



Åbo Akademi University

**The Swedish-speaking
university**

Strategy 2021–2030



Mission

Åbo Akademi University is the Swedish-language multidisciplinary academic university in Finland. Åbo Akademi University implements its culture-bearing task by providing the surrounding world with high-level, multilingual, academic competence and professional expertise for the public sector, business life, industry and civil society organisations. Åbo Akademi University contributes to the society through general learning, education, new scientific knowledge and current expertise at both national and international levels. With campuses in Turku and Vaasa, Åbo Akademi University is a coherent university offering internationally renowned research and education. The activities of Åbo Akademi University are steered by the values of academic tradition in terms of the freedom of rese-

arch and education as well as ethical responsibility. Åbo Akademi University endeavours to enhance diversity, inclusion, equality and sustainability.

Vision for Åbo Akademi University 2030

Åbo Akademi University plays a significant role in international research and education for the benefit of a sound and sustainable living environment, especially within the shared Baltic Sea region. Åbo Akademi University carries out research and education to advance an inclusive and open society. The research contributes to resolving social challenges and meeting the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations. The education brings up ethically responsible citizens, researchers and professionals with appreciation for the shared living conditions of

human beings, animals and nature.

The focus in the study programmes at Åbo Akademi University is on the students' learning. While gaining broad competence and ability to think independently and reflectively, they also possess scientific literacy in fields outside of their own, and eagerly assume new knowledge at a high level. They are provided with skills for active engagement in the ever-changing future. Through cross-border collaboration, Åbo Akademi University serves as the gateway to Finland for

the Nordic countries. Successful research and education go hand in hand.

Focus area 1

Gateway to Finland for the Nordic countries

Åbo Akademi University will be the gateway to Finland for the other Nordic countries and the entire Baltic Sea region. Åbo Akademi University will collaborate with other players and engage in multifaceted and agile co-operation with the universities and institutions of higher education within the region. Åbo Akademi

University will enhance its visibility in the Nordic countries and profile itself as an active and responsible university that particularly cares for the positive and sustainable development of the entire Baltic Sea region.

Overall goal I

Bold visibility and presence in the Nordic countries

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- strategic collaboration with its Nordic partners: an increased number of joint & double degrees; an enhanced co-operative platform for working life relevancy and practical training within the degree programmes; a higher number of joint research applications and joint publications,
- recruiting of students from the entire Nordic and Baltic Sea region,
- broadening the recruitment base for the University's degree programmes: offering a range of studies that attract students from the other Nordic countries, as well as students with less study-oriented backgrounds and those with a native language other than Swedish, both nationally and internationally,

- enhanced research impact in the Nordic countries and within the Baltic Sea region: more citations and wider circulation of research results; involvement in research assessments at other educational institutions and research councils,
- increased demand for scientific competence provided by Åbo Akademi University within the areas of social development and international policy development.

Overall goal II

A hub for Nordic collaboration in Finland

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- national-level collaboration with the entire society and business life in Finland,
- increased Nordic research collaboration and financing,
- exchange programmes for teachers, researchers and other staff members as well as for students, and exchange of practical experiences in academic leadership, arranged jointly with the Nordic collaborative universities,
- promoting sustainable development and contributing to the global change.





Focus area 2

Akademic quality

Åbo Akademi University will be characterised by dynamic and innovative synergies between research and education. Research will be consistently linked with education in order to ensure that each study programme is based on versatile scientific knowledge. Correspondingly, education will be linked with research so as to provide the research with an educational and societal context. This involves strategic investments in research within the established and well-functioning fields of education and related applications. This may also involve investments in education-based research in subject areas with relevant educational needs. The education will provide broad general learning and scientific literacy, create a foundation for lifelong learning and

contribute to the implementation of the UN sustainable development goals.

Overall goal I

Successful research and education go hand in hand

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- research-based education,
- lifelong learning and increased working life contacts,
- collaboration across the faculty boundaries with a multidisciplinary approach,
- open science and advanced research communication,
- scientific collaboration with neighbouring universities, especially with the University of Turku and also with the universities based in Vaasa,
- together with students at Åbo Akademi University, building a positive culture of well-being and study progress, as well as involving students in problem formulation and research,
- strengthening the career opportunities for female teachers and researchers in the fields where they are clearly under-represented.

Overall goal II

Dimensions of knowledge and learning across the studies

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- creative and language-sensitive learning environments,
- reflective thinking, evidence-based knowledge and scientific literacy with integrated general competences as a cross-cutting element in all study programmes and scientific fields at Åbo Akademi University,
- digitalisation to provide students with a proper foundation for lifelong learning and success in working life,
- ensuring the high level of university pedagogical competence among the academic staff as well as the understanding of the basic conditions of the core activities among all members of staff.

Overall goal III

Dynamic and well-functioning profile areas within research

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- open recruitment processes at all levels, adequate infrastructure and research investments based on the quality, innovation potential and future outlooks of the research,

- opinion building based on reflection; awareness of equality and non-discrimination in terms of problem formulation and evaluation; internationally competitive postgraduate/doctoral studies,
- strategic research profiles, which must be broad and dynamic with a multidisciplinary approach, and developing study programmes linked with the research within the given profile. Preconditions for establishing a new research profile will be investigated. The currently existing profiles are:

1. **Solutions for Health** – in collaboration with the University of Turku
2. **Technologies for a Sustainable Future** – in collaboration with the University of Turku
3. **The Sea** – in collaboration with the University of Turku
4. **Minority Research**



- in consultation with the Åbo Akademi University Foundation, creating and maintaining the necessary prerequisites for well-functioning learning environments and research,
- increasing the proportion of externally funded projects: projects with funding from the EU, Nordforsk, RJ (Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) and ERC (European Research Council); engagement in European research networks and national Centres of Excellence and other spearhead research initiatives.

Focus area 3

Open, inspiring campuses

Within Åbo Akademi University, the campuses and learning environments will be attractive, accessible, boundary-breaking and open meeting points to facilitate scientific discourse, creativity and collaboration.

The campuses will contribute to developing the unique pedagogical form of the university while attracting students, teachers and researchers with different backgrounds and experiences from far and near.

Overall goal I

An environment for learning and knowledge that fosters curiosity and inspires new findings and global responsibility

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- accessible and flexible teaching facilities – both physical and digital – that invite, challenge and inspire students and

teachers to engage in dialogical search of knowledge across all boundaries,

- a multifaceted scientific library to facilitate open science and future learning and research,
- strategic coordination with the Åbo Akademi University Group, which will contribute to ensuring the provision of multifaceted education in Swedish and varied career paths for the students,
- international exchange programmes, openness and diversity.

Overall goal II

Functional and environmentally friendly campuses as forums for multifaceted joint productions

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- making our campuses into a living part of urban environment and a forum for activities created and produced jointly with the local cities, businesses and industry, cultural life, providers of education, as well as civil society organisations,
- cherishing relations with the alumni, working life partners, foundations, donors and other financing parties,
- consideration for diversity in terms of background and identity,
- educational collaboration with general and vocational upper secondary schools,

- collaboration with business life and other actors in the society for increased working life relevancy within the study programmes,

- dynamic, clearly defined, dialogical and long-term collaboration with the University of Turku, Turku University of Applied Sciences, Novia University of Applied Sciences and the neighbouring universities in Vaasa, as well as with the cities where our campuses are located, namely Turku and Vaasa.

Overall goal III

Genuinely multilingual environments

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- complementing the Swedish language with numerous other languages,
- planning the campuses with both the students' demands and the cultural values and environmental considerations as the starting points,
- active education and research collaboration with the cities where the campuses are located in terms of urban development, migration, democracy, education and environment,
- appropriate, modern, properly dimensioned and digitally well-considered support and service functions for successful education and research.

Focus area 4

Working place of the future

Åbo Akademi University will be an international workplace that recognises and utilises the knowledge and competences of the staff and students; an open environment where everyone can feel proud of the high standard of pedagogical and scientific discourse. Åbo Akademi University will be characterised by global responsibility and good leadership, smooth processes and well-functioning support systems for the activities of the university and the well-being of all individuals. Within Åbo Akademi University, equality, non-discrimination, inclusion, health, career paths, flexibility and responsibility are self-evident aspects of the dynamic environment for studies and work.

Overall goal I

Smooth, result-oriented and sustainable activities as well as responsible and communicative leadership and employeeeship

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

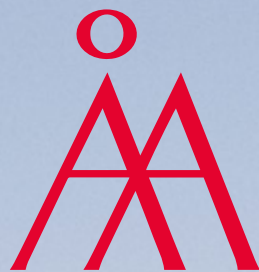
- strongly reduced environmental loading as well as the developing of general awareness of environmental issues and responsible ways of working, with due consideration of the environmental loading caused by the activities,
- increased internationalisation and competence development for employees in all fields,
- activities characterised by flexibility, effectiveness and sustainability,
- programmes in academic leadership and administrative knowledge for administrative staff,
- a sound organisation with clearly defined processes for conflict management,
- openness for active participation in national and international digital development projects as well as the smart planning and application of digital solutions for education, research, monitoring, support and strategic management,
- the UN sustainable development goals as the guiding principles for developing study and work environments.

Overall goal II

Established quality culture with an emphasis on evolution and renewal

In order to obtain this goal, Åbo Akademi University invests in

- transparent processes for preparation and decision-making,
- identification of knowledge and skills that contribute to a better study and work environment,
- openness and quality assurance throughout all operational processes,
- ensuring the preconditions for career and competence development and renewal within all fields,
- processes for the identification of bold and innovative proposals for improved working culture, health and environmental considerations,
- strategies for increased equality,
- international recruitment and affiliations, as well as recruiting of international visiting lecturers and researchers,
- ensuring that all students and members of staff can feel they are inspired, valued, safe and sound.



Åbo Akademi
University

Start
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