A LEADING RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

Aarhus University was established in 1928 as a small private initiative. It has since grown to become a leading public research university with international reach covering the entire research spectrum. The university offers unique opportunities to conduct research and provide education in an environment that promotes creativity and autonomy, and where interdisciplinary collaboration is a natural part of the activities.

International collaboration is an integrated part of all activities at Aarhus University. We have a long-standing tradition of partnering with some of the world’s best research institutions and university networks. The university has seen a considerable rise in the level of international mobility among researchers and students – a trend we are committed to supporting and which we would like to see continuing.

During the last decade, the university has consolidated its position as one of the world’s top-ranked universities with a very high research impact and several research areas belonging to the absolute world elite.

Aarhus University is among the world’s 100 best universities, and in the top ten among the youngest of these. This gives the university a strong position from which to tackle the increasing competition for research funding and the brightest young talents. The university has the potential to achieve an even stronger position among the world’s top 50 universities.

Since 2006, the university has approximately doubled its total number of students, its number of PhD students and its turnover.
Outstanding research is the foundation for the university’s other activities; together with education, talent development and knowledge exchange, it is what makes Aarhus University a comprehensive, modern university.
**CORE ACTIVITIES**

- **33%** Research
- **24%** Talent Development
- **31%** Education
- **12%** Knowledge Exchange

**EXPENDITURES**

- **31%** Education
- **24%** Talent Development
- **33%** Research
- **12%** Knowledge Exchange

**TOTAL INCOME**

- **€851 MILL.**

**Other income**
- Other finance act funding
- External funding
- Research-based public-sector consultancy
- Research
- Education
Strong core disciplines and excellent basic research are the foundation for all of the university’s activities. Granting the individual researcher freedom and trust, in combination with respect for the long-term perspective, is the path to excellence in research.

Aarhus University’s research activities cover all academic fields as well as basic, applied and strategic research. Moreover, the university provides research-based consultancy to public authorities and private businesses.

Aarhus University offers strong research environments where talented individuals are encouraged to achieve their potential and be innovative. Excellent research communities and state-of-the-art facilities help make it possible to recruit highly qualified staff members, pushing the knowledge frontier forward, and fostering strong links with industry.

A characteristic of Aarhus University is the significant effort made to develop interdisciplinary research programmes. Aarhus University continuously strives to combine research in new ways. Committed focus on interdisciplinarity that is firmly rooted in basic research has led to new and ground-breaking insights in areas such as sustainability, psychology, economics, the neurosciences, nanoscience and energy research.

Over a long period, many of the university’s research areas have reported research results that figure prominently in bibliometric measurements of research impact. Calculations indicate that research from Aarhus University is cited 45 per cent more often than the world average, just as a number of the university’s researchers have won highly coveted awards and grants.
### AMONG THE TOP 10
UNIVERSITIES YOUNGER THAN 100 YEARS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>SHANGHAI RANKING</th>
<th>FOUNDED</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>RANKING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>University of California, Los Angeles</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>University of California, Irvine</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Hebrew University of Jerusalem</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Australian National University</td>
<td>1946</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Technion-Israel Institute of Technology</td>
<td>1924</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>78</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Osaka University</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Aarhus University</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Weizmann Institute of Science</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>University of Frankfurt</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>101-150</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### A TOP 100 UNIVERSITY
AARHUS UNIVERSITY GLOBAL RANKING

![Graph showing the ranking of Aarhus University over the years](chart.png)

- **2007**: Top 50
- **Today**: Rank 86
- **Shanghai Ranking**: Rank 83
- **Global Ranking**: Rank 86
- **Weizmann Institute of Science**: Rank 93
- **University of Frankfurt**: Rank 101-150
When Aarhus University was established in 1928, a total of 78 students were admitted. Today, 45,000 students are enrolled in more than 200 degree programmes. Each year, around 7,000 new students begin their studies at the university. Unlike most other European universities, Aarhus University is a graduate research university. The majority of students are postgraduate students enrolled in Master’s and PhD programmes.

The degree programmes offered at the university are characterised by quality, well-integrated academic programmes and good study environments that contribute to a closely integrated campus environment. The university’s graduates are in high demand on the labour market, and their competencies are valued.

Aarhus University prepares its graduates for the global labour market which increasingly demands competencies such as innovation, global understanding and the ability to collaborate.

For Aarhus University, it is important that students acquire entrepreneurial skills during their studies and graduate with the tools necessary to create their own business. The university has pioneered the ‘Entrepreneurial University’ and created an incubator service where students can develop and implement their business plans.
**MISSION**

Aarhus Universitet arbejder for at være et toneangivende, globalt orienteret universitet med et stærkt engagement i samfundsudviklingen.

Aarhus Universitet er et fagligt bredt, forskningsintensivt universitet, der skaber og deler viden.

**VISION**

Aarhus Universitet bekender sig til de europæiske universiteters Magna Carta.

Forskningsfrihed, uafhængighed, fordybelse, nysgerrigt og kritisk samspil med omverdenen er derfor grundlæggende værdier for universitetet.

**VÆRDIER**

**FORUDSÆTNINGER**

FORSKNING  UDDANNELSE  TALENTUDVIKLING  VIDENUDVEKSLING

**FORUDSÆTNINGER**

FORSKNING  UDDANNELSE  TALENTUDVIKLING  VIDENUDVEKSLING

**TALENT DEVELOPMENT**

- Offer talent development at the highest international level
- Recruit, develop and retain researchers with outstanding talent
- Offer talent development activities and programmes starting at Bachelor’s level

**RESEARCH**

- Increase the number of research areas in the international elite
- Focus on societal challenges and strengthen cooperation
- Attract more external funding

**EDUCATION**

- Develop the quality of degree programmes in accordance with the highest international standards
- Educate graduates with strong competencies
- Accommodate diversity among students

**KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

- Intensify collaboration with the business community and the public sector
- Consolidate and develop the university’s role of independent scientific consultant to the public sector
- Improved selection of further education programmes
- Strengthen contributions to the development of civil society

**MÅL**

**STRATEGIC GOALS 2013-2020**

**www.au.dk/strategy**
The cultivation of research talents who are attractive internationally and who create value in the broadest sense for society is something Aarhus University views as its special responsibility. The university is committed to excellence and to providing opportunities for an increasing number of highly qualified early career researchers. It is important for the university’s own research activity and it ensures advanced human capital for business, industry and society at large.

Our high-quality PhD programmes are designed to attract talented young researchers. In return, we provide them with the opportunity to connect with cutting-edge research environments at Aarhus University in close collaboration with our international research partners.

Aarhus University has a long tradition for working with talented students as early as Bachelor’s degree level, and was the first university in Denmark to begin recruiting students to PhD programmes before they had completed their Master’s degrees. More than half of the students are enrolled at postgraduate level, and the university consistently focuses on recruiting talented international students and early career researchers. In recent years Aarhus University has doubled enrolments on its doctoral programmes and is home to around 2000 PhD’s and 1000 early career researchers.

In a inclusive and excellent research environment, young researchers at Aarhus University enjoy supervised research training that enables them to perform high-quality research. In addition to state-of-the-art facilities and laboratories, a research-based approach to all activities, dynamic study environments and a strong tradition of interdisciplinary research make Aarhus University an attractive place to launch a research career.

The number of PhD students at Aarhus University today is 1,900, with 25% international students. The number of early career researchers is 1,043.

2003

Today
Aarhus University desires to put the university’s knowledge to use through close, enduring and innovative relationships with the business community, public authorities, organisations and society in general. Knowledge exchange builds on the university’s strong research strengths and interdisciplinary research collaborations, and thus contributes to finding solutions to the challenges faced by society on local, regional and global levels.

Aarhus University has developed extensive, vital knowledge exchange activities. In the environmental and energy sector, the educational sector and the food and agriculture sector, the university has a unique position as supplier of research-based consultancy services to public authorities. Similarly, the university has set standards for collaboration in the area of health.

The university also has a wide range of contracts with industry and significant knowledge and technology transfer activities, in addition to offering a wide range of further education courses that ensure lifelong learning for professionals from a wide variety of sectors. Through its interplay with the world it belongs to, Aarhus University contributes significantly to the development of civil society. The university’s knowledge exchange activities have a significant scope on both a national and a European scale.
MISSION
Aarhus University is a comprehensive and research-intensive university that creates and shares knowledge.

VISION
Aarhus University strives to be a leading globally-oriented university with a strong engagement in the development of society.

FUNDAMENTAL VALUES
Aarhus University is a signatory of the European universities’ Magna Carta. Research freedom, independence, study, curiosity and critical interaction with the surrounding world are thus essential values for the university.