences, business, health and medicine, and the arts. In total, the University provides 150 study programmes and 1,800 courses.

At Umeå University we believe that the future of education lies in international cooperation. We have more than 900 established exchange agreements with universities in over 60 countries worldwide. Every year, we host around 2,000 international students, teachers and researchers. They bring new perspectives to our classrooms and help to make our campus a more exciting, creative and culturally diverse environment.

The University has eight different schools and institutes, where each gathers all programmes and courses in a specific occupational area under one roof. Among them you will find the Umeå Institute of Design, which has been ranked as the best design school in the world by the prestigious Red Dot and iF ranking. Another school worth mentioning is the Umeå School of Sport Sciences, whose status contributed to the decision by the Swedish Sport Federation, to appoint Umeå University as one of Sweden’s three national sports universities.

MOST SATISFIED STUDENTS IN EUROPE

Umeå University achieved a top-ranking in Europe for international student satisfaction in 2015. It’s also the fifth consecutive year it had the highest overall ranking in Sweden.

Source: International Student Barometer
UMEÅ UNIVERSITY IN NUMBERS

Umeå University is one of Sweden’s major universities. In 2015, the number of students were 30,957, including 29,852 at the undergraduate and graduate level and 1,105 students at the doctoral level.

Our campuses are constantly changing. New houses are being built and existing houses have been rebuilt. If you were to fill the total facility area of 241,508 square metres with football pitches, you would fit in almost 34 football pitches of international dimension!

Umeå University has over 900 exchange agreements with universities across the globe. We host approximately 1,500 international students, teachers and researchers from over 60 different nationalities every academic year. This brings new perspectives to our campus and helps make it a more exciting, creative and culturally diverse academic environment.

The University’s finances and operations are regularly monitored, and information about how we perform in relation to our national and international competitors is collected and analysed.
Research at Umeå University spans the fields of humanities, medicine, engineering and natural sciences, social sciences and science of education. Many of our more than 2,000 researchers belong to the top national and international research teams. The University’s research is characterised by high quality, confident risk-taking and a long-term perspective.

There are three priority areas of cooperation at Umeå University: Green Future, Applied IT and the Umeå Arts Campus. All of these are considered areas with eminent research results that also have great regional growth potential.

Characteristic of research at Umeå University is also the promotion of young researchers. The Young Researcher Award, a career grant, can be applied for by researchers up to ten years after earning their doctorate. So far, the University has invested around two million SEK each in 108 of our most promising researchers.

Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, together with her research team at Umeå University, co-discovered the CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing technology, which is revolutionising biomedical researchers’ ability to manipulate and understand genes.
OUR CAMPUSES

Campus Umeå
Inspired by a classic North American campus and designed by architect Hans Brunnberg, Campus Umeå is our largest campus and the place where it all began. On warm summer days it sometimes happens that people take a refreshing dip in the campus pond. In wintertime you can use the same pond for skating. Whatever the season, Ernst Nordin’s sculpture “Northern Lights” is present, as a reminder of the luminosity of our students, researchers and teachers. Campus Umeå gathers most of our research and education operations. Here you’ll also find the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).

Umeå Arts Campus
The Arts Campus is located next to the Ume River and close to central Umeå. In this area the Umeå Institute of Design and Umeå Academy of Fine Arts has been joined by the new and visually exciting Umeå School of Architecture. The creative programmes at the Arts Campus were supplemented in spring 2012 by the internationally acclaimed Bildmuseet museum of contemporary art, Humlab-X, a branch of Humlab digital humanities centre, and the cultural experimentation workshop and incubator Sliperiet.

Campus Skellefteå and Campus Örnsköldsvik
In the towns of Skellefteå and Örnsköldsvik we offer education mainly with regional content, both in the form of programmes and courses, full-time or at a slower pace. The programmes at Campus Skellefteå and Campus Örnsköldsvik are developed based on inventoried needs with local or regional affiliation.
Umeå University is looking ahead to a future where knowledge crosses all borders and boundaries. Our vision implies that by the year 2020, we will have a strong international position as one of Sweden’s leading universities. We have continued to develop our interaction between research, education, collaboration and innovation that challenges the boundaries and plays a central role in the development of the region.

The path towards our vision is to continue to be a university that makes it possible; a university that offers education for limitless knowledge and research that knows no boundaries. In practice, we focus on a number of specific objectives, including:

- High teacher competence
- Strong international perspectives
- Creative study and work environments
- Access to the best research infrastructures
- Research that meets society’s challenges

TOP-RANKED UMEÅ INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
Umeå Institute of Design has been ranked as the best design school in Europe and the world by Red Dot and iF, two of the most acclaimed international design awards.
Did you know that Umeå University became the fifth university in Sweden? The inauguration took place on 17 September 1965 and the ribbon was cut by the then King Gustaf VI Adolf. There were already medical and dental educations in Umeå, and in competition with the city of Härnösand the politicians took the decision to locate northern Sweden’s new university in Umeå, the “City of Birches”.

Today, Umeå University is Sweden’s fifth largest. The University is organised into four faculties – Arts, Medicine, Social Sciences, Science & Technology – which together are responsible for almost 50 departments, 20 research centres, and eight schools and institutes in different cities in the northern part of Sweden.

In 1965, about 2,000 people were studying at Umeå University. Today, the number of students, including doctoral level students, are over 30,000; more than 9,000 of those are enrolled in distance education. Over 2,100 teachers and researchers are employed by the University. In 2015, a total of 4,837 degrees were conferred, of which 174 were doctorates.