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Tampere University’s strategy 2030

Approved by the Board 10.2.2020
The values of Tampere University

Responsibility

Manifested in our communications, decision-making and the way we open our community up to society to highlight our scientific achievements and maximise our impact. Our mutual interaction is open-minded.

Openness

Manifested in our research, education, the way our community operates, and societal impact. We lead the way in sustainable development.

Critical thinking

Manifested in us challenging established truths and engaging in an appreciative and constructive dialogue. Constructive critical thinking drives creativity. Our operation is founded on the freedom of thought and expression and an atmosphere of trust.

Diversity

Manifested in our appreciation of different people, fields and traditions. We encourage cooperation and identifying new potential. Our foundation is laid on equality.

Learner-centredness

Manifested in us promoting learning and development potential. Our operation is driven by the learners’ best interests. Everyone learns in our community. Our aim is to evoke curiosity and a thirst for learning.

Courage

Manifested in our scientific and artistic ambitions both within individuals and the community. Appreciation for others encompasses all our actions.

Erudition - Bildung

Manifested in us promoting learning and development potential. Our operation is driven by the learners’ best interests. Everyone learns in our community. Our aim is to evoke curiosity and a thirst for learning.

Our values

Manifested in our passion to join forces to tackle the world’s most vicious problems. We feed inspiration for creating inventive and open-minded solutions.

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Building blocks of the strategy

The strategy *Impact through Integration* of Tampere Universities

Research and education strategies of Tampere Universities

**Strategy of Tampere Universities**

*Impact through integration*

We are working to solve society's major challenges and create new opportunities by

- linking pioneering research and innovation,
- promoting interdisciplinary education and life-long partnerships,
- generating unique expertise in industrial and public-sector implementation.

As an attractive higher education community, we will meet these long-term goals by

- strengthening the international networking culture and creating a digital campus,
- developing novel ways of working and crossing boundaries in all our endeavours,
- driving sustainable societal renewal in a measureable way.
OUR PURPOSE

We work together to build a sustainable world

• The new multidisciplinary Tampere University brings together research and education focusing on technology, health and society.

• Our collaboration with our partners is built on our strengths, unique combinations of disciplines and applied expertise.

• We develop solutions to tackle climate change, preserve the natural environment and improve the well-being and sustainability of societies.
Our work is based on a continuous pursuit of new knowledge and scientific breakthroughs.

**New areas emerging from fundamental research:**

- **THE FUTURE OF WELL-BEING**
- **SUSTAINABLE CITIES**
- **GAMIFICATION AND AUGMENTED REALITY**
- **REVOLUTION OF LIGHT AND IMAGE**
We explore novel solutions for improving health and well-being – guided by an in-depth understanding of changes in the societal landscape.

The ageing of the population means there will be fewer resources to accommodate the growing demand for services that support health and well-being. Social inequality and the growing number of high-risk individuals with multiple disadvantages increase the risk of social exclusion and threaten the balanced development of societies. The reinvention of health and well-being systems requires a broad knowledge base and the development of new intelligent operational models that bring together the civil society, the corporate world and the public sector.

Tampere University will introduce fresh thinking to promoting health and well-being by combining the possibilities opened up by technological advancement with basic research and our wide-ranging expertise in the areas of medicine, society, economics and management. The strengths of our multidisciplinary approach are already evident, for example, in the research we are carrying out in medical technology and gerontology.

Our research is paving the way for the implementation of new technologies and service systems in collaboration with our partners. We are looking to find universally applicable solutions to current challenges.
We create globally applicable and ecologically, socially and economically sustainable solutions for urban planning – with the growing city as our living lab.

A growing proportion of Finland’s population is living in urban areas. Sustainable urban development has a pivotal role in preserving our natural environment and safeguarding the future of our welfare state.

Breakthroughs that help conserve our natural resources are the key to achieving sustainability. Systemic change can only be achieved by integrating new technological solutions not only into the daily lives of people and organisations but also urban development policies. This will require technological and institutional compatibility and an in-depth analysis based on a breadth and depth of knowledge.

Tampere University possesses special expertise in urban development, organisational management, culture, the built environment, energy solutions, the digital transformation of industry, and environmental policy. Together with the City of Tampere we will create and implement new digital services and circular economy solutions as part of changing urban structures. We will drive local development that can be scaled up to global proportions.
We will harness the potential of gamification and augmented reality to address the greatest challenges facing humanity.

Gamification and augmented reality are embedded in virtually every aspect of modern life from child-rearing and education to work and health. The integration of game mechanics and extended reality into our daily lives helps to foster a sense of community, promote learning, increase productivity and well-begin and build motivation at both individual and organisational levels.

Tampere University possesses multidisciplinary expertise for developing and applying gamification in a variety of contexts. We are internationally recognised for the quality of our research in game cultures, the ethics of gaming, game-based learning, health games, simulations and augmented reality.

We create models, methods and technologies that facilitate the deployment of games, gamification and augmented reality to responsibly contribute to addressing the greatest challenges facing humanity. Our research and education contribute to the growth of innovation and business activities in this field.
We will develop technologies based on the manipulation of light and optical phenomena to reshape future societies.

Light-based technologies underpin many of the technologies upon which modern society relies, such as information processing, energy efficiency and imaging. In the future the sophisticated manipulation of light, new materials and machine vision technologies will pave the way for precise and non-invasive methods that will address yet new challenges for science, technology and society.

Tampere University coordinates the national Flagship on Photonics Research and Innovation (PREIN). We are also recognised as a leading university in signal processing and imaging, as well as in physics, materials science and mathematical modelling that support these fields.

Our basic research in light and image fuels the development of applications in medicine, smart traffic, intelligent machines and astronomy, among other things. Our research results open up new commercial opportunities that support the achievement of our ultimate goal – sustainable development.
Strategic actions

The actions that support the University strategy are especially focused on:

1. the scientific quality and impact of research,
2. the quality and impact of education,
3. increasing the University's international attractiveness and retention, and
4. tapping into the synergies offered by the Tampere Universities community.

Being a new university, we will implement a human resource programme during the contract period to strengthen our community and the well-being and expertise of our staff as well as take measures to build a University-wide organisational culture.
Scientific quality and impact of research

• We will improve the scientific quality of research.
  • We will undergo external assessments to identify and support world-class research activities.
  • We will integrate the principles of open and responsible science into our organisational culture.
  • We will invest in research infrastructures and make them openly available.

• Our collaborations are based on a combination of disciplines with a focus on technology, health and society.
  • The new knowledge stemming from our basic research efforts will allow us to tackle climate change, preserve the natural environment and improve the well-being and sustainability of societies.
  • As set out in our research strategy, we will launch 4-5 four-year research platforms that transcend disciplinary boundaries.
  • We will offer seed funding to the research platforms to support the planning and initiation of research projects in collaboration with international research groups and partners who will apply the research results in practice.

• We will diversify our research funding base and make a special effort to secure more EU funding.
  • We will improve the quality of grant proposals and actively seek the role of coordinator in collaborative projects.
  • We will increasingly seek to influence the EU’s research funding policies.

• Our people are our greatest asset in the pursuit of excellence in research.
  • We will help our researchers expand their competencies at the beginning and throughout their careers.

• We will maintain close ties with external stakeholders and the broader society.
  • We will involve companies and stakeholders in the different stages of research processes.
  • We will maintain research environments that facilitate collaboration between the University and private and public organisations.
Quality and impact of education

• We will reshape education.
  • We will strengthen the close relationship between research and teaching by ensuring that all our teachers are involved in research and vice versa. We will integrate research into teaching and learning.
  • We will establish degree programmes and study modules that allow students to explore and integrate a variety of disciplinary perspectives.
  • We will offer our students opportunities to steer their learning towards a career in research while pursuing bachelor’s and master’s degrees.
  • We will provide all students with a grounding in sustainable development and themes relating to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
  • We will help students develop their transferable skills and build connections with potential employers.
  • We will introduce alternative pathways for student admission.

• We will develop excellent services to support learning and teaching.
  • We will continue to develop academic guidance and counselling services to ensure our students are able to make effective academic progress and to increase graduation rates.
  • We will support the development of teachers’ professional identity and their pedagogical development and renewal.
  • We will develop open and digital learning environments.

• We will maintain close ties with external stakeholders and the broader society.
  • We will help close regional skills gaps by providing education through a network-style approach.
  • We will work with our stakeholders to develop a regional model for predicting future skills demands and shortages, and support continuous learning.
  • We will develop learning methods and instructional strategies to allow adult learners who are balancing study with work to flexibly pursue continuous learning.
  • We will encourage alumni to build lifelong connections with the University.
Increasing the University’s international attractiveness and retention

• We will promote internationalisation.
  • We will increase international recruitment with the help of the tenure track model.
  • We will support international mobility and collaboration among the members of our university community.
  • We will increasingly engage in international research collaborations. Together with other stakeholders, we will create a support system to facilitate the integration of foreign researchers and their families into Finnish society.
  • We will continue to improve the quality and attractiveness of international degree programmes. We will introduce more international bachelor’s degree programmes.
  • We will support international students’ integration into Finnish society by expanding our range of Finnish-language courses, helping them build contacts with potential employers and developing the existing service offerings in cooperation with the City of Tampere and other stakeholders.

• We will be active members of European university networks.
  • We will tap into the opportunities offered by international university networks to expand our research networks and develop teaching. We will assume an active role in selected university networks.
  • As a member of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities (ECIU), we will participate in a pilot project to develop an innovative new model of higher education in Europe.
Tapping into the synergies offered by the Tampere Universities community

• We will tap into the full pedagogical potential of our multidisciplinary higher education community.
  • We will develop a model that will not only promote student learning and improve instruction across the community but also help teachers expand their pedagogical skills. We will establish a Teaching and Learning Centre.
  • We will develop digital pedagogy and implement digital learning solutions.
  • We will offer our students and staff opportunities to develop their innovation expertise and entrepreneurial skills with the help of innovation platforms.

• We will unlock the synergies offered by the Tampere Universities community to benefit not only our research, education and societal interaction but also our support services and campus development activities.
  • We will develop community-wide services to support research and teaching. We will introduce shared information systems for managing research, education and services.
  • We will give employees the opportunity to explore different positions and learn from their peers within the higher education community.

• We will openly explore possibilities to expand our higher education community.
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• Our organisational culture is based on collaboration.
  • We will adopt policies and procedures that facilitate collaboration between experts from different fields and help us identify research gaps and learning needs.

• We will build an organisational culture that reflects our core values.
  • We will approach one another with an open mind and cultivate an environment where all the members of our community feel nurtured and valued.
  • We will launch a human resource programme to support long-term HR planning, continuous learning, professional growth among employees and the integration of non-employee researchers working under a grant at the University.
  • The University has designated 2020 as a year of occupational well-being.

• We will offer professional support for research, teaching and learning.

• We will take pride in our community’s achievements and expertise as the cornerstones of our impact and attraction.
  • We will create new ways to encourage experimentation and recognise and reward exceptional performance. We will highlight the achievements of the members of our community.
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