PROFILE
2020/2021
WE CREATE **VALUE THROUGH KNOWLEDGE**

The main campus of Aarhus University (AU) is located in the middle of Aarhus. Rooted in strong disciplines, researchers and students have been generating new knowledge here for over 90 years. Aarhus University is Denmark’s second-largest university, with 38,000 students, five faculties, research activities all over the country and campuses in Aarhus, Herning and Emdrup.

Research and education of the highest international quality are at the core of our mission, and strong partnerships with our society are at the heart of our activities.

Thanks to its size and reputation as a leading research-intensive university, Aarhus University has strong impact and influence across the entire spectrum of disciplines, locally, nationally and globally.

Today, Aarhus ranks among the top 100 universities in the world in several international rankings – out of over 17,000 universities worldwide.

The figures in this publication are based on information from 2019 unless otherwise indicated.

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>8,000</strong></th>
<th>EMPLOYEES: ACADEMIC STAFF AND TECHNICAL/ ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF (CALCULATED IN FTES)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>38,000</strong></td>
<td>STUDENTS: BACHELOR'S, MASTER'S, PHD AND PART-TIME STUDENTS</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>EUR 901</strong></td>
<td>MILLION IN REVENUE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>200</strong></td>
<td>FULL-TIME DEGREE PROGRAMMES OFFERED</td>
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ACADEMIC STRENGTH, DEPTH AND BREADTH

Aarhus University spans the classic university disciplines: from the humanities, natural sciences, social sciences, health sciences and theology to business and engineering, educational theory and practice and the environmental and agricultural sciences. Synergies among and across these strong disciplines are what generate the university’s research breakthroughs and come into play in our partnerships with public and private sector businesses and organisations, for the benefit of society as a whole.

ARTS

Faculty of Arts (1,300 employees, FTEs): anthropology, archaeology, dramaturgy, philosophy, history, linguistics, literature, media, modern aesthetics, religion, language and theology.

AARHUS BSS

Aarhus University School of Business and Social Sciences (1,400 employees, FTEs): economics, management, business development and technology, social sciences, law, political science and psychology.

HEALTH

Faculty of Health (1,550 employees, FTEs): public health, sport science, medicine, odontology, optometry, healthcare and nursing.

NAT

Faculty of Natural Sciences (1,350 employees, FTEs): astronomy, biology, computer science, physics, geoscience, chemistry, mathematics, molecular biology and nanoscience.

TECH

Faculty of Technical Sciences (1,750 employees, FTEs): agroecology, animal science, food science, bioscience, environmental science and engineering.

Read more at international.au.dk/faculties
AARHUS UNIVERSITY
STRATEGY 2025

Vision
Aarhus University’s vision is to be a research-intensive university that aspires to the highest international quality and excels in creating value through knowledge, new insights and collaboration, connecting Denmark and the world.

The university applies its academic strength and breadth and its international position to the creation of value for society, both in Denmark and internationally. The university is one of the cornerstones of society, and our students, graduates and researchers help shape the society of the future through the knowledge they bring into play.

Mission
Aarhus University will work to realise this vision through the six core tasks of the university, which define the university’s mission.

The core tasks are in alignment with the tasks of the Danish universities as defined in the University Act. They can be grouped under the main headings of research, education and collaboration:

- Research of the highest international quality
- Graduates for the labour market of the future
- Research-based degree programmes of the highest international quality
- Development of research talents and integration of research into the degree programmes
- Contributing to society’s development and welfare through research
- Interdisciplinary research to address societal challenges

Values
Our fundamental values are described in the Magna Charta of the European Universities.

We safeguard freedom of research and expression, in addition to individuals’ opportunities to realise their potential. Open dialogue, tolerance and diversity are the very foundation of the university’s vocation.

Because we regard the universities as one of the pillars of society, we assume co-responsibility for the development of a democratic, sustainable society.

Read more at international.au.dk/strategy
Research creates life. Research saves lives. Research changes lives – and it shows us paths to new and better ways of organising our society.

In our search for new research breakthroughs, we at Aarhus University are working with drive and curiosity to contribute to future solutions to society’s many complex challenges – in Denmark and the rest of the world.

And we contribute to our democratic society, in which decisions are based on the latest research-based knowledge. Aarhus University’s research is free and independent – the foundation for the university’s activities.

Diversity: Helping all research talents reach their potential

High-quality research can only be assured by making our research groups more diverse. In recognition of this, the university has adopted a new action plan that will intensify its work on appropriate recruitment processes in order to promote diversity and avoid discrimination.

The university’s ambition is to work to promote diversity on a variety of fronts to make sure that all research talents achieve their potential. The action plan will promote the development of an open, accessible work environment through initiatives in relation to recruitment, career development, leadership and workplace culture.

Initially, gender will be the primary focus of these initiatives, because the university’s challenges in this area are particularly evident. Other aspects of diversity will be included in subsequent action plans.

WE PRODUCE KNOWLEDGE THAT BENEFITS SOCIETY

4,500
Researchers

1,800
PhD Students

10
Centres of Excellence

500
Newly enrolled PhD Students

28%
Of PhD Students are international
EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITIES FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

The university has a profound responsibility to make a difference and create value for each of us and for all of us.

The university’s five faculties span an extremely broad spectrum of research disciplines, which provides unique opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration that both generates research breakthroughs and enables extensive collaboration with society.

3,000 years of development through the lens of human behaviour

Professor of classical archaeology Rubina Raja has been given the opportunity to excavate Caesar’s Forum in central Rome in collaboration with an international team of researchers. The project, which is backed by DKK 10 million (EUR 1.4 million) from the Aarhus University Research Foundation and DKK 11 million (EUR 1.5 million) from the Carlsberg Foundation, will reveal new perspectives on the development of Rome from its founding to the present – an archaeological record spanning 3,000 years.

Professor Raja is the head of the Centre of Excellence UrbNet, the Centre for Urban Network Evolutions. Researchers at this interdisciplinary centre combine history and archaeology to investigate how human social networks develop and decline through a combination of human behaviour and external influences.

Rare gold medal for exceptional chemistry research

Professor of chemistry Karl Anker Jørgensen’s research contributes to advances in knowledge that create value in our society; for example, his work is making it possible to produce medicines more sustainably. Karl Anker Jørgensen’s research interest is asymmetrical catalysis. Asymmetric catalysis is the phenomenon that two molecules which are each other’s mirror images can have entirely different properties. In the laboratory, the formation of molecules can be controlled so that a molecule is only formed in one mirror-image shape.

In 2019, the gold H.C. Ørsted Medal was awarded for the first time in 30 years, to chemistry professor Karl Anker Jørgensen. The gold medal has been awarded just 17 times in 110 years, and previous recipients include Niels Bohr. The award of the gold medal to Karl Anker Jørgensen also marked the prelude to the 2020 celebration of H.C. Ørsted’s discovery of electromagnetism in 1820.

Karl Anker Jørgensen subsequently received the prestigious Maria Skłodowska-Curie medal, thus joining a distinguished company of groundbreaking chemists and Nobel Prize winners from all over the world.
GRADUATES ARE OUR MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY

Aarhus University educates graduates with strong academic competences and skill sets – which are in demand in academia as well as in the public and private sectors.

Each year, about 6,800 new students start at Aarhus University. They follow 200 degree programmes and 4,400 courses. They encounter courses and activities that develop and challenge their mastery of every aspect of their chosen fields, across disciplinary and national boundaries. The university’s open learning environment is based on informal, direct dialogue between students and researchers that promotes independent, critical thinking and offers unique opportunities to combine subjects from different fields.

Aarhus University is also known for the dual career programme that offers top athletes a chance to combine their sport with an academic career. In 2019, 32 elite athletes graduated from the university. Alongside their studies, they won more than 300 medals at official Danish and international championships.

The programme, called AU Elite Sport, has been such a success that the university has created a similar programme for talented entrepreneurs – AU Entrepreneurs.

51%

OF AARHUS UNIVERSITY’S GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR
The percentage of graduates from Aarhus University who are employed in the private sector has risen from 48% to 51% over the past two years.

An environment where students thrive

90% look forward to graduating and putting their education to use
88% are satisfied with their degree programme and would recommend it to others
87% feel that their fellow students are helpful

90% OF AU’S GRADUATES ARE EMPLOYED within the first one or two years after graduation, according to the Ministry of Higher Education and Science’s latest survey from 2018.
Student once – alum for life

Our alums are important ambassadors for the university, and since 2008, Aarhus University has selected a distinguished alum each year: a former student who has made a particularly significant contribution to society. The 2019 distinguished alumna was Marianne Dahl, Vice President, Sales, Marketing & Operations, Western Europe, Microsoft.

Aarhus University’s alum network provides opportunities for lifelong learning, inspiration and networking. There are also independent local alum associations at Aarhus University that also offer activities and events.

Teaching is a dialogue

Associate Professor Morten Knudsen from the Aarhus University School of Engineering teaching architectural engineering to a group of students: “My teaching is a dialogue between the students and myself, and I alternate between lectures, supervision and exercises. I believe that you should let yourself get carried away by the inspiration of the moment and follow your curiosity wherever it takes you.”
The Regatta: a carnivalesque AU tradition

The mayor comes. The rector’s there too. And not least: more than 20,000 students are there. Every spring, students from a wide range of programmes compete to win the trophy and the glory that go to the winner of the carnivalesque regatta on the lake in University Park. Students train for months and fight to the last oar stroke.
Aarhus University’s campuses invite and foster student life, both socially and academically. We are currently expanding our main campus. Centrally located in Aarhus, it is a hub for vibrant student life and offers excellent facilities that integrate teaching and research and promote a modern, flexible environment for learning.

There is room for students to grow and explore – first and foremost academically, but also in the many volunteer associations, entrepreneurship and student-organised events, as well as through getting to know fellow students from Denmark and abroad and engaging with society.

Popular student activities run by volunteers

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<th>The Regatta</th>
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<td>This annual event, at which different student associations from AU and other educational institutions in Aarhus compete for ‘the Golden Bedpan’, is probably northern Europe’s largest student event. The event takes place in the University Park and attracts thousands of students from all over the region.</td>
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<th>Aarhus Symposium</th>
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<td>At the student-organised Aarhus Symposium in November, students have ample opportunities to engage in debate and discussion on the year’s theme and network with representatives from a wide variety of Danish and international companies.</td>
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<td>AU Challenge is a competition where 200 students from different subjects work together in teams to solve cases for companies. All of the cases focus on sustainability challenges, and the competition itself is conducted sustainably on the basis of the UN’s SDGs. Students who participate develop their ability to work across disciplines and enhance their professional networks.</td>
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<th>Denmark’s biggest Friday bar and sports day</th>
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<td>Every year at the beginning of the autumn semester, ‘Denmark’s biggest Friday bar and sports day’ brings the University Park alive with sporting events, parties and live music. The day starts with various tournaments, from volleyball to handball and chess and fencing – and ends with concerts and parties.</td>
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Student volunteerism must be recognised

Events, associations, networks, orientation week, Friday bars...the list of student-run activities is virtually endless. And they all have one thing in common. They are the work of student volunteers.

Volunteerism is a strong driving force in student life – and for the individual students as well, who often discover that volunteering both strengthens academic skills and acts as a bridge to the labour market.

In recognition of this, Aarhus University has decided to take additional steps to recognise the value of student volunteerism. We are developing a variety of initiatives in collaboration with students to encourage their volunteerism and to help students draw on what they learn as volunteers in their future career path.
As a key bearer of knowledge and culture, Aarhus University helps lift general levels of education and competencies in society. To a high degree, this is a question of strengthening collaboration with citizens, associations and organisations.

**The Aarhus University Press** publishes approx. 100 new books annually and has 2,000 titles in its catalogue, of which approx. 500 are in English. With its popular science publications and the popular ‘Reflections’ (Tankepauser) series of pocket books, the press makes a valuable contribution to popular research dissemination.

**The Danish University Extension is for everyone.** Each year, the Danish University Extension offers over 4,000 events such as lecture series, knowledge events and festivals showcasing the latest advances within the world of research. The Danish University Extension works closely with Aarhus University and has over 70,000 course participants annually in Aarhus, Herning and Emdrup (Copenhagen).

‘Public lectures in science’ is a lecture series that Aarhus University offers in collaboration with the Carlsberg Foundation. The lectures are livestreamed from the Lakeside Lecture Theatres in the University Park to cinemas, libraries, cultural centres, associations, schools, etc. in cities all over Denmark and abroad. At each of these popular lectures by AU researchers, between 6,000 and 10,000 participants gain unique insight into the latest scientific discoveries and advances.

**Flexible continuing and further education**

Learning and education are lifelong processes, and society needs a workforce that continually upgrades its skills and competencies. Aarhus University offers new, flexible study programmes, so that the university’s alums can return for continuing and further education. The university has a particular focus on further and continuing education in the areas of digitalisation and digital skills, which are particularly in demand among upper-secondary school teachers, for example.

**Visit the university’s museums**

- **Museum of Ancient Art** – Collection of antiquities from the Mediterranean countries
- **Ole Remer Observatory** – Public access to large telescopes
- **Steno Museum** – Planetarium, special exhibits and more
- **The Botanical Gardens and the Greenhouses** – Collections of plants from different climatic zones from around the world
Aarhus University’s activities connect Denmark to our global society. The need to work together to find solutions to global societal challenges is greater than ever before. With their strong tradition for international collaboration, the universities have a special responsibility to take the lead. At Aarhus University, we are working to promote increased global exchange of knowledge and talent.

**Global collaborations that benefit researchers and students**

Aarhus University has exchange agreements with over 50 different countries and is involved in prestigious international university networks and alliances. One example is the European university alliance Circle U., which will make it possible for students to achieve a degree by combining programme elements in multiple EU countries.

Other important international collaborations include The Guild, MIT Reap and the Coimbra Group.

**An international academic environment**

- **85** nationalities among academic staff
- **115** nationalities among full-time students
- **60** degree programmes in English
- **2,800** full-time international students
Aarhus University’s goal is to strengthen its collaboration with business and industry. To this end, the university has a wide range of business-oriented activities, including entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships with local municipalities and companies, career collaboration and AU’s interdisciplinary case competition, AU Challenge. wants to generate more knowledge-intensive spinout companies based on concrete research results, and to strengthen innovation in SMBs in the region.

Each time the public sector invests one million kroner in consultancy, researchers at Aarhus University are able to generate an additional one and a half million from external sources.

Researchers advise government

Researchers from Aarhus University provide public sector consultancy that brings society closer to innovative solutions. Units involved in science advice to government include the Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture (DCA) in the areas of food, agriculture and environment; the Danish Centre for Environment and Energy (DCE) in the areas of nature, environment and energy; and the Danish School of Education (DPU), in the areas of pedagogics and education. In addition, the Department of Forensic Medicine at Aarhus University Hospital, the Danish Centre for Studies in Research and Research Policy and the Centre for Alcohol and Drug Research advise ministries, regions, municipalities and the EU.

National project promotes commercialisation of research

The Open Entrepreneurship initiative is financed by the Danish Industry Foundation, which builds bridges between academia and industry. The objective of the project is to help researchers at Danish universities create spin-out companies based on their research. In 2019, Open Entrepreneurship facilitated 46 matches between AU researchers and investors/entrepreneurs and helped 35 research groups with commercial activities. Eighteen of these research groups have raised a total project sum of DKK 34 million in capital.
The Kitchen – A new entrepreneurship hub encourages networking and initiative

The Kitchen is Aarhus’ new centre for entrepreneurship. The Kitchen is housed in a former central kitchen close to the University Park, and this informal setting is where AU’s entrepreneurship activities for students and researchers take place.

The Kitchen offers open work spaces, facilities for entrepreneurs and a coffee bar, and opens its doors to a wide variety of open events on entrepreneurship. Students and researchers can get access to advice and funding opportunities, and access to the start-up ecosystem and established businesses in the greater Aarhus area.

The Kitchen encourages students to be proactive so they can create value for themselves and society – either as entrepreneurs or employees of a company.

60 student entrepreneurs
50 researcher entrepreneurs
50 annual events

Read more at thekitchen.io
Knowledge is the foundation for new climate solutions

“Naturally, Aarhus University’s biggest contribution to the fight against climate change is generating knowledge and creating the foundation for new solutions through our degree programmes and research,” says Connie Hedegaard, chair of the AU Board.
WE ARE WORKING FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

Aarhus University is working to promote sustainable development, both through our research and degree programmes and in our operations. The overall goal of our climate strategy is to reduce the university’s carbon emissions significantly. This transition will require structural changes and climate-friendly choices on the part of employees and students. In the network #AUSustainability, students and employees share ideas to make Aarhus University even more sustainable.

Climate strategy

The 2020-2025 climate strategy contains an ambitious goal to reduce CO2 emissions from the university’s operations in four specific focus areas: campus, procurement, transport and waste. The foundation for the climate strategy is AU’s first greenhouse gas emissions report, which is based on figures from 2018.

The goals of the climate strategy

These ambitious goals are in alignment with the Paris Agreement and the Danish government’s goal of reducing carbon emissions by 70% in 2030 against a 1990 baseline.

- **2025**: 35% reduction of the university’s CO2 emissions over 2018
- **2030**: 57% reduction of the university’s CO2 emissions over 2018
- Aarhus University’s goal is to be CO2 neutral in 2040.

Read more at international.au.dk/sustainability
A LARGER, UNIFIED CAMPUS
IN THE MIDDLE OF AARHUS

The expansion of Aarhus University’s main campus in Aarhus is in full swing. Some university activities are gradually moving to the former municipal hospital site, now called the University City. The location of this new development next to the University Park will allow AU to consolidate and strengthen a number of its educational and research activities.

The Kitchen, AU’s new entrepreneurship hub, has already moved to the University City, and the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics will follow in early 2022. After a renovation, the former patient hotel will accommodate 132 units of student housing, which will also open in 2022. The University City, which will be linked with the University Park through three underground passages, is conceived as an urban campus with lots of lively activity and flexible facilities that can accommodate the teaching and research of the future.

The overall vision for this development is to consolidate the university’s locations in Aarhus in the University Park, the University City and Katrinebjerg, which will contribute to developing and strengthening the campus environment in Aarhus as an attractive and future-proof research and study environment.

Read more at au.dk/newcampus

1. View towards new student housing from Nørrebrogade
2. Path toward the central underground passage
3. The Kitchen: AU’s largest entrepreneurial community for students
4. Looking north from the central square
5. Northern entrance to the University City
6. The central square

Visualisations and 3D model by AART Architects
Not far from the University City and University Park, Katrinebjerg is located in the triangle bounded by Katrinebjergvej, Paludan Müllers Vej and Jens Baggesens Vej. Katrinebjerg is the university’s hub for digitalisation, digital design, information studies and, in the long term, engineering and aesthetics degree programmes. The visualisations provide an idea of how the Katrinebjerg of the future might look.

The University City

3D model of the University City along the east side of Nørrebrogade – from Nordre Ringgade to Nørre Boulevard. The visualisations show what the new campus development might look like when it is finished in 2025.
Solidum petit in profundis
We seek solid ground in the depth