

Strategic Action Plan for Research

2021 – 2024





Vision: co-creation for tomorrow's knowledge

The university's main objectives for research and academic development work

Our research and our academic development work is outstanding, critical, innovative and relevant to society.

UiA conducts research and artistic development work at a high international level. UiA develops new knowledge, challenges established knowledge and contributes solutions to interdisciplinary societal challenges. UiA disseminates knowledge from its academic activities, both through teaching and through contributing to the public debate, with research-based knowledge and artistic forms of expression.

The faculty's strategy for the period 2020 – 2024

The faculty has developed a strategy that supports the university's vision and main objectives by focussing on three strategic priority areas.

1. Attractive and inclusive student – and learning environments
- 2. Recognised and innovative research environments**
3. Ambitious and relevant contributions to society

An essential element in our strategic work is the development of an action plan for research that energizes and operationalizes the faculty's strategic ambition of conducting high-quality research and delivering study programmes that are relevant to society and working life.

Strategic action plan for research 2021-2024

The goal of the faculty's strategic action plan for research is to increase the scope and quality of relevant and innovative research projects and recognised research publications. The plan should be seen in connection with the faculty's strategy and action plan for research communication 2019-2024. This action plan will be reviewed annually by the faculty's research committee.

The Faculty of Health and Sport Science strives to conduct research of high methodological rigour and clear regional, national and international relevance. The starting point of the action plan is the university's six **interdisciplinary priority areas**: technology in a changing society, the green transition, democracy and active citizenship, health and living conditions, learning and personal growth, and art and society.

The plan has five subsidiary goals:

Subgoal 1:

The faculty will work systematically to develop and strengthen the quality of its research activities

Action steps	Responsible	Period
Target measures to develop and strengthen the faculty's professors and clarify the meaning of being a professor at UiA	Dean	2022-2024
Strategic recruitment of experienced professors for additional positions – preferably from international cooperation partners	Heads of Dep. & Dean	Whole period
Create spaces for research by maintaining research sabbaticals at the faculty	Heads of Dep. & Dean	Whole period
Create and strengthen links among different research directions within the faculty through establishing overall programme areas (e.g. action research, user participation in research)	Dean	2022
Develop a publication strategy for research groups in cooperation with the library	Research group leaders	2022
Facilitate and strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation by initiating and developing major research projects and joint projects across academic fields	Heads of Dep. and research group leaders	2021-2023
Stimulating applications for funding from especially career – promoting NFR – programmes like the FRIPRO three-year researcher project with international mobility, and EU programmes like ERC and MSCA	Heads of Dep. and research group leaders	2021-2023
Offer and facilitate participation in various offers of research competence building (e.g. method, project management, courses and seminars with a focus on research ethics)	Heads of Dep. & Dean	Whole period
Consider, and possibly also implement, a researcher class for young talents at the faculty	Dean	2022



Subgoal 2:

The faculty will facilitate and strengthen practice-near, research-based innovation and service development in cooperation with regional, national and international partners

Action steps	Responsible	Period
Actively applying for practice-near projects and research together with municipalities, regional health authorities and other relevant cooperation partners that are not research organisations	Research centres and research group leaders	Whole period
Work actively to recruit public sector – and business PhDs	Heads of Dep. & research group leaders	Whole period
Develop and implement models for strengthening practice – and user involvement in research	Research group leaders	2022-2023
Find solutions for establishing combined positions	Faculty Director	2022
Clarify the need for a system/structures for the reception of locally initiated research projects	Dean	2022
Assess whether to continue the cooperation with PROFRES – National Researcher School for Professions-oriented and Practice-near research	Dean & Heads of Dep.	2021
Motivate PhD candidates to build networks with business professionals in cases where these are included in the candidate's research group	Research group leaders	2022-2024

Subgoal 3:

The faculty will professionalise and improve its work with the development, funding, implementation and management of research projects

Action steps	Responsible	Period
Emphasise experience in getting external funding when hiring new members of staff	Heads of Dep.	Whole period
Consider establishing an arrangement whereby research groups with successful project applications to NFR and EU are awarded a strategic recruitment position	Dean	2022
Offer seminars for applicants and courses in project development, project management and project follow-up to active researchers and research advisers.	Dean	2021-2023
Focus on the initial phase and the completion of projects granted by NFR and EU	Faculty Director	2022-2024
Ensure sufficient economy adviser capacity to conduct research support	Faculty Director	2021
Work towards implementation of a project management tool adapted to the HEI - sector	Faculty Director	2022-2024
Consider establishing 'application-teams' where experienced researchers with success in external funding may be used as a resource in application processes	Dean	2022
Establish an offer of a mentor arrangement/reading assistance for researchers in connection with project development and writing of applications.	Dean	2022
Celebrate successful applications in order to inspire and motivate others	Heads of Dep. & Dean	Whole period
Motivate staff members to take part in the Research Council's portfolio boards and volunteer as EU evaluators to strengthen their knowledge of application processes and evaluation criteria.	Heads of Dep.	2022-2024
Ensure that researchers are sufficiently trained in the responsible handling of research data as set out in the general data protection regulations and the research ethics act (data management plan)	Faculty Director	2021-2022



Subgoal 4:

The faculty will further develop and strengthen the quality of its PhD programme

Action steps	Responsible	Period
Establish a systematic and integrated welcome programme for national and international PhD candidates in cooperation with HR	Faculty Director	2022-2023
Establish an overview of national and international researcher schools, and motivate for and facilitate participation	PhD programme leader	2021-2022
Increase the number of mutual research stays for PhDs with cooperating universities	Heads of Dep.	2022-2023
Systematise and integrate the experiences of third opponents in the further development of the PhD programme	PhD programme leader	2022
Strengthen the offer of training in research communication in the PhD programme	PhD programme leader	2021
Consider whether it is possible to offer PhD candidates the opportunity to apply for a six-month temporary appointment for career development (getting teaching experience and developing research projects)	Faculty Director	2022
Communicate explicitly the competence of persons with a PhD degree and how they may contribute to businesses and public administration	Faculty Director & Dean	2022

Subgoal 5:

The faculty will identify strategic partners and strengthen international cooperation

Action steps	Responsible	Period
Identify and strengthen cooperation with strategic research partners through an increased degree of research cooperation	Dean	2022-2024
Host and co-arrange international conferences based on research cooperation with prioritised international partners	Heads of Dep. & research group leaders	2023
Motivate to international mobility and maintain the arrangement for stimulating participation at international conferences	Heads of Dep. & Dean	2022
Increase participation in EU-funded initiatives (e.g. the COST network). Facilitate participation and accept tasks in various research networks	Heads of Dep. & research group leaders	2022-2023
Have a close dialogue with the person responsible for the region at NFR concerning research ideas and opportunities for external funding of research projects	Heads of Dep. & research group leaders	Whole period
Strengthen cooperation with NORCE and other research institutes on project development, application writing and project implementation.	Research group leaders	2022-2024
Better use of opportunities for a combination of, and synergies between, education and research (DIKU, Horizon Europe, as for instance MSCA and Erasmus+)	Heads of Dep. & Dean	2022
Provide support for study trips and network building in Brussels for researchers and research advisers	Dean	2022-2023



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